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RIA Novosti

Russian plan may boost talks on Iran's nuclear program – viewpoint

December 21, 2005

MOSCOW, December 21 (RIA Novosti) - Russia's initiative on uranium enrichment on its territory may help break the deadlock in the talks on Iran's nuclear program, the head of the Russian Political Studies Center said Wednesday.

Vladimir Orlov said he did not expect any significant results from Iran's talks with the EU troika (Britain, France and Germany) opening in Vienna Wednesday.

He said the meeting itself was important given the current cooling of Iran's relations with the world community.

He also said Iran's position on Russia's proposal to create a bilateral joint venture to enrich uranium in Russia was critical and that the initiative was backed by the United States, the EU troika, the IAEA and other countries.

"The initiative does not fully comply with the interests of the Iranian side," Orlov said.

"Iran should understand that the patience of the international community and key players negotiating over its nuclear program is being exhausted," he said. "The number of compromise proposals cannot be endless. Therefore, in this situation, Russia may expect Iran to be serious about its proposal."

"The leadership of this country [Iran] should not think that the international community is ready to continuously postpone the resolution of this problem," Orlov said. "The Russian initiative is beneficial to Iran as it does not infringe on its national interests and does not hamper technological progress in the country."

The talks between Iran and the EU troika recessed in August when Tehran resumed uranium enrichment activities.

In September, the International Atomic Energy Agency adopted a resolution on preparations for handing the Iranian nuclear file over to the UN Security Council with the possibility of international sanctions being levied against the country.

The IAEA Board of Governors did not adopt a resolution on Iran in November despite the tough position of some EU member states.