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Interests of the EAEU countries in the energy sphere: points of contact and problems

Abstract. The article is devoted to analysis of the problems of ensuring energy security in the Eurasian region, as well as the interests of energy integration participants in the context of the contribution of Russia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Belarus, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan in the formation of the Eurasian energy space. In the article strategic analysis directions of energy integration and concrete measures are overcome, allowing to solve existing problems and make a breakthrough in integration cooperation. The integration processes within the framework of the EAEU have been discussed, the interests of the states in the energy sector are characterized by the development of long-term mutually beneficial cooperation in the energy sector, the implementation of a coordinated energy policy and the gradual formation of common markets for energy resources.

Key words: energy security, eurasian energy space, integration processes, EAEU countries, energy market.

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Introduction. At the beginning of the 21st century, a significant role in the global integration processes is played by the common oil and gas and electricity markets. The energy potential of the Eurasian region is unique - both in terms of the availability of energy resources and the transit capabilities of these resources within its borders and abroad for export.

In the new world energy order for the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, the issues of energy security become especially important, which allows ensuring uninterrupted power supply to national economies and partner countries in the Union.

Goals. The purpose of this article is to determine the trends and the specifics formation of the energy interests of the EAEU member states.

In accordance with the goal, the problem of ensuring energy security in the Eurasian region was analyzed, and the interests of participants in the energy integration in the context of the contribution of Russia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Belarus, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan in the formation of the Eurasian energy space were considered.

History. The Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union of May 29, 2014 approved the basic principles for the establishment of the regulatory legal, organizational and technological and institutional base of the Union's common energy markets.

On May 8, 2015, the concept of the common electric power market of the Union was adopted, in addition, the heads of state decided that the general electric power market would be operational

by July 1, 2019, and the creation of common markets for gas, oil and oil products is expected from January 1, 2025 [1].

Methods of research. The theoretical and methodological basis of the study was the work of domestic and foreign political scientists, international experts, economists, exploring the issues of energy integration of the EAEU countries, ensuring Eurasian energy security and creating a common energy space.

The issues of energy security, energy policy and integration in the post-Soviet space are considered in the works: Cutler R., D. Ergin, Erickson R., Glisson G., Arbatov A.A., Bushuyev V. V., Sokolov A.A., Konoplyanik A. A., Romashkina V.A., Sultanov B.K., Syroyezhkin K.L., Laumullin M.T., Movkebayeva G.A., Bayzakova K.I., Bolatkhan M., Yesdauletova A.M., Kozhirova S.B. and etc.

The method of system analysis, structural and functional analysis, content-analysis and event-analysis, the method of expert assessments, forecasting, etc. were used in the work, which allowed drawing conclusions regarding the determination of the interests of the EAEU member countries in the context of ensuring the energy security of the region, but also apply forecast methods in assessing the prospects for the development of policies of participating countries in this area, identify problems and ways to overcome them.

Results / discussion. Mutually beneficial energy cooperation is the determining factor in solving the problems of economic development and ensuring energy security for all countries and regions, and for the Eurasian region too. Therefore, in the construction of the energy-technical and oil and gas markets of the EAEU, countries need to take into account both the positive and negative experience of the European Union, NAFTA and other integration associations. In the EAEU, 2 countries are exporters, 3 importers of oil and gas, and in the future each of the countries of the Union can become a transit country in connection with the expansion of energy projects and new transport and logistics routes.

Robert Cutler emphasizes that for “Eurasian level and geophysical distribution of energy resources at this level the defining value will have development of technologies, especially a question of whether hydrocarbons will still dominate in the Euroasian power balance” [2].

The member countries of the EAEU occupy one of the first places in the world in terms of the volumes of explored reserves of fuel and energy minerals. They account for about one-fifth of the world’s natural gas and coal reserves, and 7% of the world’s oil reserves. The bulk of the resources of gas, oil and coal is concentrated on the territory of Russia. Kazakhstan also has significant reserves of oil and coal. Small oil and gas reserves are explored in Belarus. Virtually no explored reserves of fuel and energy resources in Armenia. The member countries of the Union account for about 5% of the world’s electricity production.

The advantage of the common market is that the vice-minister of energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan B. Dzhaksaliev is seen in the creation of competition for participants in the energy market of all countries belonging to the EAEU. “Each of the EEA member countries-Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan-has its own peculiarities and advantages. Speaking about Kazakhstan, the weighty availability of natural and energy resources gives us an advantage in generating the cheapest electricity, while Belarus has a very efficient energy generation system in which the specific expenses for the production of heat and electricity are the lowest among all the CIS countries. By joining forces, we will create competitive conditions for energy producers, which will cover the needs of the market, creating conditions for economic growth of our countries, he stressed” [3].

The EAEU is a powerful driver for the creation of a single Eurasian energy space. Russia and Kazakhstan are the leading oil producers in the region, and interaction in this sector is one of the key moments of economic integration. Supply of gas and the electric power also directly infringe on the interests of all participants of the Union. Kazakhstan and Russia, being exporters

of hydrocarbons, have to balance the economic interests with needs of other countries of this group in renewables.

Kulbatyrov N.N., Tulepbekova A.A. note that “Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus have favorable geographical situation from the point of view of the direction of the main streams of a transfer of power technologies, being intermediate between Europe (the most important source of technologies) and the Asian countries led by China (the most important recipient of technologies). Thus, the Eurasian union could become “the technological bridge” in power between these two regions”[4].

It should be added that the Republic of Armenia - the only one of the EAEU countries that has a land border with Iran could act as a transit, energy source to Iran, thereby allowing Armenia to exit through Iran and its seaports to international commodity markets. The Republic of Armenia is implementing projects for the development and construction of transport infrastructure, two of which are important for linking the Union and the Economic belt of the Silk Road, namely the construction of the southern Armenia-Iran railway and the investment program of the North-South road corridor [5].

The preferences for Armenia’s accession to the EAEU are undeniable. One of the key issues for Armenia is the reduction of prices for gas and oil products. The price of Russian gas for the Republic of Armenia, taking into account the country’s accession to the Union in 2015, was reduced from \$ 190 per thousand cubic meters to \$ 165. In 2017, the price of Russian gas for the Republic of Armenia is \$ 150 per thousand cubic meters of the border, which is 9% less than in 2016 [6].

Armenia, Kyrgyzstan differ in their structure of the economy and the standard of living of the population from other EAEU member countries, but having joined this organization, they must take into account the principles and directions of the Eurasian Union’s activity in the energy sector, harmonizing its national legislation in accordance with the requirements of the EAEU.

As for Russia, Russia, in all likelihood, will determine the main directions for the development of the common oil and gas markets of the EEA countries and be its core in the conditions of the fierce competition in the world oil and gas market. The Russian oil and gas business is interested both in the markets of Belarus and Kazakhstan as markets for sale, as well as transport corridors for transportation of hydrocarbons.

The main consumer of Russian electricity is Kazakhstan (more than 50%), it uses the purchased electricity to provide power to a number of northern regions. Belarus also buys Russian electricity for its own needs, although in recent years, the volume of purchases has fallen sharply due to a general drop in demand for electricity in this country. Belarus does not have any significant energy resources. Almost 100% of its needs in oil and gas republic covers due to imports, mainly from Russia. At the same time, Belarus is a key link in the transit of oil and gas from Russia, Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries in Europe [7].

With Kyrgyzstan, in addition to geological exploration, cooperation in the gas industry also involves the reconstruction, construction and operation of infrastructure facilities in the country’s gas complex (in particular, gas mains, compressor stations on the underground gas storage “Maili Suu”, supply of necessary equipment) Cooperation is complicated due to geological features, insufficiently developed infrastructure, political instability [8].

The following challenges can be identified for all EEA countries: low competitiveness of the economies of the EEA countries; high dependence on the energy sector (Russia, Kazakhstan, as oil exporting countries); dependence on imports; formation of a new structure of the energy sector in the leading countries of the world; the instability of energy supplies and the slowdown in global energy markets; the sanctions regime against Russia to other countries within the framework of the EAEU.

It is necessary to move from a model based on the exploitation of raw materials to a new innovative model for the development of the economies of the EEA countries, and this transition can be implemented as part of the energy integration process.

The dilemma of the development of the oil and gas industries. On the one hand, these industries are a vital area of cooperation and can be a unifying factor of energy integration, on the other, they are a space where the national interests of competing and fragmented economies and internal energy markets are confronted. There is a need to adopt a unified energy strategy for the Eurasian Economic Union, harmonize the principles of state regulation in the oil and gas sector, coordinate the energy policies of the EAEU countries to build a common energy market.

Besides, Erickson R. notes that “having maintained pipeline infrastructure in place will allow the Eurasian Oil and natural gas producers to remain competitive in this new environment, but only if they take advantage of the next five to ten years to fully develop the requisite infrastructure in cooperation with the transit states” [9].

It is necessary to develop measures to stimulate the creation of joint ventures, corporations in the field of extraction, processing and transportation of raw materials that can provide energy resources to consumers of the countries participating in the EAES, and to seriously compete in world energy markets for foreign transnational corporations.

