



Russia's climate change paradox: balancing natural capital with environmental sustainability

CEPS
Place du Congrès 1, Brussels
Ground floor conference room

5 February 2020
10:00 – 12:00 (Registration starts at 09:30)

Today, Russia is facing a climate paradox. On the one hand, it is among the world's largest emitters of CO₂, due to its natural wealth in fossil fuels and its energy-intensive heavy industries. Both are staples of the Russian economy. On the other hand, the country is a biological climate haven and home to almost a quarter of the world's forests. These vast woodlands play an essential role in the global carbon cycle and the sequestration of CO₂ in the atmosphere. These two binary characteristics pose to Russia a unique challenge: how to promote its economic interests while protecting its natural capital. By adopting modern environmental management systems, Russia can limit its exposure to policies from external trade partners that restrict market access for products with a high-carbon footprint. This event jointly organised by CEPS and the World Bank will feature a discussion on the economic and environmental challenges facing Russia in a climate-focused world.

09:30 Registration

10:00 Introduction and welcome by **Christian Egenhofer**, Senior Research Fellow, CEPS

10:05 Opening remarks by **Renaud Seligmann**, Country Director for the Russian Federation, World Bank

10:15 Presentation of the World Bank report "How Wealthy is Russia" with a focus on low carbon transition, climate change and natural capital" (15 min)
Apurva Sanghi, Lead Economist, World Bank

10:30 Comments by:

- **Cyril Loisel**, Policy Officer, DG Clima, European Commission
- **Irina Kustova**, Researcher, CEPS

Followed by the Q&A session with the audience

12:00 End of meeting (at the latest)

The meeting will be held under the Chatham House Rule.