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CENESS DIRECTOR FACILITATES NUCLEAR SMUGGLING TABLETOP EXERCISE CO-CHAIRLED BY RUSSIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER AND US AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA

Moscow, Russia (December 2, 2011). Anton **Khlopkov**, Director of the Center for Energy and Security Studies (CENESS) and member of the Advisory Board under the Security Council of the Russian Federation, has served as facilitator in the nuclear smuggling tabletop exercise (TTX) co-chaired by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey **Ryabkov** and US Ambassador to Russia John **Beyrle**.



The event was attended by representatives from Russian and U.S. government agencies. Participants were given a hypothetical but very plausible scenario involving the interception of a significant amount of weapons-grade nuclear material in a third country. The parties discussed a number of questions of practical importance which may potentially arise during cooperative response to the situation.

Russian and U.S. participants worked to develop strategies for dealing with the issue, analyzing how best to work together to resolve a number of complicated technical and political problem related to nuclear materials.

The development of the scenario from the Russian side was coordinated by Anton Khlopkov. Page **Stoutland**, Vice-President of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), was the TTX facilitator and coordinator of TTX scenario development from the U.S. side.

In his concluding remarks Anton Khlopkov thanked Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov and Ambassador John Beyrle for their confidence and for inviting to facilitate the Russian-US interagency nuclear smuggling tabletop exercise.



For more information about the tabletop exercise see:

- [Press Release by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)
- [Statement on the US Ambassador's blog](#)

The first nuclear smuggling tabletop exercise, co-chaired and led by former Russian Foreign Minister and former Secretary of the Russian Security Council Igor **Ivanov** and former U.S. Senator Sam **Nunn**, was held in Moscow on May 23, 2011.

The findings of the first TTX exercise are available for download by the following link:

- [NTI TTX Report](#)

This news release was prepared by CENESS on December 16, 2011. Contact: +7 (499) 147-51-92.