

*M. Pokotylo, BA student*  
*V. Ksendzук, PhD of Sci. in Pub. Adm., As. Prof.*  
*A. Kravchenko, assistant lecturer*  
*Zhytomyr Polytechnic State University*

## **LEGAL REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION'S ENERGY POLICY IN THE CONTEXT OF STRENGTHENING ENERGY SECURITY**

The energy policy of the European Union is formulated as a systemic and dynamic framework that evolves in response to geopolitical challenges, shifts in technological advancement, the imperatives of competitiveness, and the region's sustainable development goals. The fundamental principles of this energy policy include: decarbonization, security of supply, the establishment of an integrated internal market and the advancement of renewable energy sources.

The legal regulation of energy policy is based on a tripartite approach, implemented across three distinct levels: primary legislation, secondary legislation, and international legal instruments.

- ***The primary level*** is based on the founding treaties, which possess the highest legal authority. In the context of energy policy regulation, this refers to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). The following articles of this Treaty contain the norms for energy policy regulation: *Article 122*, which allows the Council of the EU to adopt measures in the cases of a supply crisis; *Articles 170–172*, which outline the development of Trans-European networks and *Article 194*, which serves as the legal basis for the common energy policy. This document established energy as a matter of shared competence, creating a framework for enhancing energy efficiency and emphasizing the importance of developing renewable energy sources [3].
- ***The secondary level*** consists of legal acts adopted by the institutions of the European Union, these include: directives, regulations, and decisions based on the founding treaties or international agreements. Secondary legislation regulates issues concerning security of supply and the implementation of decarbonization systems. Regulations have direct effect and establish uniform rules for member states, whereas directives set mandatory objectives that member states must transpose into their national legislation. A prominent example is Regulation (EU) 2019/943 of 5 June 2019 on the internal market for electricity, which establishes unified rules and standards within the Union.
- ***The international legal level*** is based on agreements that integrate the norms of public law with adherence to environmental standards. In the international dimension, the EU's energy policy is represented by the Energy Community, which brings together the European Union and nine neighboring countries, namely: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia, later joined several countries like: Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. Within this framework, countries such as Armenia, Norway, and Turkey hold observer status [2].

The comprehensive integration of these three levels of legal regulation establishes the foundation for achieving the strategic objectives of the EU's energy policy, while accounting for all risks and challenges within the geopolitical situation.

After the start of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, the energy security of the European region underwent profound transformations, reinforcing the priority of energy independence and the necessity of strategic planning. Energy security is defined as the capacity to satisfy societal energy demands in a technically reliable, economically efficient, and environmentally acceptable manner, ensuring the sustainable functioning of the national economy under both normal and crisis conditions, while safeguarding state sovereignty in the formulation and implementation of policies aimed at protecting national interests.

The impetus for these changes was the adoption of a new strategy that became an integral part of the legal regulation of energy policy – REPowerEU. In May 2022, the European Commission introduced this plan with the objective of phasing out dependence on fossil fuels from the Russian Federation and optimizing external energy trade relations. Once launched, the plan facilitates energy savings, the diversification of supply sources, and the production of clean energy through the deployment of renewable energy generation [1].

Key achievements of this plan include the embargo on coal imports of Russian origin. As of the end of 2025, the Russian Federation is no longer a supplier of this resource. Furthermore, EU member states that continue to utilize nuclear power generation have made significant progress in replacing Russian nuclear fuel with resources from alternative manufacturers.

Consequently, the legal regulation of EU energy policy integrates primary, secondary, and international law, enabling a comprehensive impact on the energy sector across all levels. It is directed toward achieving three overarching objectives: competitiveness, sustainable development, and energy security. Following the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the EU's priorities in this sphere have shifted significantly, the REPowerEU strategy has emerged as a pivotal step toward energy independence, supporting the diversification of supply and the expansion of renewable energy sources. This legal framework allows the EU to mitigate the risk of external influence from third countries on the Union's internal affairs while ensuring an uninterrupted energy supply for domestic consumers.

## REFERENCES

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