Thus, the strategic tasks of the energy integration of the EAEU are:

- Adoption of common principles and standards of regulation in the energy sector;
- Coordination and integration of efforts of national oil and gas companies of the EAES, development of a joint price and sales policy in the context of volatile energy prices;
- Completion of the creation of a common energy and oil and gas market, which will entail strengthening the energy security of the EAEU countries and successful competition with oil companies in the EU, the US, China, etc.;
- Transition from resource-resource to resource-innovation model of development, provision of transfer of energy technologies, development of renewable energy sources (RES), formation of a common data bank on new energy technologies;
- Cooperation of the EAEU member states in the development of infrastructure (energy, transport, financial, information, etc.)
- Joint geological exploration and research work in the context of forecasting gas, oil and petroleum product balance.

To achieve integration goals in the energy sector, it is necessary to eliminate the factors that adversely affect this process: discriminatory access conditions for oil companies of the EAEU member countries (to joint projects for extraction, transportation, refining and marketing of petroleum products on the territory of the Unified Energy System; external markets with regard to market pricing mechanisms and intercorporate forms of cooperation, the use of the energy factor as an instrument of political pressure on partners, etc.

In the book by D. Ergin one of essential arguments is focused on importance of the serious relation to an energy resource which can potentially exert the greatest influence from all known. This resource – energy efficiency [10].

With the joint development of the energy market, it is important to take into account that the aggregate fuel and the energy potential of the EAEU countries, mainly Russia and Kazakhstan, includes huge reserves of hydrocarbon raw materials, coal and significant energy capacities. Great opportunities for hydropower generation are available in Kyrgyzstan, and they can be realized if all the countries of the EAEU unite their efforts. A powerful fuel and energy potential should become one of the key directions of effective energy cooperation of the EAEU countries.

The analysis made it possible to determine the strategic directions of energy integration and concrete measures to solve existing problems and make a breakthrough in integration cooperation. Considering integration processes within the framework of the Unified Energy System, the

interests of states in the energy sector are characterized by the development of long-term mutually beneficial cooperation in the energy sector, the implementation of a coordinated energy policy and the gradual formation of common markets for energy resources.

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Интересы стран ЕАЭС в энергетической сфере: точки соприкосновения и проблемы

Аннотация. Статья посвящена анализу проблем обеспечения энергетической безопасности в Евразийском регионе, а также интересам участников энергоинтеграции в контексте вклада России, Казахстана, Республики Беларусь, Армении и Кыргызстана в формирование евразийского энергетического пространства. В статье проведенный анализ позволил определить стратегические направления энергетической интеграции и конкретные меры, позволяющие решать существующие проблемы и сделать прорыв в интеграционном сотрудничестве, также показаны интеграционные процессы в рамках ЕАЭС, интересы государств в сфере энергетики, которые характеризуются развитием долгосрочного взаимовыгодного сотрудничества в сфере энергетики, проведением скоординированной энергетической политики и поэтапным формированием общих рынков энергетических ресурсов.

Ключевые слова: энергетическая безопасность, энергетическое пространство ЕАЭС, интеграционные процессы, страны ЕАЭС, энергетический рынок.

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Энергетикалық саладағы ЕАЭО елдерінің мүдделері: (жанасу нүктелері) тікелей араласуы және мәселелері

Аннотация. Мақала Еуразиялық аймақтағы энергетикалық қауіпсіздікті қамтамасыз ету мәселелерін, сондай-ақ Ресей, Қазақстан, Беларусь, Армения және Қырғызстанның Еуразиялық энергетикалық кеңістігін қалыптастыруға қосқан үлесі контекстінде энергетикалық интеграцияның қатысушылары мүдделерін талдау мәселелеріне арналған. Мақалада энергетикалық интеграцияның стратегиялық бағыттарын және барлық мәселелерді шешудің нақты шараларын анықтауға және интеграциялық ынтымақтастыққа серпін беруге мүмкіндіктері талданады. Сондай-ақ, энергетикалық секторда ұзақ мерзімді өзара тиімді ынтымақтастықты дамыту, үйлестірілген энергетикалық саясатты жүзеге асыру және энергетикалық ресурстардың бірыңғай нарықтарының біртіндеп қалыптасуы сипатталатын ЕАЭО аясындағы интеграциялық үдерістер, сондай-ақ энергетикалық сектордағы мемлекеттердің мүдделері көрсетілген.

Түйін сөздер: энергетикалық қауіпсіздік, ЕАЭО энергетикалық кеңістігі, интеграциялық үрдістер, ЕАЭО елдері, энергетикалық нарық.

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