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The Energy Union Tour – success or failure?

Abstract: The objective of the Energy Union is to integrate 28 national energy markets, guarantee free movement of energy through the borders of the member states, implement new technologies, increase energy efficiency and renew transmission infrastructure. This project is advocated in response to the energy crisis of 2009, between Russia and Ukraine, as a result of which the gas transit to some of the EU countries was discontinued. This project, however, does not enjoy equal interest among all EU member states. This is the outcome of the national interests of some member states, which, for many years, have had good political and economic relations with the Russian Federation, particularly in the area of energy raw materials. Therefore, Maroš Šefčovič – the European Commissioner in charge of the Energy Union, organised an Energy Union Tour, i.e. a series of meetings in all the member states, taking place at the turn of 2015–2016, the objective of which was to show what the Energy Union could offer each of them. The structure of the paper was determined by the research procedure and the response to all the research questions, comprising: introduction, reflections on the security of the energy raw material supply and the projects of Energy Union and Energy Union Tour as well as the conclusions from the research and the summary.

Key words: Energy Union Tour, Energy Union, energy security, energy policy, internal energy market

On 25th February 2015, the European Commission adopted a package of documents concerning the foundation of an Energy Union. The adopted package postulates the creation of an Energy Union based to a large extent on the objectives of the climate policy which first and foremost concerns the market of electrical energy and, in some cases – of natural gas. The Energy Union is a project which is, among others, a reaction to the energy crisis of 2009 between Russia and Ukraine, the consequences of which revealed the necessity to take definite action aimed at working out a common standpoint in energy policy and energy security.

This project, however, does not enjoy equal interest among all EU member states. This is the outcome of the national interests of some member states, which, for many years, have had good political and economic relations with the Russian Federation, particularly in the area of energy resources.

Therefore, Maroš Šefčovič – the European Commissioner in charge of the Energy Union, organised an Energy Union Tour, i.e. a series of meetings in all the member states, taking place at the turn of 2015–2016, the objective of which was to show what the Energy Union could offer each of them: beginning with better interconnections of energy, through improvements in market competitiveness ending with the security of the gas supply etc. Each meeting was summarised with a comprehensive analysis and report presenting potential benefits in each state's participation in the Energy Union.

This paper is an attempt to find answers to the following research questions:

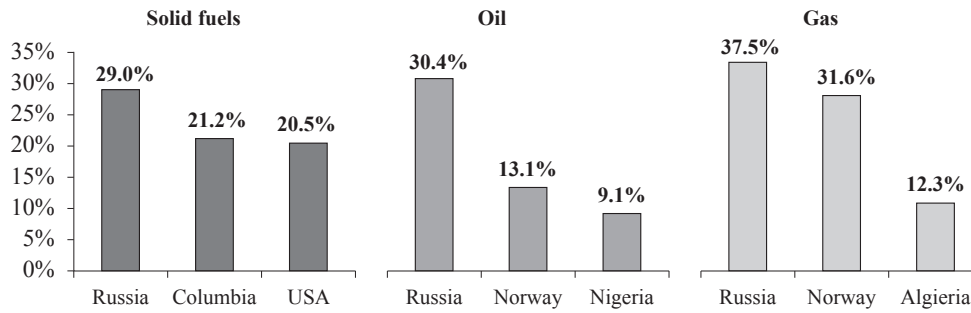
– why do specific member states favour or not the concept of the Energy Union?

– what are the benefits of the Energy Union for specific member states?
– has the Energy Union Tour changed the approach towards the project of the Energy Union manifested by specific member states?

1. The security of supplies of energy resources within the EU

Currently the European Union is the largest importer of primary energy in the world, as more than a half of the energy consumed in the EU (53.5%) is imported (Complete Energy Balances). At the same time, these imports come from a relatively small number of suppliers, which bears a potential risk for the security of supplies. A special threat is posed by the fact that approx. 30% of each of the contemporary key energy carriers, such as crude oil, gas or coal imported to the European Union is purchased most frequently from Russia (cf. Fig. 1). Therefore a large concentration of the imports of energy carriers from Russia becomes its string bargaining chip in economic relations with the European Union and impacts its resource dependence on Russia.

Fig. 1. The main suppliers (to the EU-28) of key energy resources in 2014



Source: the author’s own study on the basis of *Energy production and imports, Main statistical findings*, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/index.php/Energy_production_and_imports#Imports, 03.10.2016.

