

Dear Participants of the Exhibition and Congress,

On behalf of the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, I would like to congratulate you on the opening of MIOGE 2009, the 10th Moscow International Oil & Gas Exhibition, and RPCG 2009, the 7th Russian Petroleum and Gas Congress.

During the financial and economic crisis, the importance of the Russian oil and gas industry has grown considerably, since the state of almost all sectors of industry, the investment climate and the prosperity of the population depend on its effective operation.

The challenges of recovering from the crisis and ensuring energy security are vitally important for every government in the world. Measures in this area should be comprehensive, and based on international cooperation, ensuring stabilisation of international energy markets; government support for attracting investment; planning and construction of new, efficient gas and oil pipelines; development of innovative technologies; and protection of the environment.

I am confident that the congress and exhibition will demonstrate the latest achievements of the domestic and international oil and gas industries, evaluate their current state and prospects for development, and present optimal solutions to pressing issues.

I wish the participants success in their work, and I hope these events bring about greater, mutually beneficial, cooperation.

S.M. Mironov

Chairman

Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation