

Christopher J. Weafer

Christopher J. Weafer (Chris) has worked in Russia and the CIS region for over seventeen years. Most recently he was voted the best Russia investment strategist for 2013 by investors in separate polls carried out by Thomson Reuters Extel and Institutional Investor magazine. He has regularly placed in the top three of these respective polls over the past dozen years.

Before leaving to co-found Macro Advisory Ltd in late 2013, Chris held the position of Chief Strategist at Sberbank-CIB, Russia's largest bank and one of the biggest banks in Europe. Prior to that he served for four years as Chief Strategist with Uralsib Financial Corporation and for five years with Alfa Bank, two of Russia's largest privately owned financial groups. His first role in Russia was as Head of Research with Troika Dialog, a privately owned investment bank, from June 1998. He held that position for over four years.

Prior to moving to Russia, Chris worked as Head of Research for NatWest Markets in Bangkok, Thailand, during the Asian financial crisis of 1997-98. Before that he was Senior Investment Manager at the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, one of the world's largest sovereign wealth funds, based in Abu Dhabi City. Chris started his investment career with the Irish Life Assurance Company in Dublin, Ireland, and has accumulated over thirty three years' experience in emerging markets.

Chris is the author of a wide variety of published articles about Russia, Central Asia and the trend in macro oil. He is also widely quoted in the international financial press and appears regularly on BBC, CNN International, CNBC and Bloomberg on these and related subjects.

Gabriel Di Bella

Gabriel Di Bella is the IMF's Resident Representative in the Russian Federation. He was mission chief for Haiti (2013-15), senior desk for the United States desk (2012-13) and prior to that he was the IMF's Resident Representative in Nicaragua and worked as a desk on a number of emerging and low-income countries. Before joining the Fund in 2002, he worked in an economic and financial consulting firm in Buenos Aires. Some of his work has focused on issues related to public debt sustainability, real exchange rates, energy subsidies and program design issues in low-income countries. He is an Argentinean national, and holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Mikhail Matovnikov Senior Managing Director - Chief Analyst

Since 2013, Mikhail works in Sberbank, he is responsible for analysis of the bank's operating environment and the bank's own management information systems data. In 2011-2013 Mr. Matovnikov was a member of the Supervisory Board of "Sberbank of Russia".

Mikhail is one of the most cited financial experts, specialized in macroeconomic research and analysis of banks and financial markets.

He is a member of the Consultative Council to the Chairman of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, member of the Board of Directors NP "Association of Investor Relations Professionals", member of the advisory board of the Deposit Insurance Agency, a member of the Expert Council of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, member of the Expert Council of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP).

From 2000 to 2013, Mikhail worked in Interfax International information Group, he was responsible for business development in the part of analytics and consulting in the field of investor relations. Since 2010, he served as Director for Corporate Development at Interfax. Mikhail is one of the creators of Moody's Interfax Rating Agency, where he was responsible for financial institutions ratings as Vice President - Senior Analyst.

He graduated from Harvard Business School (General Management Program), St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance, holds PhD in Economics.

Author and co-author of 6 books and over 300 articles published in Russian and foreign economic journals.