

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

NEWS  BRIEF

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Number 94/9

April 13, 1994

***IMF to Chair Meeting on Technical Assistance to the Central Banks  
of the Former Soviet Union and the Baltic States***

Richard D. Erb, the Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, will chair a Joint Meeting of central bankers from the former Soviet Union and the Baltic states and representatives from the central banks and other institutions which have been providing technical assistance to them under the coordination of the IMF. The meeting, organized by the IMF's Monetary and Exchange Affairs Department in conjunction with the Central Bank of Russia, is the first of its kind, and will be held in St. Petersburg April 14-15, 1994 at the Grand Hotel Europe.

In addition to representatives from the central banks of the former Soviet Union, the Baltic States, and the IMF, the meeting will be attended by delegates from the 23 Cooperating Central Banks working with the IMF on the delivering of central banking technical assistance and representatives from other international financial institutions.

Among the topics scheduled for discussion are ***Central Banking Reforms and Technical Assistance***, reviewing major areas of central bank reform, including monetary operations, payments systems, foreign exchange operations, banking supervision, and accounting reforms; ***the Content and Delivery of Technical Assistance*** that will include discussion on the experience and evaluation of IMF-coordinated technical assistance and possible improvements in its effectiveness; ***Complementarity of Technical Assistance and Macroeconomic Activities***; and ***the Role and Independence of the Central Bank***.

The Joint Meeting includes participants from institutions in Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia,

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Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, and Uzbekistan, and from the Bank for International Settlements, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Union, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the IMF.