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Agnieszka PACH-GURGUL Cracow University of Economics

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.

Solid fuels Oil Gas 37.5% 35% 30.4% 29.0% 31.6% 30% 25% 21.2% 20.5% 20% 13.1% 15% 12.3% 9.1% 10% 5% 0% Russia Columbia USA Russia Norway Nigeria Russia Norway Algieria

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.

The share of the stocks-of gas of Russian origin in 2013 Finland Nord Stream less than 5%. from 5% to 59%. Sweden Estonia from 60% to 100% Latvia Denmark Ireland Lithuania Belarus supplying Russian gas Netherlands Abandoned investments into pipelines Germany Belgium Poland Planned alternative Czech Republic pipelines Ukraine Slovaki Luxembourg France Austri Hungary Switzerland Romania Italy Moldova Croatia Portugal Spain Bulgaria South Stream Iurkey Turkish Stream

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).

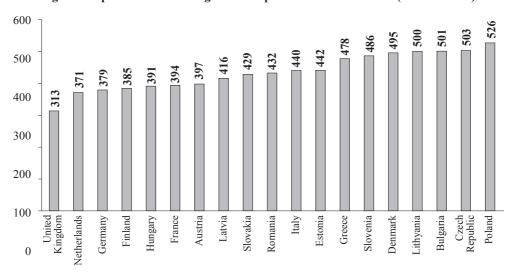


Fig. 3. The process of Russian gas for recipients in the EU in 2013 (1000 m³/USD)

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:

- 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

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	Croatia	Diversification of European	Internal energy market will	EU 2030 Framework for	Strengthening the targeted	The Energy Union's new
routes and better coordinal regional cooperation on gen- tribute to maintaining public for increased investments Innovation of emergency response eration adequacy, which will acceptance of the energy particularly in the transport tia's particularly in the transport tia's pand an anational approach. The diversification of gas supplies will provide the possibility to moderate gas prices.	10.09.2015	gas sources, suppliers and	support Croatia's efforts for	Climate and Energy can con-	use of financial instruments	strategy for Research and
tion of emergency response eration adequacy, which will acceptance of the energy particularly in the transport tia's p mechanisms among Member be more cost-effective than reasing an autional approach. The diversification of gas supplies will provide the possibility to moderate gas prices.		routes and better coordina-	regional cooperation on gen-	tribute to maintaining public	for increased investments	Innovation can support Croa-
mechanisms among Member be more cost-effective than ransition. States. a national approach. The diversification of gas supplies will provide the possibility to moderate gas prices. and energy. and energy.		tion of emergency response	eration adequacy, which will	acceptance of the energy	particularly in the transport	tia's progress on low-carbon
a national approach. The diversification of gas supplies will provide the possibility to moderate gas prices.		mechanisms among Member	be more cost-effective than	transition.	and buildings sector. The	technology development.
		States.	a national approach. The di-		revenues from auctioning of	
			versification of gas supplies		ETS allowances will contrib-	
			will provide the possibility to		ute to investment in climate	
			moderate gas prices.		and energy.	

