

GEOPOLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF ENERGY DIPLOMACY

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Energy is a key industry for many of the world's nations, economically, socially, and politically. A country's national security as a whole and its energy component in particular depend on the state of its fuel and energy complex. This results in special attention from government agencies to issues of ensuring energy security, including how these apply to international relations. The new technologies introduced in energy industries changed the trend in the development of the world energy complex. Some years ago the international energy markets were influenced mainly by economic factors (90%) and geopolitical factors (10%). Now the situation dramatically changed due to the geopolitical turbulence on global and regional levels. Geopolitics dominates in world energy industry and energy diplomacy. Geopolitical factors determine the situation on the world energy markets. It will not last forever because naturally economic factors should play the major role in energy policy and diplomacy in multilateral and bilateral cooperation. That depends on the geopolitical stability in the world and first of all on the RF-US relations. Looking ahead we may say that the relaxation the situation in some regional conflicts may be very important for the development of bilateral energy relations of Russia with both exporting and importing countries and also in the multilateral formats.

Conclusions.

1. The rapid development of the global energy industry at the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st centuries, along with the considerable expansion of international trade in energy resources, equipment and services, have actualized the geopolitical and economic issues in developing a system of world energy supply. We can identify several sets of problems with whose elaboration the energy diplomacy of many countries (including Russia) and international organizations is concerned.

2. Energy diplomacy will play more important role next years to avoid conflict of geopolitical and economic interests and to find the most effective ways for the energy cooperation on the basis of balance of those interests.

3. The energy diplomacy will be more connected with settling problems of international energy security on global and regional levels.

4. The first signs of the probability of improving Russian-American relations after the new administration of US President Trump statements about their foreign policy priorities may lead to a new more stable situation in the world geopolitics and have the positive impact on the more predictable prospects of the world energy.

5. Russia is interested in developing cooperation with most influential international energy organizations (IEA, OPEC, GECF, IAEA, IRENA etc.).

6. Priorities of Russian energy diplomacy on the bilateral include bilateral cooperation with CIS countries, EU countries, China and other Asian countries, Latin American, African and Middle East countries.

7. As for the energy cooperation with USA it is worth mentioning that there is some basis formed years ago (RF-USA Energy dialogue, other mechanisms). But now there are no mechanisms. There is a hope that after the normalization of RF-USA relations on political agenda we will have chances to resume energy cooperation with USA.

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