The gas crisis, occurring in winter 2009, revealed the problem of the security of the energy resource supply to the EU as well as its large dependence on the import of this resource from a single supplier, i.e. Russia. As a result of the crisis, the transit of gas to the EU through the territory of Ukraine was stopped. Slovakia and some Balkan states had to ration this raw material and close down some factories and power plants, which bore significant costs for their economies (Aalto, 2016, pp. 20–25).

However, the dependence of EU member states on the import of Russian gas, varies from one country to another. And in the case of Baltic countries and Finland, it is 100%, whilst for France, this index is merely 19% (cf. Fig 2). Such diversification makes it difficult for the European Union to take a unified standpoint towards Russia.

Given the large diversity of import dependence and the problems involved with the existence of numerous energy strategies, different in each of the 28 EU member states, the need for even stronger integration of the internal energy market has become a priority.

Fig. 2. The degree of member states’ dependence from gas import from Russia (in %) in 2013

Source: http://forsal.pl/artykuly/901869,jak-bardzo-europa-jest-uzalezniona-od-gazu-z-rosji-mapa.html, 05.10.2016.

The Energy Union is a project in response to the gas crisis from 2009 between Russia and Ukraine. The consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict revealed the necessity of definite measures in the context of working out a common standpoint in energy policy issues. These events have shown how important it is for the EU to build not only a common energy market, but also the mechanisms of co-operation aiming at increasing the energy security of EU member states (Pach-Gurgul, 2016a, pp. 218–220).

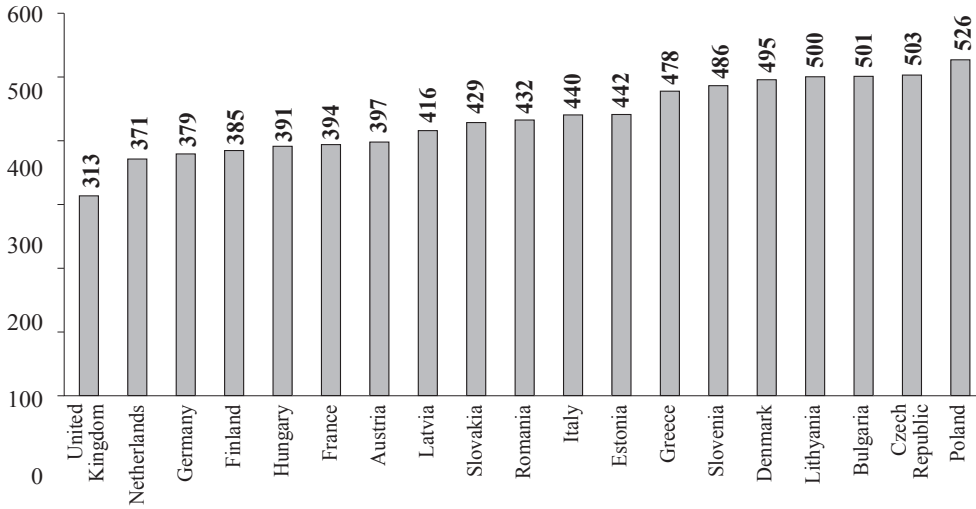
The Energy Union is an EU project consisting of the integration of 28 national energy markets into one common market and also geared towards restructuring the entire energy system of the EU by means of the construction of energy connections, diversification of the sources of energy and its transmission, taking into consideration the objectives of the climate policy.

2. The Energy Union Project

The objective of the Energy Union is to provide a mechanism of energy security, first of all for the countries which are dependent on their supplies of energy resources (e.g. gas) from one source, which weakens their bargaining position in the negotiations of contracts for the supply of natural gas (Buchan, Keay, 2016, pp. 150–152). A significant problem in the creation of the Energy Union is posed by the fact that member states in western and Central Eastern Europe represent two different approaches to this issue.

The countries and companies in the western part of the EU believe that the gas market is enough liquid for them and thus it should be shaped by business and purely economic factors. The countries within Central and Eastern Europe, though, which have had less than ideal experience in this matter, being numerous times in difficult situations regarding his, claim that they pay much more than other countries in the western part of the EU for their supplies of gas (cf. Fig. 3).

Fig. 3. The process of Russian gas for recipients in the EU in 2013 (1000 m^3/USD)



Source: The author’s own study on the basis of http://www.rferl.org/contentinfographics/gazprom-russia-gas-leverage-europe/25441983.html, 03.10.2016.

