

## Russian-U.S. nuclear cooperation urged

*No new news but it's a healthy sign that we speak openly about cooperation.*

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Russia's nuclear energy chief has said Russia and the United States should agree to cooperate on providing nuclear energy for civilian purposes.

Sergei Kiriyenko, in the United States on a weeklong official visit, also said he wants to end U.S. discrimination against Russian imports of nuclear products and services, RIA Novosti reported Monday.

Kiriyenko said that when he meets U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez and Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman in Washington, he will propose that "discriminatory restrictions" on Russian access to the U.S. market be lifted, such as a restriction on Russian low-enriched uranium that has been in force since the Soviet era.

Without nuclear energy, he said, the world would not be able to ensure global energy security and avoid an energy crisis.

"We must allow new countries to gain access to inexpensive nuclear energy and at the same time guarantee the nuclear non-proliferation regime, under which leaders in the sphere of nuclear energy, such as the U.S. and Russia, assume particular responsibility," Kiriyenko said.

The two nations are considering a number of joint nuclear energy projects, including the development of fourth-generation nuclear reactors and recycling of nuclear waste.