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THE INFLUENCE OF THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN WAR ON THE ENERGY SECURITY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The russo-Ukrainian war has not only become a tragedy for the Ukrainian people but also a challenge to the energy system of the European Union. The escalation of hostilities has led to the disruption of logistical chains, the imposition of sanctions, and geopolitical uncertainty, resulting in significant fluctuations in energy prices and a redistribution of roles in the energy sector.

Energy security is paramount to the European Union's (EU) policy framework. Implementing effective policies in this domain safeguards against threats to energy and fuel supply while mitigating the risks of energy crises within member states. However, given their uneven global distribution, no single nation can achieve complete self-sufficiency in all resources. Consequently, states with limited energy resource endowments exist, necessitating their procurement from external sources. Interdependence among nations engenders various challenges that inevitably impact economic and national security. The most pressing issues that states may encounter are inflated energy resource prices, heightened risks to energy supply stability, and the potential for political leverage to achieve unilateral objectives.

Ukraine's significance for European partners and the impact of the full-scale war on the European Union's energy security are multifaceted. Ukraine is a critical partner for EU nations, primarily due to the transit of the 'Druzhba' oil pipeline through its territory. Construction of this pipeline commenced in 1960, with operational deployment in 1964. The pipeline's annual capacity reaches up to 66.5 million tons of oil. The southern branch of the 'Druzhba' pipeline, traversing Ukraine, possesses a total capacity of 16.7 million tons annually, with a throughput of approximately 2 million barrels daily. This southern branch is pivotal for supplying energy resources to European countries such as the Czech Republic, Germany, and Hungary [1].

Historically, russian tactics of blackmail and manipulation have been employed to achieve absolute control over energy resources. Since the onset of the full-scale war, a primary objective has been to minimize the russian federation's influence on European energy security and to diversify energy resource sources. The primary fossil fuel sources include oil, gas, and coal, and nuclear power. Concurrently, there is an accelerated development of renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, hydropower, and biomass.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has compelled other nations to reassess the imperative of ceasing the acquisition of russian energy resources. In response to military aggression against Ukraine and the occupation of Ukrainian territories, allied countries have imposed sanctions on russia, including those targeting the russian energy sector. Given that trade in oil, coal, and gas replenishes the russian federation's budget and finances its expansionist policies, nations supporting Ukraine's sovereignty and independence are contributing to the struggle against a common adversary and accelerating the path to victory.

- On December 17, 2024, **the United Kingdom** imposed sanctions on 20 vessels of the shadow fleet illegally transporting russian oil, including «Ocean Faye»,

«Andaman Skies», and «Mianzimu», each of which transported over four million barrels of russian oil in 2024. The UK has sanctioned over 100 ships transporting russian energy resources, including 93 oil tankers, more than any other nation.

- On October 21 in 2024, **Canada** implemented a series of sanctions designed to prevent the circumvention of existing measures and to impede the sale of oil through intermediary companies, thereby closing loopholes previously exploited.
- **Switzerland** has prohibited 52 vessels from providing comprehensive services, which could involve the transportation of russian oil or stolen grain from Ukrainian territory and its subsequent sale.
- In our latest sanctions package, announced on September 24, 2024, **New Zealand** imposed restrictions on individuals and entities involved in russia's illegal occupation of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, the russian military-industrial complex, and Belarusian individuals and entities providing support for the invasion [2].

In addition to sanctions targeting the energy sector, European nations have gradually shifted away from purchasing russian gas, exploring alternative avenues for cooperation. Poland, for instance, is actively pursuing the diversification of its energy sources, with plans to increase alternative energy production by 20% by 2030. Furthermore, Poland initiated the construction of new power plants in 2019 to ensure its energy self-sufficiency, with one facility slated for completion by the end of 2024 and another projected for completion by 2035.

Through collective efforts and coordinated actions against the russian federation, we are preventing the adversary from consolidating its position and further extending its influence in the energy domain, thereby precluding future acts of energy coercion against other nations.

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