

What future for the European Union's new Energy Security policy?

Seminar - Brussels, 15 May 2007

The Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (FRIDE), the Gulf Research Centre (GRC) and EGMONT - the Royal Institute for International Relations are organising a seminar to respond to the publication of the EU's new energy security strategy and to debate those aspects of energy security related specifically to European foreign policies.

Rationale

During the last year, the Ukraine-Russia gas dispute, greater global competition for diminishing hydrocarbon resources and higher oil prices have jolted the European Union into debating the development of a comprehensive European Energy Policy. Europe's increasing energy dependency, decreasing energy production and reliance on a small number of external suppliers have added to the urgency of these debates.

The Commission's March 2006 Green Paper committed the EU to integrating energy issues more systematically into the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). It also promised that energy security would not compromise the EU's commitment to promoting democracy and human rights. The Commission's Strategic Energy Review published on 10 January 2007 further reinforced these commitments to a more effective energy security policy; this Review will now be debated by member state governments at the March 2007 EU summit.

In focusing on the foreign policy dimensions of energy security, our one day seminar will be framed around three broad issues:

a) Market versus geopolitical approaches:

Should competitive power-politics, expressed in bilateral deals/relationships with key suppliers prevail, or alternatively should key suppliers be incorporated into an international energy market? The seminar will explore this debate and the complex linkages between internal and external dimensions of energy security.

b) Can member state interests be reconciled and streamlined within a common European energy policy?

Member states currently pursue differing approaches to energy security. How can these different views be reconciled in one common energy policy? As the perception exists that energy security is one of the areas of greatest divergence and competition between national governments, it must be asked whether member states will really be willing to compromise enough to define a unified approach.

c) Will external energy policy act to the detriment of democratic development?

Are EU policies of democracy promotion becoming weaker in states that are either energy producers or energy transit countries? Many certainly judge that new energy security imperatives sound the death knell for democracy promotion. On the other hand, would it be preferable to pressure producer countries for improvements in governance so as to achieve a more favourable and stable investment climate in which IOC's could operate? Is this feasible given the recent trend towards greater resource nationalism?

AGENDA

14th May 2007

19.30 for 20.00 Dinner - *Salon des Tapisseries, Palais d'Egmont, Place du Petit Sablon, 1000 Brussels*

Welcome Remarks – Pierre Schori (FRIDE) and Claude Misson (Egmont Institute).

Keynote introductory speech – MEP Saryusz Wolski (Chairman AFET) and MEP Eluned Morgan.

15th May 2007

Seminar, *Orange Room, Palais d'Egmont, Place du Petit Sablon, 1000 Brussels*

09.00-09.30 Arrival – Registration – Welcome by Ambassadors Claude Misson and Pierre Schori

09.30-11.00 **Session I - The new EU strategy: a market or geopolitical approach?**

Introducers: Giacomo Luciani (GRC) and Jean-Marie Chevalier (Centre de Géopolitique de l'Energie - CERA)

Chair: Richard Youngs (FRIDE)

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.00 **Session II - Towards or away from a common European external energy policy?**

Introducers: Jorgen Henningsen (EPC), Jean-Paul Decaestecker (Head of Unit for Energy - EU Council General Secretariat) and Raphael Vermeir (Vice Chair of OGP and Government Affairs Manager at ConocoPhillips)

Chair: Giacomo Luciani, Gulf Research Center.

13.00-14.15 Lunch

14.15-15.45 **Session III - Energy security and democracy: irreconcilable?**

Introducers: Ausra Aleliunaite* (Secretariat of the Council - Central Asia, *tbc), Charles Esser (ICG) and Franck Umbach (DGAP)

Chair: Claude Misson, Egmont Institute.

15.45-16.15 **Concluding session.** What conclusions can we draw from the seminar? What proposals can we make to EU governments and institutions?

Introducer: John Gault (Geneva Center for Security Policy)