



Official proposes role for business in Kyoto implementation

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MOSCOW, December 22 (Itar-Tass) - A Russian Economic Development Ministry expert proposed a plan for implementing the Kyoto protocol in the country, in which business will be playing the key role.

Yakov Mirkin, speaking at a conference at the Federation Council upper house of the Russian parliament on Tuesday, said the implementation of the protocol under which greenhouse emissions are registered and limited by quotas can run under two options: the administrative and market ones.

Mirkin, who chairs the expert council on stock market legislation at the lower house, believes that the market mechanism would be more effective and less costly for the state.

This variant commits business to taking responsibility for the country's fulfilling its obligations, he said, and it is business that will carry the bulk of the project expenses.

Business will also help form the structure of the market and ensure rapid entry onto the world market, Mirkin said.

The administrative option not only will be more expensive, it will be considerably slower, he noted.

Russia has emissions of billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide, which will be exported, even at a price of five dollars per tonne, the expert said.

He called for setting up a self-regulating organization which would determine the body of rights with respect to greenhouse emissions and be responsible to the state.

The lawmaker said the market mechanism would give additional opportunities to organize trade in rights to water and other irrecoverable resources.

In January, the lower and upper houses are planning to hold a joint hearing to discuss the drawing of the relevant legislation.

The Russian president signed the Kyoto Protocol in early November. The Kyoto Protocol to the UN framework convention on climate changes is aimed at pooling the international community's efforts to prevent global climate changes, being the first step toward reducing greenhouse emissions.

The first stage of the Kyoto implementation (2008-2012), caps the volume of greenhouse

emissions for Russia at the level of 1990.

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