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EU-Russia “Kyoto Deal”: a case of policy integration? Analyses of advantages and risks of an informal agreement

During several years when the KP entry into force became dependent on its ratification by Russia, its prospects became more and more dismal. The gloomy situation can be changed through the compromise reached at the EU-Russia summit (Moscow, May 2004). The Russian press perceived its results as “a deal”: the EU supports Russia's joining WTO in exchange for the Kyoto Protocol ratification. Nevertheless it seems the compromise have a number of positive implications for facilitating KP ratification: (1) it places the ratification process within some institutional framework, insofar as Russia's joining WTO depends on KP ratification; (2) it consolidates the positions of the KP supporters in Russia and weaken its opponents; (3) it changed the stand of some very powerful actors from neutral to positive to the KP. At the same time the new institutional frameworks for ratification process: (1) leads to some new uncertainties and risks hampering ratification; (2) the problem, so far, is that that new ratification risks are yet not fully realized, and KP supporters proceed to counteract to the former threats without realization that new front lines deviated significantly.

The ratification of KP is only one item in the long list of problems of Russia's environmental policy. Currently, the high priority of the Russian state is acceleration of economic growth, and environmental policy becomes subordinate to this goal. When the efforts of the most politicians are focused on economic growth, while they perceive environmental institutions (especially in the situation of the flourishing corruption) as obstacles to this growth, it is essential to figure out: (1) to what extent the greening of policies could be efficient in terms of rehabilitation of Russia's environmental policy; (2) in what sectors of environmental policy does it have chances for an efficient application, and (3) how the cooperation with the world community could provide to the solution of these problems.