

Czech Journal of Political Science, Masaryk University, Czech Republic

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Call for papers: Foreign and Energy Policies of the European Union: Challenges in the Time of Growing Geopolitical Struggle Between the East and the West

Editors: Martin Jirušek, PhD (Masaryk University, Czech Republic); Jack Sharples, PhD (Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, United Kingdom)

In the past fifteen years, the European Union (EU) has gone through some seminal changes and witnessed several formative events. The number of members increased, and the integration ventured into spheres that had been previously governed exclusively by states. One of these areas was also the energy policy, which has since become part of the EU's flagship activity to tackle climate change. At the same time, during this period, we have seen that energy-related issues have become part of a broader geopolitical struggle between Russia and the West. These events took place on the backdrop of seminal shifts in global supply directions, entailing the surge of oil and gas production in the United States (US).

Needless to say, as the EU's aspirations in international politics have been rising and energy has assumed the centre stage in its considerations. With energy relations being increasingly politicized, the EU is pushed to assume the role of quasi-state structure, manoeuvring in an environment where supplies are regarded as foreign policy instruments.

Recently, the issue of rising Russian energy exports to Europe caused a stir in the US, which, under the administration of Donald Trump, has become a fierce opponent of growing Russian clout on the European energy markets. Consequently, the EU and the US grew apart as the Union dug its heels against the US pressure.

It is thus of paramount importance to take inventory of the current state of the external dimension of the EU energy policy with particular regard to Russia and the US. Russia is the EU's most important energy partner and, at the same time, an actor, which has been accused of misusing energy supplies as political leverage. The US, while still being the major guarantor of transatlantic security, has become a significant energy producer and exporter influencing energy flows worldwide. Consequently, with growing intensity, the EU finds itself wedged between two fundamentally different understandings of policymaking in the energy sector.

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The special issue aims at addressing the following issues:

- 1) The intertwining of energy and foreign policy in the EU within relations with the US and Russia
- 2) The external dimension of the EU energy policy with regard to gas supplies from Russia and the US – political and legal factors.
- 3) Reflection of the geopolitical perspective on the energy sector concerning natural gas, nuclear energy, and related infrastructure.
- 4) Case studies and state-focused analyses should consider implications for the EU's energy policy and security.

Papers should focus mainly (but not exclusively) on answering the following questions:

- 1) How the EU's foreign and energy policies reflect relations with Russia and the US?
- 2) How are supply-related disputes with Russia reflected in the EU law and how the legal framework shape the business strategy of Russian energy companies?
- 3) What are the implications of Russian and the US energy-related activities for individual EU countries (case studies)?

The special issue will include 4-7 articles which will be reviewed within a standardized double-blind peer-review.

The deadline for submission of abstracts (250–300 words) is 14 February 2021 23:59 CET. The abstracts have to be submitted directly to the editors.

The editors of this special issue are:

- Martin Jirušek, PhD, Masaryk University, Czech Republic (jirusek.martin@mail.muni.cz)
- Jack Sharples, PhD, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, United Kingdom (jack.sharples@oxfordenergy.org)
- **All submissions should be submitted directly to the editors**

Expected timeline:

- 14. 2. 2021: Deadline for abstract submissions
- 28. 2. 2021: Authors are informed about decisions
- 7. 6. 2021: First drafts of manuscripts are delivered to editors
- 20. 6. 2021: Editors deliver their formal comments and suggestions to authors
- 30. 6. 2021: Authors submit their manuscript for peer-review
- Summer - Autumn 2021: Authors receive reviews on submissions, work on revisions

- Winter 2021: Editorial work on accepted articles

- The special issue will be published as 1/2022 in Q1/2022

For author guidelines, see <https://www.politologickycasopis.cz/en/instructions-for-authors/>.

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