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Cyprus 11.01.2016 Czech Republic	Projects of Common Interest will provide for an interconnection with the main EU electricity system as well as for an LNG storage facility. Reduction of energy dependence through the diversification of east sources.	Projects of Common Interest Technical assistance to sup- The EU 2030 Fran will provide for an interon- port the development of open Climate and Energinection with the main EU and competitive energy mar- vide opportunities electricity system as well as kets, which will contribute to develop Cyprus portor and European Energy for an LNG storage facility. cost-effective energy prices. renewable energy. Reduction of energy depen- Market integration of renew- The European Fundence through the diversis- ables and regional cooperation teliare investments fination of one sources.	The EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy will provide opportunities to further develop Cyprus potential for renewable energy. The European Full faregio. Investments in mercan relationship in the contract of the contra	Projects of Common Interest Technical assistance to sup- The EU 2030 Framework for Benefits from the targeted The Energy Union's new will provide for an intercon- port the development of open Climate and Energy will pro- use of financial instruments strategy for Research and nection with the main EU and competitive energy mar- vide opportunities to further for increased investments Innovation can support progelectricity system as well as kets, which will contribute to develop Cyprus potential for particularly in the transport ress on low-carbon technolofor and LNG storage facility. cost-effective energy prices. renewable energy. and buildings sector. Ogy development. Reduction of energy depen- Market integration of renew- The European Fund for Stra- Support for investments The EU will provide an indention of one sources and among Member States' support clitate investments in energy sector by tegrated research strategy as faction of one sources.	The Energy Union's new strategy for Research and Innovation can support progress on low-carbon technology development. The EU will provide an integrated research strategy as well as more targeted fund.
26.05.2016	better coordination of emergency response mechanisms among Member States.	annong wenther states support critiate investments in energy sucrigurant schemes will benefit customers infrastructure, which needs use of finan and businesses. Five Projects of to be modernised, in the ex- Significant of Common Interest in the electron of renewable generated tricity sector aim at increasing tion and in energy efficiency, pean Struct capacity – North-Western and This can only benefit the ment Funds. Southern borders and will con- Czech Republic in its transitibute to addressing the issues tion to a less carbon intensive of loop power flows between economy. Germany Czech Republic, Austria and Slovakia.	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.	better coordination of emer- schemes will benefit customers infrastructure, which needs general instruments. Ing along common goals and genery response mechanisms and businesses. Five Projects of to be modernised, in the ex- Significant contributions can propose an upgraded Strate-among Member States. Common Interest in the elec-pansion of renewable genera-be expected from the Euro-gic Energy Technology Plan tricity sector aim at increasing tion and in energy efficiency. pean Structural and Invest- and a strategic transport R&I southern borders and will con-Czech Republic in its transition of loop power flows between economy. Germany Czech Republic, Austria and Slovakia.	wen as more targeted innu- ing along common goals and propose an upgraded Strate- gic Energy Technology Plan and a strategic transport R&I agenda in 2015–2016.
Denmark 10.11.2015		Market integration of re- The EU will contribute to Particip newables and regional coop- promoting energy efficiency effort teration in relation to support including in the transport Framew schemes can increase the sector. In particular, the car Energy cost-effectiveness of Den- and van regulation ensures that new vehicles are increasingly 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	Market integration of re- The EU will contribute to Participation in the common Business opportunities for newables and regional coop- promoting energy efficiency effort to achieve the 2030 Danish companies via ineration to support including in the transport Framework for Climate and creased demand for technoschemes can increase the sector. In particular, the car cost-effectiveness of Den- and van regulation ensures that new vehicles are increase increase ingly energy efficient	Business opportunities for Danish companies via increased demand for technological innovation.
Estonia 27.11. 2015	Diversification of European Better electricity interconnecgas sources, suppliers and tions with Latvia as well as inbetter coordination of emer-terconnectors from other Balgency response mechanisms tic States to other EU Member among Member States will States will boost competition reduce Estonia's dependence on the Estonian electricity on Russian gas. A regional market and improve security LNG terminal and the Bal- of supply. A completed intertic connector pipeline will nal energy market will supdiversify sources of gas and port regional cooperation and improve security of supply. In States and BEMIP area.	Diversification of European Better electricity interconnec- The EU's 2030 Framework Strengthening the gas sources, suppliers and tions with Latvia as well as in- for Climate and Energy use of financial better coordination of emer- terconnectors from other Bal- will contribute to maintain- for increased invegency response mechanisms to States to other EU Member ing public acceptance of the transport an among Member States will states will boost competition needed energy transition and sector and therebereduce Estonia's dependence on the Estonian electricity help Estonia to take advan- duce energy cost on Russian gas. A regional market and improve security tage of its strong position on the Estonian electricity help Estonia to take advan- duce energy cost of supply. A completed inter- renewable energy. LNG terminal and the Bal- of supply. A completed inter- renewable energy. itic connector pipeline will mal energy market will supdiversify sources of gas and port regional cooperation and improve security of supply. Remarket integration in the Bal- itic 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.	Diversification of European Better electricity interconnec- The EU's 2030 Framework Strengthening the targeted The Energy Union's new gas sources, suppliers and tions with Latvia as well as in- for Climate and Energy use of financial instruments strategy for Research and better coordination of emer- terconnectors from other Bal- will contribute to maintain- for increased investments in Innovation can support Estogency response mechanisms its States to other EU Member ling public acceptance of the transport and buildings in a progress on low-carbon menong Member States will states will states will states will supply a completed inter- renewable energy. LNG terminal and the Bal- of supply. A completed inter- renewable energy. LNG terminal and the Bal- of supply. A completed inter- renewable energy. itic connector pipeline will male energy market will supplies and BEMIP area.	e Energy Union's new ategy for Research and novation can support Esto- s progress on low-carbon hnology development.

