

Customs Union Free Trade Zones Mulled

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Russia and the customs union will think of setting up free trade zones with Israel and India, Deputy Economic Development Minister Alexei Likhachev told reporters, Interfax reported.

"Last Friday, the presidents of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan decided for the first time to hold talks on free trade zones with Vietnam," Likhachev said. The three-party format for talks is new. "Setting up free trade zones in the framework of a troika will, of course, be furthered in the coming year," he said.

And this means not just Vietnam but also countries with which consultations have been held, such as New Zealand and members of the European Free Trade Association. And clearly, Israel and probably India will be considered as well, at least the relevant proposals at the highest level," he said. *(MT)*

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