Therefore, this region has the largest demands that the European Union should take better advantage of its political position in order to secure better terms for the purchase of gas. That said, there are also exceptions in this group of countries, such as Hungary, which is sceptical about the Energy Union and fears that the European Commission will interfere in their relationships with Russia.

Thus the objectives of the Energy Union do not share equal interest among all EU member states. This is also related to the national interests of some countries which for many years have had a good relationships with the Russian Federation, not only in the sector of energy resources. These EU member states have such a developed energy infrastructure and also sufficient reserves of energy resources that they do not seek any change of the existing co-operation mechanisms. In this context, there are increasing controversies around the strong collaboration between Germany and Russia, resulting in the creation of the gas pipelines Nord Stream and Nord Stream 2.

The Energy Union is thus an attempt at centralising the issues pertaining to natural gas and the transfer of the point of gravity in this area from EU member states to EU institutions. A Polish proposal concentrated on the supplies of natural gas and the postulates concerned the decrease of dependence on gas supplies from Russia. Therefore solutions whose aim was to strengthen the EU in this respect were proposed (Pach-Gurgul, 2016b):

– Foundation of one European Institution which could purchase gas for all the 28 EU member states, which would allow for the decrease of the disparity in the purchase prices within the EU;
– The introduction of a principle that in the case that one or a few EU member state(s) are facing the cutting off of gas supplies, other countries would provide them with assistance;
– Financing of up to 75% of the necessary institutions (gas collection reservoirs, pipelines) by the EU in countries which are most dependent on Russian gas;
– The necessity to use domestic energy carriers, mainly coal, and signing agreements for the purchase of gas from exporters from outside the EU,EU strengthening of the collaboration between the Energy Community, founded in 2005, and its eastern neighbours.

The Energy Union may thus guarantee the introduction and execution of the “fifth liberty” (after the freedom of movement of people, goods, services and capital) – the freedom of movement of energy within the entire territory of the EU.

On 25th February 2015 the European Commission officially adopted a package concerning the creation of the Energy Union (European Commission, 2015a). The package consists of three communications:

1) A framework strategy for the Energy Union;
2) The EU vision of a new global climate agreement;
3) The measures for meeting the target 10% of the electrical energy in inter-system connections by 2020.

The framework strategy for a stable European Union (European Commission, 2015a) defines three long-term objectives for EU policy: security of supplies, sustainability and competitiveness. The priorities of the Energy Union, promoted by the Polish government to only a minor degree, were reflected in the project proposed by the European Commission and eventually adopted by the member states in 2015. The proposal of the Polish government concentrated first of all on the union within the gas and oil sector and on the full use of the domestic energy carriers, such as hard coal and shale gas. The adopted package, however, focuses on the issues concerning electro-energy and also on the development of renewable sources of energy. Its core comprises five strongly interrelated areas:

1. Energy security, solidarity and confidence
   The objective is to increase the EU resistance towards external energy crises and decrease the EU’s dependence on specific fuel supplies and routes.
2. Internal energy sector which requires further measures
   A new impulse is needed to complete the works connected with the construction of the internal energy market: better inter-system connections, complete implementation and execution of the current regulations concerning energy.
3. Energy efficiency understood as a way of minimising energy demand
   Meeting the objective defined by the European Council in October 2014, concerning the improvement of energy efficiency by at least 27% to 2030. Energy efficiency must be increased in construction and transport sectors.
4. Decarbonisation of the economy
   The starting point aiming at meeting this objective is the EU climate policy based on the commitment to reduce greenhouse emissions in the EU by at least 40% in comparison with 1990.

5. Scientific research, innovation and competitiveness

The core of the Energy Union is intended to be focused on research and innovation. The EU should be a leader in the technologies of smart energy networks and smart houses, ecological transport, clean fuels and nuclear energy.

The strategy concerning the Energy Union is a very reduced version of the Polish proposal of joint gas purchasing. The document adopted by the European Commission only mentions that voluntary joint gas purchasing should be taken into consideration. The condition for such purchasing must be dependence on one supplier and the occurrence of a crisis in supplies.

The further part of the package, a document titled, *Paris protocol – tackling global climate change 2020* (European Commission, 2015b), presents the EU vision of the new global climate agreement which was to be adopted in December 2015 in Paris. The document specifies the aim of a 40% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030. Eventually, after the December conference of 2015, the Paris Protocol was approved with one of its main provisions being the inhibition of the increase of an average temperature on the world on the level much below 2°C in comparison with preindustrial period and taking measures to make it not higher than 1.5°C.

