

Tatiana Romanova

EU-Russian Energy Cooperation in English-Language Publications

Relations between Russia and the European Union in the energy sector attracted a record number of researchers abroad, compared with the study of other spheres of cooperation between Russia and the EU. This is mainly due to the fact that in this area the European Union feels particularly vulnerable vis-à-vis Russia. In economic cooperation and visa policy the ball is, rather, on the side of Brussels, which uses its competitive advantages to pressure Russia, in the energy sector everything is perceived on the contrary. In this regard, the focus on natural gas as the main "painful" aspect became natural since in this sphere Russia and the EU are linked by infrastructure and the diversification of supplies is complicated. At the same time, large supplies of oil, oil products and nuclear materials from Russia to the EU did not cause many questions because switching to alternative suppliers is less problematic here, and the relevant markets are global.

The share of empirics, which dominated in Russian-language studies, was less substantial in studies abroad. At the same time energy relations with Russia were used to construct or test various theories (dependence, mutual dependence, international society and security complexes). In addition, the term "geopolitics" firmly established in the studies of energy relations between Russia and the European Union.

Gradually, two traditions crystallized, two contrasting approaches to the relations of Russia and the European Union in the energy sector. The first one was based on market economy and institutions, on the liberal tradition of international relations. Studies of the Energy Charter and its Treaty as well as those of the EU externalizing its legislation should be mentioned here. The

same tradition should include research on the approximation of the laws of Russia and the European Union in the field of energy, the modalities of this process and its consequences. The second, geopolitical, proceeded from realism, asserted that due to the specifics of Russia or international relations in general, it was impossible to build relations only on the bases of markets. With the general securitization of the research agenda of Russia-EU relations, as well as growing concerns about Moscow's actions, the shift naturally took place in the direction of geopolitics. Particular concern in this regard were caused by the countries of shared / contested neighborhood as well as associated transit risks. The attention of foreign scholars was also focused on the differences in the interests of member countries, the ability of Russia to manipulate these differences, as well as the options for solving this problem.

The prerequisites for differences in the views of Russia and the European Union on energy cooperation were also studied. And in this case a wide range of different theoretical and methodological approaches was applied. A number of Russian researchers also published works aimed at explaining Russia's position, presenting the motivation of energy companies and official authorities.

Some non-Russian studies also closely monitored changes in legislation and policies would affect supply from Russia to the EU with the focus on EU policies (in particular, investigation against Gazprom, change in the nature of pricing) but also on Russia (both at the official and corporate levels). The modalities of the Energy Dialogue were also examined.

Finally, some studies also focused on energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, and reduction of greenhouse gases as spheres of cooperation between Moscow and Brussels. However, the attention was paid to these issues de facto on the residual principle.