

On behalf of the State Duma Committee on Natural Resources, Nature Management and Environment, I would like to welcome the exhibitors, visitors and organisers of MIOGE 2009, the 10<sup>th</sup> Moscow International Oil & Gas Exhibition, and RPCG 2009, the 7<sup>th</sup> Russian Petroleum and Gas Congress.

The oil and gas industry is one of the most important and rapidly developing sectors of the Russian economy, with huge potential for growth. The effective operation of the oil and gas industry and the modernisation of the manufacturing base are dependent on preserving our natural resources, reducing the impact of industry on the environment and ensuring global energy security.

The global financial crisis will, of course, affect our plans, but the challenges mentioned above are becoming ever more important in the current conditions. Overcoming the crisis requires new solutions with the best use of existing potential. I am certain that introducing energy efficient, environmentally friendly technologies – which will be presented at MIOGE 2009 – will provide an advantage to businesses amidst the tough international competition.

I hope that the Russian Petroleum and Gas Congress will provide a platform for the sharing of experience and views, and the development of decisive measures for arresting crisis trends, thereby strengthening the authority of our country.

I wish the exhibitors and visitors every success.

N. Komarova