

ANNOTATION

of dissertation work «Transformation of the Energy Policy of the European Union with regard to the countries of Central Asia (1991-2016 y.)» by Oralov Askhat Razdykovich, presented for the degree in Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the specialty "6D020200 - International Relations"

Dissertation work is devoted to the problems of transformation of EU energy policy in Central Asia. Theoretical and practical mechanisms of implementation EU energy policy and prospects are exploring in this thesis.

Actuality of dissertation research

According to forecast experts and research organizations probably by 2050 the world's population will grow to 9 billion people. The increase in demand for energy resources (gas, oil, uranium, coal, etc.) is becoming more natural, which actualizes the need to develop mechanisms for ensuring energy security.

Ensuring with energy resources becomes special acute for EU governments by facing with three key trends. The first trend is associated with a reduction of energy consumption. The second trend is with a decrease in demand for energy resources (oil, gas, coal, etc.) from 83% in 1990 to 73% in 2015. Finally, the third trend presents an increase in the dependence on energy imports. In 1990, 53% of the volume was imported, and already in 2015 this figure demonstrated 73%. The degree of the dependence on energy imports in the EU countries in 2015 is 43% in the UK (cumulatively for all major fossil fuels), 56% in the Netherlands, 32% in Poland and 79% in Germany. The trend of the growth in imports of energy resources has been gradually increasing over the course of several decades on the background of the depletion of the EU countries' own fields.

Specified processes of increasing imports of energy resources, the need in regulate supplies, the growing integration processes, the 1970s energy crisis had impacted in the creation of a single energy market and EU energy policy. The energy theme did not diverge from the agenda of European integration since the formation of the European Coal and Steel Community, the European Economic Community and the emergence of the European Atomic Energy Community.

For a long period of time, within the framework of European integration, the prerequisites for the functioning and regulation of the EU single energy market were created by initiating the creation of an appropriate regulatory framework, rules, regulations, etc. The European Council in 2006, based on the theses and objectives of the Green Paper "European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Reliable Energy", identified a holistic approach, referred to as "energy policy for Europe". The aims of the EU energy strategy are: the issues of ensuring the reliability of energy supplies, the formation of competitive energy markets and the creation of stimulus for the sustainable development of the energy sector.

The conceptual formation of the energy security of Europe naturally requires an increase of emphasis on the issues of the diversification of the supply of energy resources. Therefore, one of the priorities of the global strategy in the area of the EU foreign policy under the title "Common vision, common action: more stronger Europe" published in 2016 is an energy component reflecting the need to search for new sources of energy, routes and suppliers.

Governments of Central Asia have significant reserves of energy carriers and that is why the EU interest in. Since the formation of independent states, cooperation between the countries of the region and the EU has increased in the framework of the Inogate program, the EU Strategy towards the states of Central Asia and the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements.

From the Central Asian governments, according to the assessments of the scientific and expert community Kazakhstan and the EU have more productive cooperation based on the new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Kazakhstan and the European Union. In 2009 the state program "The Way to Europe for 2009-2011" was adopted, which gave impetus to the development of the European vector of foreign policy of Kazakhstan. Cooperation has been processing.

In the foreign policy priorities of Kazakhstan within the framework of the foreign policy concept of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2014-2020, the priority and task №1 is the politically stable, economically sustainable and safe development of Central Asia. Applied to the European vector of foreign policy, Kazakhstan will continue strengthening the relations of strategic partnership. Kazakhstan will continue its efforts to contribute to regional and global energy security with elements of the balance of producers' interests, consumers and energy exporters.

In this regard, there is an essential interest to the contours of the EU energy policy, its regulatory and law, political peculiarities at the regional level and in the countries of Central Asia. The comprehensive character of the EU energy policy has transformational features that cover several levels in Central Asia.

The first level presents political, economic, legal and other changes within the EU itself (the creation of the Energy Union, the UK exit, regulatory legal regulation, etc.).

The second level concerns the EU energy policy, taking into account the regional and individual approach to each country in the region. Transformation in the framework of the regional approach is connected with the implementation of the Strategy in a relation to Central Asia and the individual approach shows the fundamental changes in the norms of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements with the states of the region.

The third level presents the impact on the EU energy policy of geopolitical (the impact of other interested players) and geo-economic (changes in prices for energy resources) factors.

The fourth level is connected with the transformation of the European Energy Charter (the partnership of the Central Asian countries in the energy sphere is based

on the EEC principles) in the International Energy Charter, which comes out from the regional framework to the global level.

The object of the research is the EU energy policy in Central Asia based on conceptual political and legal documents.

The subject of the research is the transformation processes of the EU energy policy in Central Asia caused by the impact of political, economic, geopolitical factors.