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Finland 25.09.2015	Diversification of gas source Further market integration es and counterparts through and electricity interconnecthe implementation of Proj- tions with the other Nordic ects of Common Interest in countries and the Baltic the Baltic Sea Region will States will bring benefits to strengthen Finland's energy Finland in terms of price stasecurity.	gas sourc- Further market integration ts through and electricity interconnec- n of Proj- tions with the other Nordic Interest in countries and the Baltic egion will States will bring benefits to 1's energy Finland in terms of price stability and security of supply.		The EU will strengthen the With smart metering, dytargeted use offinancial instruments to support development tual central data hub, micro activities and innovations that storage and related research, reduce the need for mobility, Finland has the elements to distributed urban structures become a leader when Europe and energy use in the heating develops flexible, consumerof homes and other.	The EU will strengthen the With smart metering, dy-targeted use of financial instru- namic pricing and the evenactivities and innovations that storage and related research, reduce the need for mobility, Finland has the elements to distributed urban structures become a leader when Europe and energy use in the heating develops flexible, consumerof homes and other.
France 07.10.2015		France would benefit from The Energy Union will help Strengthening the targeted additional interconnection increasing the political impe- use of financial instruments capacities with neighbour- tus of France's ambitious na- for increased investments in ing countries, including with tional objectives for further energy efficiency, including the Iberian Peninsula. This development of renewables for the renovation of buildas well as enhanced regional and low-carbon technolo- ings through the European cooperation would allow gies. France to fully reap the ben- efits of regional synergies.	ould benefit from The Energy Union will help Strengthening the targeted interconnection increasing the political impe- use of financial instruments with neighbour- tus of France's ambitious na- for increased investments in tes, including with tional objectives for further energy efficiency, including n Peninsula. This development of renewables for the renovation of buildenhanced regional and Iow-carbon technolo- ings through the European n would allow gies. Structural and Investment Fund.	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 re- A completed internal energy newables and regional coop- market will support Gereration in relation to support many's ongoing efforts for schemes will increase the regional cooperation with cost-effectiveness of Ener- neighbouring countries on giewende. Regional Acquisition of Ener- neighbouring countries on giewende. Regional Acquisition of Ener- neighbouring countries on giewende.	Market integration of re- A completed internal energy The EU's 2030 Framework for newables and regional coop- market will support Ger- Climate and Energy can con- eration in relation to support many's ongoing efforts for tribute to maintaining public schemes will increase the regional cooperation with acceptance of the Germany's cost-effectiveness of Ener- neighbouring countries on energy transition, in particular generation adequacy, which concerning renewable energy will be more cost-effective support and its implications 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 EU's 2030 Framework for The Energy Union embeds The EU objective to make Climate and Energy can con-tribute to maintaining public pean policy approach. acceptance of the Germany's energy transition, in particular concerning renewable energy support and its implications on the electricity price.	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 depen-diversifying supply sources dency on a single external and routes will not only supplier both for natural reduce the risk of supply gas and nuclear fuel by de-disruptions but will also enveloping infrastructure and hance competition, having reinforcing electricity and a beneficial impact on energy natural gas interconnections prices and providing affordin the Central and Eastern able energy for households 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 The integrated research stratuse of financial instruments egy as well as more targeted for increased investments in funding, an upgraded Strate-the buildings and transport gic Energy Technology Plan sectors, e.g. through Europe- and a strategic transport Rean Structural and Investment search and Innovation agentends, and funding from da will support developing 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.

