

A b s t r a c t s

Heading down the tube European Energy Policy Put to the Test

Roland Götz

Pipeline Bugbear

Fallacies of the European Energy Debate

In the European energy debate, an allegedly dangerous dependency on imports from Russia is evoked with growing frequency. Sometimes, there is talk of a militarisation of energy policy, that is to say, a NATO for energy. But this threat scenario misses the mark. Russia is at least just as dependent on exports of fossil fuels as Europe is on their imports. The means of increasing energy security are also inadequate. All of the other providers and supply lines outside of Europe are more problematic than Russia. Therefore, instead of promoting alternative pipelines, the EU should promote alternative forms of energy. Alongside an increase in energy efficiency in the eastern EU member states and Russia, such a policy will contribute not only to securing supplies but to protecting the climate as well.

Jeronim Perović

The Gas Farce

Russia, Ukraine, and European Policy

The gas conflict between Russia and Ukraine in January 2009 left almost 20 countries in Europe without natural gas. Now Russia and Ukraine are considered problems when it comes to European energy security. Brussels and the national governments of the EU member states have to consider what kind of consequences are to be drawn from this crisis. Russia is, and will remain, Europe's most important gas supplier. But relations between Europe and Russia are troubled and have to be corrected. An important precondition is for the European Union to show unity. Above all, however, it is necessary to understand the complex background, causes, and motives behind the gas conflict.

Hella Engerer

Russia's Energy Exports

Potentials, Strategies, Perspectives

Russia's oil and natural gas exports are of great importance for Europe's energy supplies. The future extent and direction of supplies will depend on Russia's energy policy as well as its export strategies. The amount of exports mentioned in prognoses

can only be achieved if energy efficiency in Russia increases, coal replaces natural gas, price controls are eliminated, and considerable investments are made in the energy sector. Given the investment climate in Russia and the effects of the financial crisis, such forecasts are open to doubt.

Jochen Lamp

The Baltic Sea Gas Pipeline

A Transnational Infrastructure Project as Touchstone for International Environmental Standards

The Baltic Sea gas pipeline as planned by the company Nord Stream is not only politically controversial. It is also an environmental challenge. Environmental damage can result from crossing protected area or producing major changes in the seabed. The risk of sites contaminated by munitions and chemicals on the floor of the Baltic Sea has also yet to be clarified. Before the construction of the pipeline, a cross-border environmental impact assessment is to be carried out according to the Espoo Convention. This process will provide a high degree of transparency. Whether the results of the study will be comprehensible and eventual environmental objections will lead to consequences remains open. There is reason for scepticism, since supply lines and production works for the pipeline are already being built even though the environmental report has yet to be submitted.

Kirsten Westphal

Competition for Energy Resources

Market and Power in Central Asia

Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are of strategic importance for global energy markets. The competition for resources and pipelines often stands under the key word Great Game. This recourse to the imperial past distorts the view of contemporary developments. Geo-politics, questions of power and market control may dominate. The EU's alternatives for providing political order – which rely on multilateral co-operation, international law and market mechanisms – are making little impact. But the reasons are not only to be sought in international projections of power and the politicisation of the energy issue. The reasons are that Central Asia's authoritarian regimes insist on non-intervention in their internal affairs and find grateful and politically comfortable clients in Russia and China.

Folkert Garbe

Energetic Integration?

Russia's Conflict over Energy with Belarus

At the start of 2007, the conflict over energy between Russia and Belarus – which had been brewing for years – escalated. Moscow imposed a drastic curtailment of economic privileges which Belarus had enjoyed for years at Russia's expense. This does not fit the scheme of things by which Russia punishes disagreeable governments and rewards loyal regimes. After several years of effort, Russia seems to have given up the project of political integration in the form of a union with Belarus and is following considerations of economic interests. For the independence of the Belarusian economy and the Lukashenka regime, this has serious consequences.

Hilmar Rempel, Thomas Thielemann, Volker Thoste

Geology and Energy Supplies

Sources of Energy and their Availability

Europe's energy supply is highly dependent on imports. In 2000 approximately 45 per cent of the raw materials needed to supply energy were imported; according to the EU's Green Book this proportion will rise to about 63 per cent by 2030. As this happens the import dependence for oil will rise to almost 80 per cent, and for natural gas to approximately 70 per cent. The extraction of oil and natural gas from the North Sea will decline in the years to come, and the demand for natural gas is expected to rise steeply; among the reasons for this are the decision to phase out nuclear energy and the comparatively high level of emissions from coal-fired power stations. The combination of these factors will pose new challenges as Europe attempts to meet its growing energy needs.

James Chalker

The Energy Charter Treaty

Norms, Rules, and Implementation

The Energy Charter Treaty was signed in 1994. It regulates trade, investment, competition, transit, and environmental questions in the area of energy throughout Europe, and increasingly in Asia and Africa as well. Forty-six states have ratified the treaty, but Russia has not yet done so. The treaty contains both "soft" and "hard" legal provisions, the effects of which vary. The mediation procedures laid down for dealing with disputes have already been applied. The "soft" norms are considered to be more effective, especially for the East European states.

Lutz Mez, Mycle Schneider

The Myth of Rebirth

Nuclear Energy in the 21st Century

Talk of a nuclear power renaissance is making the rounds. There are 438 nuclear power plants in operation in 31 countries. They account for 16 percent of global electricity production. That is less than the contribution made by renewable forms of energy. The United States, France, Japan and Germany account for two thirds of nuclear power plant performance, threshold and developing countries make up 4 percent. Over 300 reactors will have to be replaced by 2030, in order to maintain today's nuclear power plant performance. Due to aged personnel, a lack of training capacity and production shortages, the industry faces problems that can hardly be overcome. Due to the liberalisation of the electricity industry, new nuclear power plants can hardly be financed. The alleged advantage in climate protection is also questionable. In Europe at least, the renaissance of nuclear power is a myth.

Grzegorz Wiśniewski

Green Evolution

Perspectives for Renewable Energy in Poland

Poland's highest energy policy goal is limited dependency on energy imports. But domestic coal is irreconcilable with climate protection. The solution is renewable energy. Poland has committed itself to increasing its use of renewable energy to 15 percent of energy consumption by 2020. Renewable energies have been receiving support since 2001. But up to now, too little has happened. Above all, investment was supposed to flow into the production of "green" electricity from bio-mass, wind and sunlight. Given the long-term advantages, the high investment costs of around €15 billion are justifiable.

