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Нашев А.М. **Энергетическая политика Европейского** **Союза как инструмент диверсификации** **внешних источников поставок газа**

Nashev A.M. **Energy policy of the European Union as instrument of** **diversification in external gas supply sources**

В статье энергетическая политика стран Европейского союза (ЕС) представляется как сложная иерархическая система отношений, связанная с потребностями глобального воспроизводства и вызовами отдельных национальных экономик

Ключевые слова: энергетическая безопасность, энергетическая политика, нефтегазовый рынок

The article represents the energy policy of the European Union (EU) countries as the complex hierarchical system of the relations connected with global reproduction requirements and challenges of separate national economies

Key words: security, energy policy, oil and gas market

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Reassessment of development of energy strategy in the European Union, Russia, the USA and a number of the other countries indicates the actualization of energy security problem. Such interest in the new energy policy establishment is justified in view of the fact that energy is an essential element in the economy of each country, which condition and development depends on the market mechanism efficiency.

Formation of the new energy policy and creation of approaches to energy security clearly tracked in mutual relations between energy-importing and energy-exporting countries. For each of these two groups the energy security interpreted differently. But irrespective of whether it is considered from the consumer or the supplier of energy resources, energy security is one of the key elements of the economical, and therefore national security. Furthermore the energy policy of the supplier and consumer countries particularly of hydrocarbons, closely connected at different levels of energy security. Infringement of this connection of one of these two groups, and the third in face of the transit countries, leads to disruption of energy security at national, regional and global dimensions.

For the countries of the European Union (EU) is typical gap between demand and production of hydrocarbons raw materials which varies in broad ranges. The EU possesses only 2,2% of world allowances of gas however its share of consumption reaches 18% of the world reserves. If such tendency remains further, according to forecasts of the International Energy Agency (IEA), by 2030 the import share in the European consumption will reach 80% [1, p. 36]. The need of the European Union for gas import is provided mainly due to pipeline deliveries from Russia, Norway and Algeria, as well as the supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Thus Russia is a key supplier of gas to the EU and supplies about a third of the total amount of European gas import. Totally in 2014 European Union imported 117.9 billion cubic meters of the Russian gas. The main consumers of Russian gas in the EU are Germany (38.70 bln cbm) and Italy (21.68 bln cbm), such countries as the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland are almost entirely energetically dependent on Russia [2, p. 80].

The EU laid hopes on gas production from slate fields particular at Polish and Ukrainian territories however in 2014 most of the international operators had refused continuation of works in these countries due to unsatisfactory results of geological exploration.

Considering fall in its own production the European gas due to the gradual depletion of the main fields and the IEA forecasted growth in gas demand against enormous energy dependence on Russia entire EU energy security is jeopardized.

Situation is aggravated as more than half of Russian gas transported to Europe in transit flows through the gas transportation system (GTS) of Ukraine and regular "gas wars" between Russia and Ukraine follow restricted transit to Europe only increased the relevance of the consideration of EU energy policy.

At this stage of EU and Russian energy relations, on the background of the global geopolitical situation, the main task is a decreasing of European energy dependence on Russian gas by diversifying sources of gas supply. However implementation of full-scale diversification of gas transportation is hampered of gas transmission monopoly on behalf of "Gazprom". For the solution of this problem in 2009 the "Third energy packet" of the EU was accepted which provided restrictions on activities in a power system of Europe, in particular separation of oil and gas business on production and supply of hydrocarbons [3, p. 68]. As a result of these energy reforms it was refrigerated, and soon the project on construction of the South Stream gas pipeline is closed at all.

Russian gas pipeline was planned to conveyance under the Black Sea to Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Hungary and Austria. Currently, the Russian side is developed gas hub project at the border of Turkey and Greece, through which gas will be transported to the European countries.

Russian gas transportation to the hub planned via "Turkish Stream" pipeline, which construction has already been agreed with the Turkish side. Capacity of "Turkish Stream" should reach 50-60 bln cbm of gas a year. For the construction of the gas pipeline on Russian territory previously built infrastructure for closed "South Stream" will be used.

Meanwhile Europe has developed a parallel gas pipeline project “Nabucco”, bypassing Russia. This project has been energetically and politically foreground for Europe and a major contender the Russian “South Stream”. The pipeline initially planned to involve new sources of gas in Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Iran. However negotiations with Iran failed because of international sanctions concerning the Iranian nuclear program. At the same time Turkmenistan together with China began to develop the pipeline building project to Pakistan. These events led to the only unique potential gas supplier – Azerbaijan, however the Transcaucasian republic alone could cover only a third of capacities of the Nabucco gas. In view of the circumstances the EU was forced in the end of June 2013 finally to abandon the construction of the pipeline and a reorientate to another project of Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) construction. By this pipeline with a length of 520 km is planned to transmit Caspian gas to Western Europe. According to the project the first gas deliveries through the pipeline TAP Azerbaijan will take place in 2020.

However TAP can hardly be called a direct competitor of the “Turkish stream” because of the relatively low power consumption: 21 bln cbm vs 60 bln cbm. However this project will reduce the dependence of some EU countries of Russian gas.

A key priority for the European Union regarding energy security of the region is the establishment of a single European energy market. This subject became the main for discussion by European leaders at a regular EU summit in Brussels (03/19/2015). The single European energy market, and in the future so-called “energy alliance” will allow the energy resources “to flow” freely from one European country to another. This fact according to estimates of economists would allow European consumers to save up to 40 bln euro per year.

However, the establishment of a single European energy market should face the European Commission certain barriers. It is, of course, first of all about long-term contracts of some EU countries with Russia in which there is a point on a prohibition of further sale unused gas to the third party.

The ongoing liberalization processes of European gas market are ambiguous impact the operating conditions of Russian exporters in this field, as the policy of the EU is based on encouragement of the newly established projects and the establishment barriers for the traditional exporters, which control the market. Therefore the EU considers it necessary to pursue a policy of assistance including financial, alternative routes and natural gas export projects for the purpose of supply sources diversification.

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