The aim of the dissertation research is to identify the contours of the transformation of the EU energy policy in Central Asia.

Within the framework of the solution of the set aim, the following **tasks** are proposed:

1. To consider theoretical approaches in understanding energy policy and security, political and legal features of the energy policy of the European Union;
2. To identify the conceptual foundations of the EU's foreign policy in the energy sector and the prerequisites for the formation of the EU energy policy towards the Central Asian region;
3. Analyze the regulatory and legal framework of the EU energy policy towards Central Asia;
4. To identify the foreign policy interests of the countries of Central Asia in the context of cooperation with the EU in the area of energy;
5. To reveal the change in the geopolitical situation and the impact on the EU energy policy based on SWOT analysis;
6. Analyze the role of non-governmental institutions (energy NGOs) in the formation of energy cooperation between the governments of Central Asia and the European Union.

The chronological framework of the research covers the period from 1991 to 2016. In view of the need of consider a historical retrospective of the development of the EU energy policy implemented separate deviations from the chronological framework.

Theoretical and methodological bases of research. The multifaceted nature of energy security, socio-economic and political processes taking place in international relations required the use of the appropriate theoretical and methodological tools. In the dissertation research, general and general scientific methods of analysis and synthesis, generalizations, analogies were used; Systemic and interdisciplinary approaches, the use of which is justified by the goals and objectives of the dissertation research; General scientific methods and methods of research; SWOT analysis, PEST analysis, etc. In addition, the approaches of theories of international relations, such as neo-realism, the geopolitical approach, the constructivist paradigm, the school of international political economy and neo-Marxism were used in the work.

The scientific novelty of the dissertation research is a systematic analysis of the transformation of the European energy policy in Central Asia.

Among the main scientific results, which determine the novelty of the dissertation research, are the following:

- The periodization of the EU energy policy towards Central Asia is selected taking into account the strategic approach;
- The need for the development of institutional and institutional prerequisites for the creation of the Central Asian energy market, which is one of the main objectives of the EU energy policy, is substantiated;
- The formation of a regional non-governmental energy association with the involvement of the expert environment of the Central Asian countries in the format of an umbrella approach (a wide range of dialogue in the energy sphere) is proposed, which allows solving urgent problems.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research

The theoretical significance of the research lies in the fact that it contains an analysis of the main schools of the theory of international relations in relation to the energy theme. This work complements the possibilities of studying international relations using the example of the EU energy policy in Central Asia using interdisciplinary methods (SWOT analysis, PEST analysis) and it is another step in developing energy security problems.

The practical significance of the thesis is due to the fact that the materials and conclusions are able to be used in the preparation of subsequent studies on energy policy and energy security in the EU and Central Asia. The materials of the thesis might be of interest to the state authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan in determining promising areas for the development of energy cooperation with the countries of Central Asia, the practical use of analytical methods in the work of diplomatic staff (SWOT analysis, PEST analysis).

Provisions for the defense.

- Transformation of the EU energy policy in Central Asia occurs and covers several levels: political and legal changes and processes within the EU itself, the focus of the EU energy policy within the region and each country, the impact of geopolitical and geo-economic factors in Central Asia, the conversion of the EEC to the IEA, Inogate Program and others;
- In the last years, there has been a noticeable increase of the energy factor in the European Union and in some governments of Central Asia. Evidence of the relationship between the EU and Russia against the backdrop of the Russian-Ukrainian confrontation, the change in the political landscape of the region due to the shift of the leadership of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2010 demonstrate the politicization of energy;
- The key goal of the EU energy policy related to the supply of gas from Central Asia is unlikely, because of the uncertainty of the legal status of the Caspi. European foreign policy demands the transformation of relations with regional players (RF, Iran, PRC) in order to achieve one of the main objectives of energy policy;

– The process of energy dialogue between the countries of Central Asia and the EU at the present stage differs by the prevalence of interaction between the current subjected governments with the insufficient participation of non-government participants;

– The focus of energy cooperation, between the EU and the countries of Central Asia, shifts towards an individual approach to each country. A certain shift from the regional approach to the country reflects the need for a more productive partnership, particularly in the energy sector. The active involvement of professional non-governmental participants in the framework of energy cooperation will become a strengthening factor of the EU interaction with the governments of Central Asia.

Approbation of results of the research.

Separate provisions of the dissertation research were published in 8 articles. 4 articles of them in journals recommended by the Committee for Control in Education and Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan; 3 articles in the collection of scientific papers on the materials of international conferences; 1 article in the magazine registered in the indexed in the database "Scopus".

The structure of the dissertation research is determined by the aims and tasks of the research. The work consists of an introduction, three chapters, conclusion, a list of used sources and applications.