

Romania's energetic security in the European context - The Gas chapter

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Key words: energetic security, economic security, international security, international relations, Russia, European Union, gas pipes, gas resources, transport routes, alternative sources, territorial economy, transactional analysis between states.

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Defining the concepts of threat, security, international and regional security, the vulnerability risks, force and threatening with force, defence and collective defence, economical and energetic security, energy crisis, and the energetic weapon is the starting point for understanding the phenomenon and the states' actions and the non-state actors in the fluid period of the last 50 years.

Starting off from the fact that the energetic resources are represented by different types of fuels, which do not have a uniform distribution, each one having its advantages and disadvantages in the exploitation process, transport, and consumption, we found out that their return depends on their caloric power, the investments in transport infrastructure, and the energetic and environmental balances.

Realizing the history of USSR's (later on known as the Russian Federation) gas pipe developments, their commercial relations with the European states and later on with the European Union and the riparian states as well as the post-soviet epoch relationships between Russia and the ex-soviet states, revealed the fact that there are strong commercial relations between them. This history cannot be neglected in the present monopolistic conjuncture of the Russian state company Gazprom, in which the West European states, influenced by the large multinational companies, followed only profit.

Vladimir Putin's rise to power changed the external politics of the Russian Federation. The "energetic weapon" and the "energetic tong" were revived as new elements of Kremlin's external politic strategy. Used effectively, Russia acquired a very large influence in the European Union and its member states. Gazprom's natural gas price's external politics are based on Russia's interests in the respective country: the percentage of the total gas exports, the export value in balance with the respective country's payments, the dependency rate of Russian gasses, the Russian investment values and the respective state's permissiveness for Russian investments.

This strategy does not match the European Union's strategy, through which the European Commission is making efforts to realise a common energetic and defence policy. The Union's members, however, sometimes have divergent interests, fact which comes to Moscow's advantage. The present alternative sources to the Russian gas are in decline, the alternative sources in the Caspian zone are isolated and Kremlin is doing everything in its power to reduce to dust any project in which it is not at least a main shareholder.

Romania as possessor of significant resources, as pioneer in the areas of extraction, transport, and industrial rolling stock, as minor Russian gas importer, and as EU member, has not had, until 2005, a coherent security and energetic security policy. In the last years, the

administration from Bucharest defined its energetic security based on the national interest, the directions drawn by the European Commission and the Russian strategy to monopolize that industry.

I've shown that patterns in the states' evolution and in their relationships exist. According to the information gathered, I've classified them based on their security generation rate in the international relations and applied them in Europe's energetic security and in the riparian zones.

The conclusions drawn are that the EU states can have a common energetic security policy only with great difficulty, that the Russian Federation's existence is dependent on the energy's export values, and that the European Union, from the position of the Russian gas export's most important client, has to solve a dilemma, that it agrees with its present state, in which its security is being threatened, or to reduce imports putting the Russian Federation in a payment incapacity, a situation that also generates regional insecurity.

The problems that Romania has to solve are: to have a coherent energetic strategy, to protect in the future the resources that the state still disposes of, to have a strategy aligned to the European one, to account for the new alternative resources discovered, to have a functional justice system that would not allow obscure interest groups to influence political decisions from the energetic industry, and to create more energetic security analysis centres.