

below 2°C



A voice of Russian environmental groups-observers at the UNFCCC negotiations

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time to stop having a head in the clouds

As it became known to the Below 2°C, in today's presentation of the Russian Vice Prime Minister Shuvalov nuclear energy can be mentioned as an instrument to tackle climate change.

We believe that it would be a strategic mistake to include nuclear energy to the climate agreements mechanisms.

According to our information, there is a range of interested parties in the negotiations that will try to secure including nuclear energy to the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol and other mechanisms already in framework of the new agreement.

What is the probability that nuclear energy will have place in the climate mechanisms after 2012?

So, who can able to block 'peaceful atom'? So, who can block the "peaceful atom". First, Austria is a principled opponent of financing nuclear energy. Due to the fact that in this country legislation prohibits the use of nuclear energy, Austrians follow their national

standards in the climate negotiations.

As a member of the EU, Austria is trying it for similar positions.

Yesterday, one of the representatives of the Austrian delegation has confirmed to us that the position remains the same and Europeans do not plan to allow the 'peaceful atom' in the climate agreement. Secondly, Denmark stands for a similar to the Austrian position. Thirdly, Germany. Fourthly, Belgium.

Also, Brazil and AOSIS are against inclusion of nuclear energy. The reason is simple – nuclear loans are expensive and long-term. As far as there are more effective ways to reduce emissions nuclear energy is

simply unattractive. This has been proven by the experience of the developed countries where the nuclear renaissance did not ever take place (indicated by the number of reactors under construction).

In Russia, the nuclear energy development program is paid with the state budget, with involving low-skilled labor forces of students and workers from Central Asia. Despite huge subsidies - up to 100 billion rubles a year - the program has already been seriously behind schedule. If it was previously planned to build more than 30 units by 2020, it's been now rescheduled for 2030. In the developing countries

Photo: The environmental organizations are protesting against nuclear energy in the UN climate talks building, December 15. (Photo: Ecodefense!)



"Below 2°C" was started by Russian environmental group Ecodefense in 2008. Presently, produced by a group of Russian activists from various organizations, observing the UN climate talks. This issue was produced by: Vladimir Sliviyak, Vladimir Chuprov, Galina Raguzina, Rashid Alimov.

Download it in Russian here: <http://below2c.wordpress.com>

Issues printed on paper are usually distributed at the conference building. If you couldn't find one - call +45 51400527 or e-mail ecodefense@gmail.com

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the rate is even lower.

Given the 'nuclear delay', in the context of the Copenhagen climate negotiations the development of nuclear energy has altogether become meaningless, since it is first and foremost about agreement on global actions to reduce emissions for the period 2012-2020. And it would be hardly possible to put into operation in the next decade a number of nuclear power plants that would seriously impact Russia's emissions.

Construction of a reactor takes about ten years on the average. It turns out that in terms of the current negotiations, Russia's interest in

nuclear energy is, in general, quite theoretical. Then why is the nuclear issue brought up to the agenda? Anyone wants to complicate their lives?

It should be noted that there is much more environmentally friendly alternative to 'peaceful atom' which can be effectively invested. Countries are experiencing a boom in renewable energy sectors - in 2008 only, 28 GW of wind capacity were installed in the world.

In addition, the risk of nuclear proliferation is the constant companion of 'peaceful atom'. Any reactor produces plutonium which

can be used for manufacturing nuclear explosive devices. A striking example is the Iranian nuclear program which already for long doesn't let politicians of many countries sleep in peace.

The Below 2°C believes that the mention of nuclear energy from a rostrum of the UN climate summit can only lead to aggravation of the already extremely difficult negotiating situation. If such a reference will take place then the question arises: whether Russia wants a progress in Copenhagen or it enters into the ranks of those putting the efforts to hamper the negotiations.

the scandalous practices

On Monday, a queue to the Bella Center exceeded the one to the Lenin Mausoleum in its best times. The accredited observers had been waiting for their badges for 6-8 hours. Some members of the governments were guided in by the police passing over the line, while some other (who arrived that day and haven't yet had their badges) had to remain freezing with the rest of the world community. Last week, one of the Chinese ministers was detained and kept for several hours by the UN police at the attempt to enter the conference building.

In the meantime, the Danish police was joyfully explaining to people in the queue that it is the UN that should be blamed in this all. Those who did not despair and did not leave could hear the UN officials inside the building blaming the Danish government all along.

But the chaos was not limited to the huge queue formed due to the

fact that it was impossible to register on Sunday.

Finally, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the observers were given additional badges to get to the Bella Center, but they can supply only one third of the accredited participants. The total number of additional badges is 7,000. The total number of representatives of the public initially made a request for accreditation is 35,000. The way the badges are distributed remains a mystery. Some organization was given with one badge for 20 people, while another one got as much a quarter of the claimed amount.

Thursday some other badges will emerge: only 1000 of the observers will be able to enter the Bella Center. On Friday, the last day of the conference, only 90 observers will be allowed to the Center. Those deprived the right of entry have a rally at the Bella Center today. Those who can

enter today but will not be let in tomorrow are thinking of arranging a sit-in.

So far there has been no such inconsiderate treatment of the observers in the history of the UN climate negotiations. It seems that someone has decided to blame the observers with the failure of the negotiation, and so gradually drives the public interest lobbyists out from the Bella Center. This all means that on Thursday and Friday the civil society will be virtually excluded from the negotiating process. The Below 2°C will most likely not be able to continue working during these two days.

We urge the readers of the Below 2°C, especially the official delegations, to apply to the Secretariat protesting the relegation of the observers and demanding that all the observers are allowed to attend the two last days of the negotiation sessions.

2^o According to scientists, a cap on global warming of 2°C is seen as the minimum to prevent irreversible global warming.

МЕНЬШЕ