The last part of the Energy Union package proposes meeting the 10% target of electrical energy in inter-system connections by 2020:

– The situation in 12 member states, where the inter-system connections do not reach 10%, must be improved (Ireland, Italy, Romania, Portugal, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Great Britain, Spain, Poland, Cyprus and Malta);
– The realisation of projects planned within the TEN-E regulation and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) which will assist the increase of inter-system connections;
– Financial support for the projects concerning inter-system connections;
– Regional co-operation.

3. The Energy Tour and the main conclusions

A package on the creation of the Energy Union has been adopted. However, some doubts concerning the sense of its creation are frequently raised by politicians of specific member states. The “energy interest” of the countries of Central Eastern Europe, which are highly dependent on gas supplies from Russia and the energy interest of such countries as France or Germany or the ecological Denmark vary significantly.

Therefore, Maroš Šefčovič – the European Commissioner for the Energy Union, organised an Energy Union Tour, i.e. a series of meetings in all the member states, taking place at the turn of 2015–2016, the objective of which was to show what the Energy Union can offer for each of them: to begin with, a better interconnection of energy through an improvement in market competitiveness, to end with, the security of the gas supply etc. Each meeting was summarised with a comprehensive analysis and report presenting potential benefits of each state’s participation in the Energy Union. These conclusions were divided into five categories, in which the Energy Union may bring measurable benefits (cf. Table 1):

1) The Energy Union in the context of energy security;

