

CHIEF EDITOR'S NOTE ON 2014 RUSSIAN LEGAL EVENTS

DMITRY MALESHIN,
Lomonosov Moscow State University
(Moscow, Russia)

I would like to present you first issue of our Journal in 2015 (Vol. III) and continue to give sketches about Russian legal landscape.

Some crucial legal events occurred in Russia in 2014.

The most important and far-famed legal event in Russia was the treaty of accession of the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol to the Russian Federation. We devoted some articles in this issue to this problem. The views are opposing and I need to emphasize that the views expressed by the authors do not reflect the views of the Journal Editorial Council and Board. In addition, we publish the translation into English of this treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol. Taking into account that there is no official translation of this treaty, our initiative could be useful for English speaking researchers.

Secondly, the US and EU sanctions adopted against Russia changes not only the economic strategy, but also the legal environment in Russia. Many conferences and seminars were held on this topic inside and outside of Russia and we have reviewed one of them.

Thirdly, the new united Supreme Court of the Russian Federation started to work in August 2014. It has a new structure and many judges were rotated. It consists of 170 judges, including the Chief Justice, and chairmen of six chambers. There are six chambers: an Appeal chamber, a Judicial chamber for penal cases, and a Judicial chamber for civil cases, a Judicial chamber for economic cases, a Judicial chamber for administrative cases, and a Military chamber. The Supreme *Arbitrazh* Court had its functions suspended in August 2014, but the whole *arbitrazh* court system is still working. The Judicial chamber for economic cases is acting as the last instance for the economic cases considered in *arbitrazh* courts.

Finally, some judicial statistics. Judicial statistics are available only for the first six months: criminal cases – 477,257, life term imprisonment – 46, acquitted – 2,680; civil cases in courts of general jurisdiction – 6,809,331.