

## **Interfax. FAS hopes for rise in liquidity of exchange gas trading through compulsion of large independent players**

**12 Oct 2021**

YALTA. Oct 12 (Interfax) - Russia's Federal Antimonopoly Service (FAS) hopes the liquidity of exchange gas trading will increase through compulsion of large independent players, the agency's head Maxim Shaskolsky told reporters.

Shaskolsky noted that the Russian government had previously decided to increase the limit of Gazprom's (MOEX: GAZP) natural gas sales to 25 billion cubic meters per year "According to our information, this indicator is 3.8 bcm for 9M 2021," he said.

According to Shaskolsky, due to technical reasons that arose for Gazprom in summer, the concern has "not only not increased sales, sales have reduced."

"This problem is well-known. In the near future, we will be meeting with SPIMEX [the St. Petersburg International Mercantile Exchange], the government, and Gazprom - we will discuss it. There has been no result so far, but we will work on it," he said, expressing the hope that the parties would manage to settle the problem early next year.

As reported, Gazprom limited its participation in daily trading on the SPIMEX in August due to an accident at the Urengoy Condensate Treatment Plant. In September, the monopoly did not have gas for the exchange due to large, above-plan demand in Russia due to the early cold weather. The daily gas trading session on the SPIMEX finished with zero result again on Tuesday.

Another solution to the issue of exchange gas sales is the idea of developing and approving a joint order of the FAS and Energy Ministry, Shaskolsky said.

"The joint order is an analog to the successfully operating joint order of the two agencies for the oil product market. Approval of this order will boost sales of natural gas volumes in exchange trading, which will lead to increased liquidity of trading and ensure that the needs of consumers are more fully met. What's more, its adoption will help to prevent cases where monopoly high prices are set for goods," he said.