[Europe in a changing energy reality]

Günther Oettinger

19 Challenges for the European Energy Policy

Commissioner Oettinger outlines the development framework for European energy policy and points out to its significance not only as a factor safeguarding energy security, but also as an important stimulus aimed to boost economic development and to secure competitiveness to Europe. The Commission’s Energy Roadmap 2050 provides for energy transformations at three levels: creation of an internal energy market, investments in energy infrastructure and development of renewable energy sources.

Frank Umbach, Maximilian Kuhn

28 Unconventional Gas Resources: A Transatlantic Shale Alliance

In recent years we have been watching several rapid changes in the global natural gas market. They follow from the potential for industrial exploration of unconventional gas deposits and development of LNG technologies. As has been demonstrated by shale gas revolution in the USA, mining of gas from unconventional sources may lead to gas price decrease and reduced dependence on the imports of energy raw materials. The authors of the paper study the impact of potential exploration of shale gas on European energy portfolio and argue that owing to Europe will improve its energy security, increase the competitiveness of its economy and greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The authors devote much attention to the geo-economic and geopolitical issues and to search for an answer to the question whether a trans-Atlantic alliance in the field of shale gas is feasible.
57 Commission v. Gazprom: The Antitrust Clash of the Decade?

Initiation by the European Commission of anti-trust proceedings against Gazprom will be a breakthrough in the formation of the European competition law and transformation of the European natural gas market. This event is a starting point for a broader reflection on the current state of play in the gas market in Europe, where Gazprom operates, and on the ability of this company to adjust to a new situation, changed owing to many factors including shale gas revolution. Riley presents anti-trust procedure with due account taken of the programme postulated by the European Commission, which aims to establish a single gas market, liberalise energy policy and maintain free competition within the Union area. He discusses in detail the charges put forward by the Commissions against Gazprom and first reactions of the Russian authorities to Union actions. He also ponders on how this issue will affect the EU – Russia relations.


With collapse of the Soviet Union, Russian ruling elites faced a dilemma how to protect their power of influence and political interests in the former Soviet republics and countries of the former Eastern Bloc. It turned out that a perfect tool to pursue those goals was comprised by making those states dependent on the imports of Russian energy raw materials. The authors demonstrates how the Kremlin uses this instrument in its foreign policies, and formulates political recommendations that would enable the European Union and the USA to effectively counter the Russian energy diplomacy.
CHRISTINA LIN

129 A New Silk Road. Chinese Energy Strategy in the Greater Middle East

The top priority of Chinese foreign policy in the forthcoming years will be comprised by diversification of the supplies of energy raw materials and becoming independent of the maritime transport routes. Those goals are to be pursued by the New Silk Road strategy, which provides for development of a network of infrastructural connections facilitating the transport, mainly of energy raw materials, and inland trade from Central Asia and Middle East to China. As Lin points out, Chinese investments entail far-reaching political and military implications. The increasing Chinese presence in the Greater Middle East region is a manifestation of the growing global ambitions of the Middle Kingdom exemplified by: development of the Navy and the construction of footholds with military and geopolitical importance along the Indian Ocean coast, i.e. the „String of Pearls“ Strategy, as described in the paper.

JAN FREDERIK BRAUN

188 EU Energy Policy Under the Treaty of Lisbon Rules: Between a New Policy and Business As Usual

The author examines the impact of particular provisions of the Title XXI „Energy“ of the Lisbon Treaty on the shaping-up of the European energy policy. The paper also focuses on the impact of the changes concerning the functioning of major EU institutions and a newly established inter-institutional order on the energy policy. Braun attempts to find answers to the questions to what extent the energy policy really is a new EU policy under the Lisbon Treaty and whether a coherent functioning of a given policy is still possible in the case of division of competencies between the EU and member states in a given field – such as e.g. energy.
EWA KLIROWICZ


The first part of the analysis performed in this paper focuses on the evaluation of the status of the Parliament as a body of Union’s institutional triad in the area of energy policy. Its formal and informal prerogatives under the legal order currently in place will be presented. The subsequent part will evaluate efficiency of the measures undertaken by the mixed governmental and parliamentary team aimed to implement regulations proposed by Poland in the legislative process in the Parliament. The last part of the paper will present recommendations concerning tightening of cooperation between the governmental instance and the Parliament in a manner allowing for full utilisation of the latter’s potential in the shaping up of energy security policy most convergent with Polish raison d’État.

JAMES HENDERSON, PATRICK HEATHER

238 Lessons from the February 2012 European Gas Crisis

The authors bust the myth of gas “crisis” of early February 2012. In their opinion the increase in gas prices in European markets followed from lack of correlation between inability of Gazprom to increase the supplies and the market gambling by large European importers. The analysis also focuses on the functioning of the system of West European gas hubs. According to the authors, although hubs are not ready yet to respond swiftly to potential lack of supplies, the system responded correctly by giving price impulses to increase gas supply, which consequently prevented actual shortages of the raw material in Europe.

ROBERT ZAJDLER

255 Determinants of the Development of an Integrated Regional Natural Gas Market in CEECs

The author examines the factors that determine the integration potential of the CEE region gas markets. The starting point of the analysis is comprised by development of gas infrastructure in this region covering gas pipelines, storage facilities and LNG terminals. In a further part the authors reflects on whether and, if yes, to what extent the acquis provisions may influence regional integration.
[Reviews]

AGNIESZKA SMOLEŃSKA

281 A Never-Ending Search?

PIOTR SZLAGOWSKI

285 The Underestimated Institutional Architecture of the Energy Sector

JERZY DUDEK

288 In Search for a „Lost” European Energy Policy

291 [Contributors]