

The Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue kindly invites to

POLITICS AND SOCIETY IN RUSSIA: Is there an Alternative to Putin's Regime?

In co-operation with Sciences Po, Paris

Statements by

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Vladimir Ryzhkov

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Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue | Armbrustergasse 15 | 1190 Vienna

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Marie Mendras, Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science and at *Sciences Po* in Paris. Research Fellow with the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* and chair of the *Observatoire de la Russie* at the *Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales* in Paris. Her publications deal with Russian political developments, questions of state-building and social change, and Russian foreign policy and include *Comment fonctionne la Russie? Le politique, le bureaucrate et l'oligarque* (Paris, CERI/Autrement, 2003), *Russia and Europe. The Challenge of Proximity* (Europa Institut Zürich, 2004), *La Russie de Poutine* (Paris, Le Seuil, *Pouvoirs*, 2005), and *Russie. L'Envers du Pouvoir* (Paris, Odile Jacob, 2008). Marie Mendras contributed a chapter - *Anna ou la dénonciation de la violence* - to the volume *Hommage à Anna Politkovskaïa* (Paris, Buchet/Chastel, 2007).

Vladimir Ryzhkov, Russian independent politician, Russian State Duma member (1993-2007)
Since 2006, Vladimir Ryzhkov has been affiliated with the Russian opposition coalition group "The Other Russia". Vladimir Ryzhkov represented the city of Barnaul in the Siberian Altai Region in the Russian State Duma from 1993-2007. He was first elected in 1993 and worked in a group of deputies from "Vibor Rossii", the main reformists' party under Russian President Boris Yeltsin. In 1997, he was elected first Deputy President of the State Duma, becoming the youngest Speaker in its history. In the general elections of 1999, he was elected as an independent deputy. After Vladimir Putin's election in 2000, Ryzhkov soon became one of the leading opposition figures. In the 2003 general elections, Vladimir Ryzhkov successfully ran as an independent candidate, becoming one of the last liberal voices to remain in parliament. In 2005, he became head of the Republican Party of Russia which in 2007 was refused registration for the parliament elections. Now he is a political analyst for "Novaya Gazeta", "The Moscow Times", and for the radio station "Echo Moskvi". He is the chairman of the public organization "Vibor Rossii". He is the author of the books *Fourth Republic* and *The Granted Democracy*.

On October 7, 2006, the Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaja was murdered in her home in Moscow. She was the democratic voice of her country, standing for a critical mind against the regime, writing against the dirty war in Chechnya and defending freedom of the press and human rights. In December 2005 Anna Politkovskaja was our guest in Vienna together with the Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena and the Croatian writer Slavenka Drakulic to debate the dangerous role of reporters in war. In her memory the Bruno Kreisky Forum regularly invites Russian intellectuals to debate on democracy and human rights issues.