Table 1

The advantages of Energy Union for particular member countries

Country and the date of the publication of report	The Energy Union in the context of energy security	The Energy Union in the context of the internal energy market	The Energy Union in the context of the decarbonising economy	The Energy Union in the context of energy efficiency	The Energy Union in the context of research, innovation and competitiveness
1	2	3	4	5	6
Austria 21.09.2015	Support of the competition on the gas market, whilst increasing Austria's security of supply.	Reinforced internal and cross-border electricity and gas connections and storage projects could help balance electricity flows.	The Energy Union with its 2030 targets will increase the political impetus of Austria's drive for further development of renewables.	Strengthening the targeted use of financial instruments for increased investments in the transport and buildings sector.	The EU with its 2030 targets will increase the political impetus of Austria's drive for further development of renewables.
Belgium 20.10.2015	The Projects of Common Interest will improve security of supply, integration of renewables, as well as the functioning of the internal energy market.		An agreement within the country on the repartition of the revenues from the auctioning of the EU ETS allowances as well as on the achievement of climate and energy targets will help to reduce emissions.	–	The EU will strengthen the targeted use of financial instruments for increased investments that Belgium could use in particular for the buildings sector.
Bulgaria 15.09.2015	The diversification of European gas sources, suppliers and routes and the better coordination of emergency response mechanisms among Member States will help to provide adequate level of energy security.	A completed internal energy market combined with strong regional cooperation will provide more cost-effective options on dealing with generation adequacy.	–	Strengthening the targeted use of financial instruments. This will trigger investments in transport and industry and help to improve the energy efficiency of residential buildings, thereby reducing energy costs for households.	The funding of critical infrastructure and the reinforcing of regional cooperation (High Level Group on Central East South Europe Connectivity) are also important elements of the EU Strategy with direct benefits for Bulgaria.
Croatia 10.09.2015	Diversification of European gas sources, suppliers and routes and better coordination of emergency response mechanisms among Member States.	Internal energy market will support Croatia's efforts for regional cooperation on generation adequacy, which will be more cost-effective than a national approach. The diversification of gas supplies will provide the possibility to moderate gas prices.	EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy can contribute to maintaining public acceptance of the energy transition.	Strengthening the targeted use of financial instruments for increased investments particularly in the transport and buildings sector. The revenues from auctioning of ETS allowances will contribute to investment in climate and energy.	The Energy Union's new strategy for Research and Innovation can support Croatia's progress on low-carbon technology development.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Cyprus 11.01.2016	Projects of Common Interest will provide for an interconnection with the main EU electricity system as well as for an LNG storage facility.	Technical assistance to support the development of open and competitive energy markets, which will contribute to cost-effective energy prices.	The EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy will provide opportunities to further develop Cyprus potential for renewable energy.	Benefits from the targeted use of financial instruments for increased investments particularly in the transport and buildings sector.	The Energy Union's new strategy for Research and Innovation can support progress on low-carbon technology development.
Czech Republic 26.05.2016	Reduction of energy dependence through the diversification of gas sources, –a better coordination of emergency response mechanisms among Member States.	Market integration of renewables and regional cooperation among Member States' support schemes will benefit customers and businesses. Five Projects of Common Interest in the electricity sector aim at increasing capacity – North-Western and Southern borders and will contribute to addressing the issues of loop power flows between Germany Czech Republic, Austria and Slovakia.	The European Fund for Strategic Investments will facilitate investments in energy infrastructure, which needs to be modernised, in the expansion of renewable generation and in energy efficiency. This can only benefit the Czech Republic in its transition to a less carbon intensive economy.	Support for investments in the buildings sector by strengthening the targeted use of financial instruments. Significant contributions can be expected from the European Structural and Investment Funds.	The EU will provide an integrated research strategy as well as more targeted funding along common goals and propose an upgraded Strategic Energy Technology Plan and a strategic transport R&I agenda in 2015–2016.
Denmark 10.11.2015		Market integration of renewables and regional cooperation in relation to support schemes can increase the cost-effectiveness of Denmark's energy transition.	The EU will contribute to promoting energy efficiency including in the transport sector. In particular, the car and van regulation ensures that new vehicles are increasingly energy efficient	Participation in the common effort to achieve the 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy.	Business opportunities for Danish companies via increased demand for technological innovation.
Estonia 27.11. 2015	Diversification of European gas sources, suppliers and better coordination of emergency response mechanisms among Member States will reduce Estonia's dependence on Russian gas. A regional LNG terminal and the Baltic connector pipeline will diversify sources of gas and improve security of supply.	Better electricity interconnections with Latvia as well as interconnectors from other Baltic States to other EU Member States will boost competition on the Estonian electricity market and improve security of supply. A completed internal energy market will support regional cooperation and market integration in the Baltic States and BEMIP area.	The EU's 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy will contribute to maintaining public acceptance of the needed energy transition and help Estonia to take advantage of its strong position on renewable energy.	Strengthening the targeted use of financial instruments for increased investments in the transport and buildings sector and thereby help to reduce energy cost.	The Energy Union's new strategy for Research and Innovation can support Estonia's progress on low-carbon technology development.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Finland 25.09.2015	Diversification of gas sources and counterparts through the implementation of Projects of Common Interest in the Baltic Sea Region will strengthen Finland's energy security.	Further market integration and electricity interconnections with the other Nordic countries and the Baltic States will bring benefits to Finland in terms of price stability and security of supply.		The EU will strengthen the targeted use of financial instruments to support development activities and innovations that reduce the need for mobility, distributed urban structures and energy use in the heating of homes and other.	With smart metering, dynamic pricing and the eventual central data hub, micro storage and related research, Finland has the elements to become a leader when Europe develops flexible, consumer-centred retail energy markets.
France 07.10.2015		France would benefit from additional interconnection capacities with neighbouring countries, including with the Iberian Peninsula. This as well as enhanced regional cooperation would allow France to fully reap the benefits of regional synergies.	The Energy Union will help increasing the political impetus of France's ambitious national objectives for further development of renewables and low-carbon technologies.	Strengthening the targeted use of financial instruments for increased investments in energy efficiency, including for the renovation of buildings through the European Structural and Investment Fund.	