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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.	Diversification of European Market integration of renew- Bas sources, suppliers and ables and regional coopera- energy expansion through the routes and better coordina- tion is needed for the devel- 2030 EU Framework for Clition of emergency response opment of renewable sector. mate and Energy will be ben- mechanisms among Member Electricity interconnections efficial to Ireland, as its renew- States will strengthen energy and cross-border trade will ables supply potential exceeds security situation. belp control electricity prices. by far domestic demand.	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.	Investments in gas infrastruce Improvement of electricity Market integration of retures through the implemen interconnections with neigh- newables and regional cooptation of Projects of Common bours and related internal eration will increase the cost- Interest including gas storage grid reinforcements and en- effectiveness of the growing and transport facilities and hanced cross-border trade renewables generation careverse flow projects, will will reduce differences be- pacity, which may contribute strengthen Italy's ambition to tween price zones as well as to lower the high fossil fuel become a European gas hub. its supply.	Market integration of renewables and regional cooperation will increase the costeffectiveness 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.	Diversification of gas sources, Better electricity intercon- EU 2030 Framework for and beta suppliers and routes and beta nections with, in particular, Climate and Energy is in realising its high untapped to make the EU number one ter coordination of response Estonia will contribute to line with Latvia's 2030 long potential for energy savings, in renewable energy and imprevant mechanisms among Member improving functioning of the term energy strategy and its through the implementation prove the cost-effectiveness States will reduce dependence Baltic electricity market and national indicative targets: of energy efficiency mea- can contribute to new forms on gas supplies from Russia. Could eventually contribute increasing the RES share sures, in particular via reno- of regional cooperation sharms in to lower wholesale electricity to 50% by 2030 (37% in vation of buildings. Lithuania improves security prices and lower retail elec- 2013, 40% to be achieved by tricity prices in the future. EU 2020.	EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy is in line with Latvia's 2030 long perm energy strategy and itst mational indicative targets: dincreasing 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 Given the limited national Strengthening the targeted The Energy Union's new market will support efforts capabilities in terms of re- use of financial instruments strategy for Research and for regional cooperation newables and the geographi- for increased investments Innovation can support progon gas markets and further cal constraints, the Energy that Luxembourg could use ress on low-carbon technolimprove the well intercon- Union's objective to step up in building and transport secongy development. nected electricity system, in regional cooperation could tors. particular with market interhelp to achieve the 2020 regardion of renewable energy newable energy target.	Given the limited national capabilities in terms of renewables and the geographical constraints, the Energy Union's objective to step upregional 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.

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Malta 09.11.2015	Diversification of the en- Electricity interconnections Use of the cooperation mech- Malta should benefit from ergy mix, in particular re- such as the one with Italy anisms with other Member the targeted use of financial newable energy, would re- will contribute to the much States could be considered to instruments for increased duce oil imports, contribute needed diversification of facilitate the achievement of investments in the transport to job creation and further the energy mix, help control the 2020 target for renewable and buildings sector. strengthen energy security electricity prices.	the en- Electricity interconnections Use of the cooperation mech- Malta should benefit from cular re-such as the one with Italy anisms with other Member the targeted use of financial ould re-will contribute to the much States could be considered to instruments for increased outribute needed diversification of facilitate the achievement of investments in the transport I further the energy mix, help control the 2020 target for renewable and buildings sector.	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 Enhanced electricity inter- The Netherlands has extenprovide for further gas liquid- connections with Germany sive wind resources. The ity and reinforce the strategic and other EU Member States Northern Seas Offshore Inirole of the Dutch energy hub would allow for full market tiative, should enable the and associated industrial ac- integration, for instance in Netherlands to cost-effective-tivities, including the devel- the context of the Pentalat- ly exploit these potentials. opment of carbon capture eral Forum.	Internal Energy market would Enhanced electricity inter- The Netherlands has extenprovide for further gas liquid- connections with Germany sive wind resources. The ity and reinforce the strategic and other EU Member States Northern Seas Offshore Inicole of the Dutch energy hub would allow for full market tiative, should enable the and associated industrial ac- integration, for instance in Netherlands to cost-effective-tivities, including the devel- the context of the Pentalat- by exploit these potentials. and storage technology.	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	Reduceenergy dependenceby Further opening of the elecdiversification of gas sources tricity and gas markets and and its security of supply by deregulation of prices in the coordinating the emergency gas market will enable more response mechanisms among choice for consumers and Member States.	as sources tricity and gas markets and supply by deregulation of prices in the mergency gas market will enable more ms among 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 will The Energy Union's strategy strengthen the targeted use for Research and Innovation of financial instruments for can support Poland's progincreased investments. ress on low-carbon technology development.
Portugal 02.07.2015	Regional cooperation in gas The High Level Group on the Aligning the Green Growth Strengthening the targeted Portugal can benefit of the and electricity and enhanced interconnectivity of the Ibe- Strategy with the EU 2030 use of financial instruments Energy Union objective to cross-border trade will help rian Peninsula, where Portu- Framework for Climate and for increased investments in make the EU number one control electricity prices, gal is a member, will further Energy will contribute to the transport and buildings in renewable energy via inpromote competition and in- promote interconnectivity of maintaining the support for sector, and contribute to min- creased demand for technocrease security of electricity gas and electricity. GHG reduction.	Regional cooperation in gas The High Level Group on the Aligning the Green Growth Strengthening the targeted Portugal can benefit of the and electricity and enhanced interconnectivity of the Ibe- Strategy with the EU 2030 use of financial instruments Energy Union objective to cross-border trade will help rian Peninsula, where Portu- Framework for Climate and for increased investments in make the EU number one control electricity prices, gal is a member, will further Energy will contribute to the transport and buildings in renewable energy via inpromote competition and in- promote interconnectivity of maintaining the support for sector, and contribute to min- creased demand for technocrease security of electricity gas and electricity. GHG reduction.	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.	Regional cooperation in gas The High Level Group on the Aligning the Green Growth Strengthening the targeted Portugal can benefit of the and electricity and enhanced interconnectivity of the Ibe- Strategy with the EU 2030 use of financial instruments Energy Union objective to cross-border trade will help rian Peninsula, where Portu- Framework for Climate and for increased investments in make the EU number one control electricity prices, gal is a member, will further Energy will contribute to the transport and buildings in renewable energy via inpromote competition and in- promote interconnectivity of maintaining the support for sector, and contribute to min- creased demand for technocrease security of electricity. GHG reduction.
Romania 15.10.2015	Electricity interconnections The completion of gas in- Market integration of re- Strengthening the targeted and enhanced cross border terconnections and reverse newables and regional coop- use of financial instruments trade will help control elec- flow projects will support eration in relation to support for increased investments in tricity prices and increase se- increased exploitation of do- schemes will increase the the transport and buildings curity of electricity supply. Authority of electricity supply Authority of electricity Authority of electricit	Electricity interconnections The completion of gas in- Market integration of re- Strengthening the targeted and enhanced cross border ferconnections and reverse newables and regional coop- use of financial instruments trade will help control elec- flow projects will support eration in relation to support for increased investments in tricity prices and increase es- increased exploitation of do- schemes will increase the the transport and buildings curity of electricity supply. Appendix of the production of th	Market integration of re-Streng newables and regional coop- use of eration in relation to support for inc schemes will increase the the tracost-effectiveness of renew- sector.	Strengthening the targeted use of financial instruments for increased investments in the transport and buildings sector.	

