

## Mia Pettersson: Will Russia move closer to the European Union?

### General comments

- The Russian population is proud to be Russian
- Educated and young people in Russia especially in major cities like Moscow or St. Petersburg are large-minded and modern
- They are aware that material property is a guarantor for living together peacefully.
- Especially Germany is a model to many Russians who admire things like accuracy, disciplinary, modern thinking, life style, political and economic stability, capability to settle political disputes
- Faced with the current political situation in Ukraine, the Russian community expected Germany to act as an arbitrator between Russia, Ukraine and the western countries.
- This didn't happen, and therefore even open-minded Russians are disappointed about Germany's role in the Ukraine conflict



### Conclusions (personal view)

- Would Russia like to move closer to the European Union?
  - **Yes**, the young, modern and well educated community in Russia would like to be more European
  - **But**, this same community is proud to be Russian
- Currently we are most likely on a historical "Turning Point":
  - If the West imposes sanctions on Russia, the Russians' great sense of national pride will for sure overrule any sympathy towards the European ideals
  - But if the parties of Ukraine and Russia agree on an armistice, and if Ukraine, Russia and the Western allies can agree on how to guarantee a long term peace in Eastern Ukraine, everybody will have learned from this crisis. The big learning effect will be – for Russia and at least for some parts of Europe like Germany as well – to think about together how to avoid such a critical situation forever in future. As a result, Europe might be able to cooperate more than ever with Russia which would end up increasing prosperity on both sides.

**Yes, the Russian people would like to move closer to Europe but the national pride and the history of Russia will disallow them to submerge themselves in a homogeneous Europe!**