Germany 24.06.2015	Market integration of renewables and regional cooperation in relation to support schemes will increase the cost-effectiveness of Energiewende.	A completed internal energy market will support Germany's ongoing efforts for regional cooperation with neighbouring countries on generation adequacy, which will be more cost-effective than a national approach.	The EU's 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy can contribute to maintaining public acceptance of the Germany's energy transition, in particular concerning renewable energy support and its implications on the electricity price.	The Energy Union embeds the Energiewende in a European policy approach.	The EU objective to make the EU number one in renewable energy as well as the EU 2030 target for energy efficiency can benefit Germany via increased demand for technological innovation.
Hungary 16.06.2015	Reducing Hungary's dependency on a single external supplier both for natural gas and nuclear fuel by developing infrastructure and reinforcing electricity and natural gas interconnections in the Central and Eastern Europe.	Diversifying supply sources and routes will not only reduce the risk of supply disruptions but will also enhance competition, having a beneficial impact on energy prices and providing affordable energy for households and business customers.		Strengthening the targeted use of financial instruments for increased investments in the buildings and transport sectors, e.g. through European Structural and Investment Funds, and funding from ETS auctioning revenues.	The integrated research strategy as well as more targeted funding, an upgraded Strategic Energy Technology Plan and a strategic transport Research and Innovation agenda will support developing low-carbon technologies.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Ireland 17.09.2015	Diversification of European gas sources, suppliers and routes and better coordination of emergency response mechanisms among Member States will strengthen energy security situation.	Market integration of renewables and regional cooperation is needed for the development of renewable sector. Electricity interconnections and cross-border trade will help control electricity prices.	The stimulation of renewable energy expansion through the 2030 EU Framework for Climate and Energy will be beneficial to Ireland, as its renewables supply potential exceeds by far domestic demand.		The Energy Union's new strategy for Research and Innovation can support Ireland's progress on low-carbon technology development.
Italy 01.06.2015	Investments in gas infrastructures through the implementation of Projects of Common Interest including gas storage and transport facilities and reverse flow projects, will strengthen Italy's ambition to become a European gas hub.	Improvement of electricity interconnections with neighbours and related internal grid reinforcements and enhanced cross-border trade will reduce differences between price zones as well as increase security of electricity supply.	Market integration of renewables and regional cooperation will increase the cost-effectiveness of the growing renewables generation capacity, which may contribute to lower the high fossil fuel import dependency.		
Latvia 01.06.2015	Diversification of gas sources, suppliers and routes and better coordination of response mechanisms among Member States will reduce dependence on gas supplies from Russia. Klaipeda LNG terminal in Lithuania improves security of supply for gas.	Better electricity interconnections with, in particular, Estonia will contribute to improving functioning of the Baltic electricity market and could eventually contribute to lower wholesale electricity prices and lower retail electricity prices in the future.	EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy is in line with Latvia's 2030 long term energy strategy and its national indicative targets: increasing the RES share to 50% by 2030 (37% in 2013, 40% to be achieved by 2020).	The Energy Union will allow realising its high untapped potential for energy savings, through the implementation of energy efficiency measures, in particular via renovation of buildings.	The Energy Union Objective to make the EU number one in renewable energy and improve the cost-effectiveness can contribute to new forms of regional cooperation sharing in the BEMIP area on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.
Luxembourg 08.06.015		A completed internal energy market will support efforts for regional cooperation on gas markets and further improve the well interconnected electricity system, in particular with market integration of renewable energy from Germany.	Given the limited national capabilities in terms of renewables and the geographical constraints, the Energy Union's objective to step up regional cooperation could help to achieve the 2020 renewable energy target.	Strengthening the targeted use of financial instruments for increased investments that Luxembourg could use in building and transport sectors.	The Energy Union's new strategy for Research and Innovation can support progress on low-carbon technology development.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Malta 09.11.2015	Diversification of the energy mix, in particular renewable energy, would reduce oil imports, contribute to job creation and further strengthen energy security situation.	Electricity interconnections such as the one with Italy will contribute to the much needed diversification of the energy mix, help control electricity prices.	Use of the cooperation mechanisms with other Member States could be considered to facilitate the achievement of the 2020 target for renewable energy.	Malta should benefit from the targeted use of financial instruments for increased investments in the transport and buildings sector.	
Netherlands 20.05.2015	Internal Energy market would provide for further gas liquidity and reinforce the strategic role of the Dutch energy hub and associated industrial activities, including the development of carbon capture and storage technology.	Enhanced electricity interconnections with Germany and other EU Member States would allow for full market integration, for instance in the context of the Pentalateral Forum.	The Netherlands has extensive wind resources. The Northern Seas Offshore Initiative, should enable the Netherlands to cost-effectively exploit these potentials.		As a major logistical hub at the heart of the EU, the Netherlands is at the forefront of the move towards more efficient, smart and multimodal transport developments.
Poland 01.10.2015	Reduce energy dependence by diversification of gas sources and its security of supply by coordinating the emergency response mechanisms among Member States.	Further opening of the electricity and gas markets and deregulation of prices in the gas market will enable more choice for consumers and may lower energy prices.		The Energy Union will strengthen the targeted use of financial instruments for increased investments.	The Energy Union's strategy for Research and Innovation can support Poland's progress on low-carbon technology development.
Portugal 02.07.2015	Regional cooperation in gas and electricity and enhanced cross-border trade will help control electricity prices, promote competition and increase security of electricity supply.	The High Level Group on the interconnectivity of the Iberian Peninsula, where Portugal is a member, will further promote interconnectivity of gas and electricity.	Aligning the Green Growth Strategy with the EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy will contribute to maintaining the support for GHG reduction.	Strengthening the targeted use of financial instruments for increased investments in the transport and buildings sector, and contribute to minimise fuel poverty.	Portugal can benefit of the Energy Union objective to make the EU number one in renewable energy via increased demand for technological innovation.
Romania 15.10.2015	Electricity interconnections and enhanced cross border trade will help control electricity prices and increase security of electricity supply.	The completion of gas interconnections and reverse flow projects will support increased exploitation of domestic gas sources	Market integration of renewables and regional cooperation in relation to support schemes will increase the cost-effectiveness of renewable production.	Strengthening the targeted use of financial instruments for increased investments in the transport and buildings sector.	

