



EUROPEAN UNION ENERGY POLICY: ENERGY SECURITY AND STRATEGIC INDEPENDENCE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS

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Summary*

KEY POINTS*

1-ENERGY DEPENDENCY AND SUPPLY SECURITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

2-ENERGY PRICES AND ECONOMIC-SOCIAL IMPACTS

3- THE BALANCE BETWEEN ENERGY DEPENDENCY AND THE GREEN TRANSITION

Russia's intervention in Ukraine in 2022 has led to a re-evaluation of energy security policies in the European Union and the issue of energy dependence on Russia. This dependence on Russia's energy resources has emerged as not only an energy-related issue for the European union, but also a strategic issue that affects economic, political and foreign policy decisions. In this study, how the Russia - Ukraine crisis affects the energy security policies of the European union and how the union can maintain its economic stability and climate goals while ensuring energy security will be discussed/touched upon. It is inevitable that reducing energy dependence on Russia will strengthen the strategic independence of the European union, but it is a fact that this goal will become sustainable not only by turning to alternative goals, but also by increasing renewable energy investments and improving energy efficiency. With the findings examined, it is shown that energy dependence creates political and economic fragility, and the increase in energy prices during crisis periods creates extra costs for consumers and businesses. Additionally, a balance must be established between short-term supply security measures and long-term climate goals. In this regard, it is important for the European Union to diversify and expand its energy supply. It is recommended to implement programs like "fit for 55" and develop measures to reduce the costs of energy transition.

ENERGY DEPENDENCY AND SUPPLY SECURITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

The energy security of the European Union covers not only the availability of sufficient energy resources, but also the accessibility, affordability, and environmental acceptability of these resources. The energy crises with Russia (the natural gas transit crisis in 2009, the Ukraine crisis that began in 2014) have shown that dependence on energy resources can create vulnerability for the European union . after the Russian attack on Ukraine in 2022, this vulnerability became more obvious and caused the European union to re-evaluate its energy policies.

Because of the high dependence on energy supplies from Russia, supply disruptions and price fluctuations are factors that will limit the union's freedom of action. That is why the European Union made changes to its regulations. The Union has shifted its focus towards reducing dependence on Russian fossil fuels and developing alternative sources. However, diversifying suppliers alone does not guarantee sustainable energy security. However, it is important to diversify the routes, increase energy efficiency and strengthen communication and coordination between the member states.

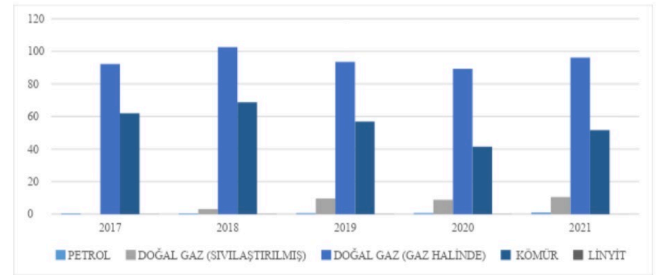


ENERGY PRICES AND ECONOMIC-SOCIAL IMPACTS

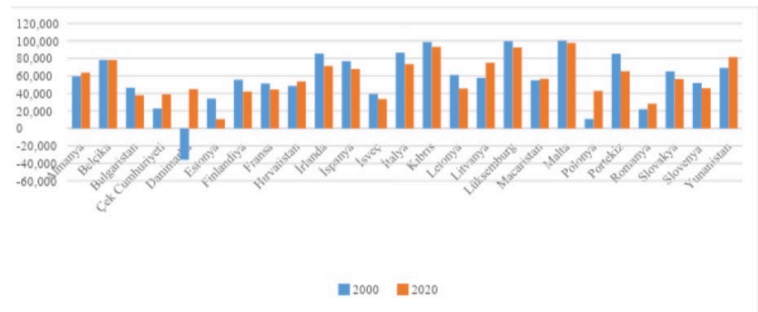
The Russia/Ukraine crisis has also revealed the economic and social consequences of energy supply security in the European Union. Fluctuations in energy markets and rising prices have increased the living costs of households, while at the same time causing cost increases in energy-dependent sectors. This situation shows that energy security should be achieved not only by having sufficient resources, but also by accessing energy in affordable conditions by different segments of society. Although the measures taken by the European Union in the face of this crisis are for the continuity of energy supply, the impact of energy costs on society is also a very important issue. Particularly low-income households and businesses heavily affected by energy costs should be supported during this period.

In addition, the success of energy security policies should be evaluated not only by reducing external dependence, but also by keeping access to energy sustainable. There are differences among member countries in terms of economic and energy conditions; however, the effects of crises are not experienced equally across all countries. Therefore, it is extremely important that the common energy policies of the European union should be established taking into account these differences and support programs aimed at reducing the risk of energy shortages.

Energy Dependency Data of EU Countries (2000-2020)



ENERGY EXPORTED BY THE EU FROM RUSSIA (2017-2021)



The Balance Between Energy Dependency and the Green Transition

The European Union's effort to reduce its energy dependence on Russia is a process that must be considered alongside long-term climate goals. Programs such as Fit for 55, REPowerEU, and the European Green Deal are important policy tools for reducing energy dependence. The Fit for 55 package aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990, while the European Union aims to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. REPowerEU, on the other hand, supports the energy security goal through policies aimed at reducing Russia's dependence on fossil fuels.

However, in crisis conditions, turning to alternative fossil fuels to secure energy supply in the short term may create / cause tension with long-term climate goals. This situation demonstrates that the European Union's energy independence cannot be achieved solely through the replacement of existing suppliers. For a truly sustainable energy security, along with the diversification of energy supply, it is necessary to expand renewable energy sources or reduce dependence on fossil fuels. It is not correct to see energy security and climate policies as separate goals, they should be considered as parts of a common and long-term transformation strategy. scientifiques at culturelles en tous genres.

SUGGESTION *

With the Russia - Ukraine crisis, it has been revealed that the main problem in the energy security policy of the European union is not energy dependence on a particular country, but also the need to ensure the political, economic and environmental sustainability of the energy supply. The main proposal for the European union is to develop energy security not only by diversifying external suppliers, but also through energy independence, a whole policy framework that addresses climate goals together, and economic affordability. In this process, investments in renewable energy should be accelerated and expanded, coordination and solidarity between member states should be strengthened in times of crisis, households and businesses that are more affected by energy price changes should be supported. Dec. Thus, the European union can strengthen its strategic independence while securing its short-term energy supply, reducing its dependence on fossil fuels in the long term, and at the same time without moving away from its climate goals.

FOOTNOTES *

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The content of this policy brief lies entirely with the author. It does not reflect the official opinion of Çağ University.