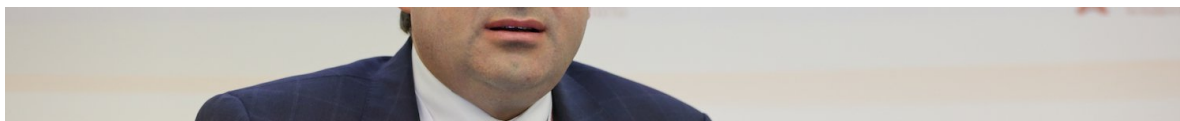


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Russia's Central Bank Backs Move to Block Bitcoin Websites

Oct 10, 2017 at 12:30 UTC by Rachel Rose O'Leary

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The first deputy governor of Russia's central bank, Sergei Shvetsov, has said that his institution will support efforts to block access to external websites selling cryptocurrencies in the country.

Speaking at a conference on Tuesday, [Reuters reports](#) that Shvetsov cited the "unreasonably high risks" involved in cryptocurrency investment as a reason for the proposed measure, adding: "We cannot give direct and easy access to such dubious instruments for retail (investors)."

As such, the Bank of Russia will be working alongside the judiciary to ensure the closure of websites offering these services – a crackdown that he indicated will extend to "all cryptocurrency derivatives."

Russian news agency [TASS](#) quotes Shvetsov as stating:

"We consider all cryptocurrency derivatives to be a negative development on the Russian market and do not consider it possible to support it, and will even assume measures to restrict potential operations with such instruments made by the regulated part of the Russian market. Meanwhile, we assume efforts aimed at closing external websites that allow Russian citizens to acquire such assets together with the General Prosecutor's Office."

Shvetsov further added that, with bitcoin being an asset that can generate high returns very quickly, it shows signs of being a pyramid scheme.

The move to block access to cryptocurrency trading websites follows a number of warnings from Russian authorities in the past few months.

Alexey Moiseev, the country's deputy finance minister, [said](#) in September that he expects upcoming legislation to feature a flat-out ban on payments made in cryptocurrency. Earlier the same month, deputy governor of the Bank of Russia Dmitry Skobelkin [told](#) Bloomberg: "China doesn't recognize cryptocurrency as payment and forbids ICOs. Our views are absolutely similar."

[Shvetsov](#) image via Shutterstock

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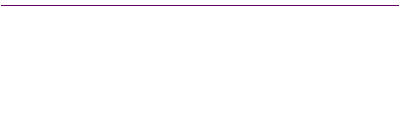
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Bitcoin	▲ 0.53%	\$4798.40
Ethereum	▲ 2.06%	\$303.10

Which country has best responded to ICOs?

☐

The U.S. – Governments should issue guidance and make rulings case by case

☐

China – Governments should ban the practice

☐

None of the above – Governments should not regulate ICOs

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