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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.	Reducing energy dependence Market integration of renew- Supporting investments in through the diversification of ables and regional coopera- the buildings sector and low- EU gas sources, suppliers tion among Member States' carbon transport systems by and routes Better coordina- support schemes will benefit strengthening the targeted tion of emergency response Slovak customers and busi- use of financial instruments. mechanisms among Member nesses. Projects of Common Significant contributions can States. The development of Interest will speed up the be expected from the Euro-North-South infrastructure process of capacity and func- pean Structural And Investional infrastructure from auctioning of ETS aland construct the missing lowances.	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 source. Upgrading of gas transmises, routes and suppliers, in-sion system and implementacluding the LNG terminal tion of Projects of Common in Krk (Croatia) and several Interests will enhance crossgaspipeline projects involv-border gas and electricity ing Italy, Croatia and Hun-transmission capacity, creatgary Coordination of emering a scale effect that can fagency response mechanisms cilitate competition in energy among Member States.	Upgrading of gas transmission system and implementation of Projects of Common Interests will enhance crossborder gas and electricity transmission capacity, creating a scale effect that can facilitate competition in energy markets.		Strengthening the targeted —An intel use of financial instruments egy, incl for increased investments funding, particularly in the transport —A stra and buildings sector Support search a the transition to a less-carbon da will intensive transport sector. progress carbon to a less-carbon da will intensive transport sector.	Strengthening the targeted —An integrated research stratuse of financial instruments egy, including more targeted for increased investments funding, particularly in the transport —A strategic transport Reand buildings sector Support search and Innovation agenthe transition to a less-carbon da will support Slovenia's intensive transport sector. 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 The Energlevel in areas such as fuel tive to mal economy of vehicles and one in rene eco-design will help progress benefit Sw at national level. enforced demand for emphasis on heating and know-how cooling can mean business opportunities for Swedish companies.	Sweden's expected over- Stronger measures at the EU The Energy Union objecachievement of the 2020 level in areas such as fuel tive to make the EU number target for renewable energy economy of vehicles and one in renewable energy can leaves room for expanded eco-design will help progress benefit Sweden via increased cooperation mechanisms at national level. enforced demand for technology and with other Member States. cooling can mean business opportunities for Swedish companies.
Great Britain 13.07.2015	Regional cooperation proj- A number of elects such as the North Sea have been select Offshore Grid would also UK, allowing it contribute to improved inter- interconnection connectivity, but would also ropean continent	ctricity PCIs sted for the to improve with the Eu-	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 pro- posal as part of the July 2015 Energy Union package as it will improve and update	Benefits to the UK from the The 2030 target for renewnew Energy Labelling pro-able energy will provide the posal as part of the July 2015 additional encouragement for Energy Union package as the UK to continue its efforts it will improve and update towards increasing the share

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

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 cooperation. 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.

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

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