1	2	3	4	5	6
Slovakia 04.06.2015	Reducing energy dependence through the diversification of EU gas sources, suppliers and routes Better coordination of emergency response mechanisms among Member States. The development of North-South infrastructure and reverse flow Options.	Market integration of renewables and regional cooperation among Member States' support schemes will benefit Slovak customers and businesses. Projects of Common Interest will speed up the process of capacity and functionality upgrade of the existing regional infrastructure and construct the missing energy infrastructure.	Supporting investments in the buildings sector and low-carbon transport systems by strengthening the targeted use of financial instruments. Significant contributions can be expected from the European Structural And Investment Funds and revenues from auctioning of ETS allowances.		Developing the regulatory framework for supporting cost-effective investments in renewable energy. Such investments will ensure that Slovakia continues to decarbonise its economy and industry and stay on track for achieving its 2020 climate and energy targets.
Slovenia 09.07.2015	Diversification of gas sources, routes and suppliers, including the LNG terminal in Krk (Croatia) and several gaspipeline projects involving Italy, Croatia and Hungary Coordination of emergency response mechanisms among Member States.	Upgrading of gas transmission system and implementation of Projects of Common Interests will enhance cross-border gas and electricity transmission capacity, creating a scale effect that can facilitate competition in energy markets.		Strengthening the targeted use of financial instruments for increased investments particularly in the transport and buildings sector Support the transition to a less-carbon intensive transport sector.	–An integrated research strategy, including more targeted funding, –A strategic transport Research and Innovation agenda will support Slovenia's progress in developing low-carbon technologies
Sweden 13.10.2015	Further market integration and interconnections will facilitate cross-border trade and thereby improve energy security and competitiveness.		Sweden's expected over-achievement of the 2020 target for renewable energy leaves room for expanded cooperation mechanisms with other Member States.	Stronger measures at the EU level in areas such as fuel economy of vehicles and eco-design will help progress at national level. enforced emphasis on heating and cooling can mean business opportunities for Swedish companies.	The Energy Union objective to make the EU number one in renewable energy can benefit Sweden via increased demand for technology and know-how.
Great Britain 13.07.2015	Regional cooperation projects such as the North Sea Offshore Grid would also contribute to improved interconnectivity, but would also	A number of electricity PCIs have been selected for the UK, allowing it to improve interconnection with the European continent.	As further efforts will be necessary to meet the UK's 2020 target and to continue improvements in that area beyond 2020.	Benefits to the UK from the new Energy Labelling proposal as part of the July 2015 Energy Union package as it will improve and update	The 2030 target for renewable energy will provide the additional encouragement for the UK to continue its efforts towards increasing the share

