

THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROFITABLE TECHNOLOGIES IN THE CONTEXT OF BIOS

Valery Grishin

Deputy Directorate Chief, Head of Press-Service
The Directorate of Government Information
Administration of the Government of the Russian Federation
Russia

The world is changing and we all hope that it is changing for the better. The twentieth century is almost over and we all care how, and in what shape, we arrive in the next millennium. It does not make sense to have to convince people that the "bio-movement" is necessary and important. Alternatives exist, but many of these alternatives represent the demise of the human race. The world, slowly but surely, is accepting the importance of these issues and it would be difficult to find anyone who would disagree. But, there are a lot of egotistical interests that exist in governments, companies, individuals and organisations. Many of them consider that we can have profit today and the environmental considerations can wait a while longer. I think that this is a mistaken notion. This egotistical approach is widely spread and I believe that action needs to be taken, in order to force a change of opinion in the world.

Today, Russia is experiencing difficult times. Also, the young States which were created after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, are experiencing their own kind of difficulties. Furthermore, the long cold war between capitalist and socialist systems basically brought the world to the brink of armed conflict. The arms race led us to neglect the individual human being and, instead, to use technologies which were quite harmful to people. Russia being a vast country, felt it could allow itself time not to pay attention to the issue of waste. Because of its huge territories, it could basically dispose of waste almost anywhere, pretending it did not matter, even using territories in other States as well. However, all that has changed now.

A Russian proverb says, "if not for a bad accident you would not be happy." The environmental issue has improved significantly, in Russia because of a reduction in industrial output. This reduction in production rate brought many significant issues to the attention of the people of Russia. What kind of industries and what kind of technologies do we need to support? Which industries can we allow to "fall apart" and not be restored and what industries can continue to function and be further developed? We came to the conclusion that we should further develop only the technologies that are environmentally-sound. One might say that environmentally-clean technologies would be more expensive but I can assure you that it is quite possible to create profitable technologies, friendly to the environment, which can also be inexpensive and effective.

Technological mistakes have severe consequences and the Chernobyl accident illustrates the dangers of nuclear technology. We are quite concerned about the existing nuclear power stations in Russia and all over the world. But, it can be shown, that nuclear technology can be effective as well as safe and secure. It is not an impossible task.

I was very pleased to discover that the Biopolitics International Organisation has made important steps towards implementing specific measures for environmental protection. I would like to emphasise that Biopolitics was created, was born, in the southern part of Europe. It started in Greece, moved on to Turkey, and the former Yugoslavia, and spread across Eastern Europe, in countries like Russia, Ukraine and the Slovak Republic. This movement is spreading all over the world, since the world is getting smaller. Slowly but surely, we should develop regional centres all over the world. Biopolitics needs a very strong informational system and a way of disseminating information. The movement should be based on a serious "information bank." Russia and the Russian government can take upon themselves the task of developing such a structure. The International University for the Bio-Environment Rodini Centre in Rhodes can be used to introduce this informational system and help set it up. Furthermore, I would like to stress that government participation in issues of biopolitics and the environment should be more active.