

Russia cuts oil output by 100,000 bpd

Alexander Novak

Moscow

Russia has cut its oil production by some 100,000 barrels a day, Energy Minister Alexander Novak said yesterday ahead of a key meeting in Vienna.

Under a landmark deal in November last year, the OPEC oil cartel agreed to reduce production in order to boost prices.

Non-OPEC countries -- notably Russia, but not the United States -- followed suit and agreed in December to make cuts.

Both deals boosted oil prices by around 20 percent to above \$50 per barrel, but gains have been capped by unease about implementation and rising US shale production thanks to the higher prices.

A committee to monitor compliance with the deals is scheduled to meet in Vienna later Saturday.

Russia has previously pledged to cut its daily



Russian oil companies are working "ahead of schedule" to make the agreed cuts production by 300,000 barrels in the first half of 2017.

"We have reduced (production) by an average of 100,000 barrels per day (bpd)," Novak said, in remarks carried by RIA Novosti news agency.

Russian oil companies are

working "ahead of schedule" to make the agreed cuts, said Novak, who is set to attend the compliance committee meeting.

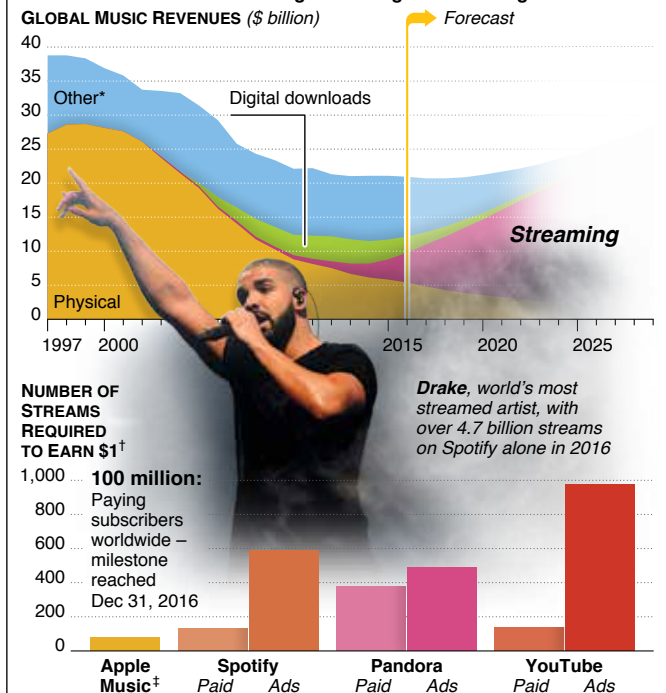
He will also meet Saudi Energy Minister Khaled al-Falih, a government spokesman said, according to

Ria Novosti.

"We are doing all we can to participate in the implementation of the agreement" reached with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and non-cartel members, Novak added.

Streaming set to revive music industry

Streaming revenues are set to soar over the next decade, allowing the music business to emerge from its generation-long recession



Trump says US may exit NAFTA unless it gets "a fair deal"

Washington

President Donald Trump announced yesterday he will demand renegotiation of the free trade agreement linking North America's economies, and will abandon the pact unless the US gets

"a fair deal." The statement on the White House website, posted less than two hours after Trump took the oath of office, said the new administration will seek to change the terms of the 23-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada and Mexico.

Trump condemned NAFTA on the campaign trail, claiming it had contributed to job losses, lost manufacturing and economic decline, and threatened to impose big tariffs on imports from Mexico.

"President Trump is committed to renegotiating NAFTA," the White House said.



Donald Trump

Iceman Oetzi's last meal was 'Stone Age bacon'

Oetzi the famous "iceman" mummy of the Alps appears to have enjoyed a fine slice or two of Stone Age bacon before he was killed by an arrow some 5,300 years ago. Mummified in ice, he was discovered by two German hikers in the Oetztal Alps, 3,210 metres (10,500 feet) above sea level.

Dried goat meat

His last meal was most likely dried goat meat, according to scientists who recently managed to dissect the contents of Oetzi's stomach.



The tasty snack is thought to have come from a wild goat in South Tyrol, the northern Italian region where Oetzi roamed around and where his remains were found in September 1991.

"We've analysed the meat's nanostructure and it looks like he ate very fatty, dried meat, most likely bacon,"

German mummy expert Albert Zink said at a talk in Vienna late Wednesday.



Violent death

He suffered a violent death, with an arrow severing a major blood vessel between the rib cage and the left shoulder blade, as well as a laceration on the hand. As part of their latest discoveries, Zink's team also found that Oetzi had an ulcer-inducing bacteria and may have suffered from stomach aches.

Died around 45

Scientists have used hi-tech, non-invasive diagnostics and genomic sequencing to penetrate his mysterious past. These efforts have determined Oetzi died around the age of 45, was about 1.60 metres (five foot, three inches) tall and weighed 50 kilos (110 pounds).

But for all his parasites, worn ligaments and bad teeth, he was in "pretty good shape", Zink wrote in the renowned US magazine Science earlier this month.

