

The main intergovernmental organization for coffee, bringing together exporting and importing governments to tackle the challenges facing the world coffee sector through international cooperation, is the ICO.

Members of an organization represent 95% of world coffee production and 83% of world consumption.

The ICO's mission is to strengthen the global coffee sector and promote its sustainable expansion in a market-based environment for the betterment of all participants in the coffee sector.

But Belarus is not the part of this organization.

That is why one more objective of the article is to show the opportunities for Belarus to enter the ICO and if it is necessary.

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ROPEC: NEW OIL COALITION

Brent crude prices have declined over 10 percent this year, and down around 70 percent over the last 18 months, hitting the budgets of oil-dependent nations, such as Nigeria and Azerbaijan, which have sought assistance from the International Monetary Fund. That means a new oil crisis. But Russia has played a master stroke in this crisis by taking the lead in forming a new cartel. Nevertheless, it's a move that could spell geopolitical disaster.

The meeting between Russia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela on 16 February 2016 was the first step. Until the current oil crisis, Saudi Arabia called the crude oil price shots; however, its clout has been weakening in the aftermath of the massive price drop with the emergence of US shale. The smaller OPEC nations have been calling for a production cut to support prices, but the last OPEC meeting in December 2015 ended without any agreement.

Now, with Russia stepping in to negotiate with OPEC nations, a new picture is emerging. With its military might, Russia can assume de facto leadership of the oil-producing nations in the name of stabilizing oil prices.

This is not the first time that Russia and Saudi Arabia have sought a close partnership. Even in 2013 there was an attempt to form a secret deal, which did not go through. Iran has been a trusted ally of Russia for a long time, and if Russia can broker a deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia, it can also push through some sort of secret OPEC deal.

With all the major Gulf nations agreeing, Iraq, which is without a credible political leadership, will also likely follow suit if Russia assures them of stronger support against ISIS.

If the above scenario plays out, Russia will emerge as the de facto leader of the major oil producing nations of the world, accounting for almost 73 percent of the global oil supply.

Along with this, Russia has been in the forefront of plans to move away from Petrodollars, and Moscow has formed pacts with various nations to trade oil in local currencies. With this new cartel of ROPEC (Russia and OPEC nations), a move away from petrodollars will become a reality sooner rather than later.

Though a solution in Syria is welcome, a large cartel of major oil producing nations of the world with Russia as the head would be a major upset to the current balance of power.

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BASIC INCOME: WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT WORKS

At this point in time, the idea of basic income is becoming more popular among European countries, but most people don't fully understand what it is or how it would work. A basic income is an income unconditionally granted to all on an individual basis,