

Putin names Siluanov acting finance minister
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MOSCOW, Sept 27 — Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin today named Deputy Finance Minister Anton Siluanov as acting Finance Minister, replacing Alexei Kudrin who was ousted a day earlier.

Siluanov is at present in charge of overseeing budgets belonging to Russia's 83 regions. He also manages the federal budget subsidies for the regions.

"He is a good specialist, and his candidacy was obviously agreed with Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev," Putin told a government meeting, of his choosing Siluanov. "This is our joint decision."

Putin also said that First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov will take over Kudrin's duties as deputy prime minister, overseeing financial issues in the government.

Siluanov lacks the international clout and popularity with investors enjoyed by his predecessor.

He is seen by analysts as an interim figure put in place until Medvedev steps down as president and starts forming the new government, which he is expected to do after the March 2012 presidential vote, in which Putin has said he wants to return to the presidency.
— Reuters

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