

BASIC TASKS AND PRIORITY LINES OF RUSSIA'S CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY AND DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY

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Twenty five years is a period during which Russia as an independent and sovereign state could solve successfully a great deal of tasks in the field of foreign policy and diplomacy. Russia's cooperation with foreign countries in the field of energy during that rather short period of time was fruitful, nevertheless, the changing political and economic situation imposes new conditions and poses new tasks on our state, which tasks must be resolved to ensure Russia's steady status as a world's leading energy power. Therefore, the energy sector is still the most important first priority of Russia's foreign policy, and its basic tasks and development lines are discussed in this article.

The primary task for Russia's foreign energy policy is now to create on the territory of the Eurasian Economic Union of the common energy markets and to solve the resources and transit pricing problems.

Number two important task is to create within the European space of the legal and political conditions for a smooth transit of the Russian energy resources, and to ensure overcoming the political differences with the EU member states to expand mutually advantageous cooperation in the field of energy. Currently, taking into account the growing consumption of diesel fuel in Europe because of a growing number of motor vehicles equipped with diesel engines, new horizons are opened up for exports of this fuel to the European market. According to analysis of the diesel fuel markets and energy strategies, the most promising for petroleum products supplies through Russian Baltic and Black Sea ports are Germany, Poland, Turkey and Balkan region, and Sweden and the Netherlands are considered as partners in the medium-term and long-term outlook [1].

The third task Russia is facing is to develop the transport infrastructure which could reduce the transit risks and ensure competitiveness of Russian energy. An optimization of the costs connected with production and transportation of energy is impossible without ensuring functions of the existing infrastructure in the sustainable development context. Solving such important tasks for the world as a whole and our country in particular, as the environmental effect of the basic segments of today's energy sector, predicting changes in the energy balance in the short-term and long-term outlook, a possibility of a cleaner use of traditional energy through a reduction of its adverse environmental effect and a possibility of an alternative power generation on the basis of sustainable green energy [2] requires a full-scale weighted approach to the use of energy, providing for an efficient use of the existing infrastructure and its further development in order to optimize power generation and transportation costs. In order to ensure a long-term competitiveness of the Russian energy sector, the transport infrastructure must be developed within the context of such key ultimate objectives of the energy policy and national strategies as the energy safety, that means protection from interruptions in power supply, a maximum economic efficiency, a strengthening of social development, ensuring environmental safety and solving the problem of finiteness of the fossil fuels for future generations [3].

Finally, an extremely important task currently solved by our country is to enhance the efficiency of economic integration with the Pacific region and increasing energy supplies to the

growing Asian markets. In particular, energy sector is becoming the most important strategic element of the Russia - China partnership whose development is justified not only by the geographic vicinity of the countries, but also by the complementarity of their economies. E.g., PJSC Rosneft Oil Company, together with CNPC, are implementing the project of oil transportation from the fields in East Siberia to China. "Russia-China" oil pipeline of design capacity 15 million ton/year, and maximum capacity 30 million ton, was commissioned in early 2011 [4]. Chinese companies are involved in development of Siberia's gas fields, establishment of infrastructure in Siberia and Far East regions, development of Russia's fuel and energy complex [5]. The forecast of energy consumption in China is demonstrating a higher demand of PRC for Russian natural gas [6]: e.g., in 2014 Russia and PRC signed a contract on supply of 38 billion cu.m natural gas from Russia to PRC through "Sila Sibiri – 1" and "Sila Sibiri – 2" pipelines [7]. It should also be noted that the two countries are still interested in implementation of joint projects in the two countries' oil sectors, cooperation in third countries and implementation of power engineering projects in China [8].

The tasks discussed are determining the general range of problems and continuity of Russia's foreign policy in the field of energy. Nevertheless, when solving such tasks in the conditions of the existing transformations and uncertainty in the global and regional markets, our country is facing new challenges that require a timely and efficient response.

A new priority is to develop mutually advantageous partnerships and involvement of foreign partners into all links of the production chain, from upstream to downstream, to power generation and marketing, particularly at third countries' markets.

The second important line is to increase export of energy technologies, implementation of joint projects with the leading companies in third countries.

In addition, it is obviously necessary to strengthen actively a cooperation with the world's leading organizations carrying out their activities in the field of energy, including OPEC, Gas Exporting Countries Forum. A considerable potential should be mentioned, as regards Russia's cooperation with BRICS member states, good opportunities also exist, as regards cooperation within SCO.

It should be noted in conclusion that, despite the efficiency of Russia's foreign energy policy and diplomacy during twenty five years of existence as a sovereign state, the energy diplomacy is currently facing a number of new tasks depending on a full-scale implementation of the priorities of Russia's foreign policy in the energy sector.

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