	help bring down wholesale power prices, increase system security, decrease the need for back-up.			energy labelling of products and will help consumers make more informed choices about buying more energy efficient products.	of renewables in its energy mix over and beyond 2020.
Lithuania 22.02.2016	Diversification of gas sources, suppliers and routes will reduce dependence on gas supplies from Russia.	The development of cross-border connections for both electricity and gas will strengthen not only energy security but will also increase Competition on energy markets.		Strengthening the targeted use of financial instruments for increased investments in the buildings sector where Lithuania has a large potential for improvements.	A new Strategy for Research and Development can help Lithuania to make highly required investments in the R&D system which is undeveloped.

Source: The author’s own studies on the basis of *Benefits of the Energy Union – country factsheets*, http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/publications/benefits-energy-union-country-factsheets_en, 03.10.2016.

2) The Energy Union in the context of the internal energy market;
3) The Energy Union in the context of decarbonisation of the economy;
4) The Energy Union in the context of energy efficiency;
5) The Energy Union in the context of research, innovation and competitiveness.

As can be seen from table 1, the “Old 15 EU countries” may benefit from the Energy Union in the context of the resale of developed technologies connected with renewable sources of energy, the development of trans-border connections and the execution of Projects of Common Interest related to the development of the gas and electricity infrastructure.

The countries of Central Eastern Europe, in turn, may benefit from energy security: diversification of energy sources, suppliers, direction of gas supply and regional co-operation. The Energy Union is intended to facilitate an increase of energy efficiency for countries in the transport or construction sectors. Another benefit for these countries might be support for the development of renewable sources of energy, and, thus for the transition to a low-carbon economy.

The countries which are the most isolated from the EU energy system, i.e. Malta and Cyprus, may first of all benefit from the implementation of the Projects of Common Interest, the development of trans-border connections, the construction of LNG storing premises, and the development of renewable sources of energy, which poses great problems for them (on account of their small territory and geographical conditions) as well as the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Conclusions

The Energy Union is a project in response to the gas crisis of 2009 between Russia and Ukraine and its consequences for the remaining countries of the EU. Its objectives consist of the integration of the 28 energy markets, guaranteeing the freedom of energy movement across the borders of the EU countries. New technologies, measures for energy efficiency and renewed infrastructure are intended to increase energy security, reduce household spending on energy, create new workplaces, facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy and thus boost economic growth.

This is both an ambitious and expensive project. Therefore it is natural that the average EU citizen and member of the Energy Union wants to know what the project consists of and what it can offer their state. In his speech, Maroš Šefčovič, the European Commissioner for the Energy Union, stressed that “the project of European integration is not based solely on solidarity; a unified market reserves all the rights of the member states to the protection of their own interests. Therefor there is nothing wrong in citizens asking the question: “what can the Energy Union project offer us?” (http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/energy-union-tour_en).

Nevertheless, if the very initiative of the Energy Tour seemed interesting, the conclusions formulated after the end of the tour seem very general. It is difficult to determine whether the arguments quoted at the point of creation of the common energy policy and internal energy market can convince all member states to ensure full realisation of the provisions of the Energy Union and a move away from their own particular interests

concerning resources. It also seems that in spite of the efforts connected with carrying out the Energy Tour, the main difficulty in this project may be the diversified perception of relationships with Russian among various member states. These differences in their attitudes to the gas market and relationship with Russia may significantly inhibit the proper functioning of the Energy Union.

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The Energy Union Tour – sukces czy porażka?

Streszczenie

Założeniem Unii Energetycznej jest zintegrowanie 28 krajowych rynków energii, zagwarantowanie swobodnego przepływu energii przez granice państw członkowskich, wdrożenie nowych technologii, zwiększenie efektywności energetycznej oraz odnowienie infrastruktury przesyłowej. Jest to projekt promowany w odpowiedzi na kryzys energetyczny z 2009 r. pomiędzy Rosją a Ukrainą, w wyniku którego wstrzymano tranzyt gazu do niektórych krajów UE. Projekt ten nie cieszy się jednak zaintere-

sowaniem wszystkich państw członkowskich UE w równym stopniu. Podyktowane jest to interesem narodowym niektórych państw członkowskich, które od lat posiadają z Federacją Rosyjską dobre relacje dotyczące sektora surowcowo-energetycznego. W związku z tym Maroš Šefčovič – komisarz ds. Unii Energetycznej, zorganizował tzw. Energy Union Tour – serię spotkań we wszystkich krajach członkowskich, odbywających się na przełomie 2015–2016 roku, pokazujących, co Unia Energetyczna może zaoferować dla każdego z nich. Struktura artykułu została podporządkowana procedurze badawczej oraz odpowiedzi na pytania badawcze i obejmuje: wprowadzenie, rozważania na temat bezpieczeństwa dostaw surowców energetycznych w UE, projektu Unii Energetycznej i Energy Union Tour oraz wnioski wynikające z przeprowadzonych spotkań i podsumowanie.

Słowa kluczowe: polityka energetyczna UE, Energy Union Tour, Unia Energetyczna, bezpieczeństwo energetyczne UE, wewnętrzny rynek energii

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