

Dario Cristiani

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Dario Cristiani's presentation about European Union gave analysis of the development in the European Union Energy Policy in terms of its actors, factors and challenges. His presentation provided a general overview of European Union Energy Policy and provided a breakdown, including relationships with countries not involved in the European Union and how they interact with one another.

In his introduction, Dario brought up important facts regarding European Union Energy consumption, stating that they consume one fifth of the world's energy, with a trend of increasing their dependency on imports. He pointed out that the European Union, while vast geographically, has very few reserves of oil and gas on their own compared to the rest of the world, and they tend to cooperate with countries who are or were geopolitically troubled. Dario then listed aims for the European Union, including but not limited to: "Securing Europe's energy supplies, ensuring that energy prices do not make Europe less competitive, protecting the environment, specifically tackling climate change, and improving energy grids".

Dario went on to discuss the construction of the energy system in Europe by giving a brief historical background and summary of events. He went into detail on how the 1973 oil embargo was an external shock to the European Union which promoted a more pro-arab stance from European countries emerging in early 1975. Dario continued with discussion on the Lisbon Treaty in 2007 was the first emergence that could be considered strictly Energy Security. He explained that there is an increasing European fear that is associated with a gas driven OPEC created by Russia and Algeria. He also emphasized the importance that the Lisbon Treaty

increases the profile of the European Union in this field. Dario then conferred about the actors involved in energy policies.

Dario's brief analysis of four key actors (not individuals, but rather groupings of actors) really allowed for the audience to grasp who has what role in the discussion of energy policy. First and foremost, the parliament has influence on these policies, whether it be direct influence or collaboration with others. Secondly, Dario stressed that despite the institutional changes, the Council remains the key actor. Also, the so-called "ordinary legislative procedure" co-decision between the Council and the European Parliament has been introduced by the Lisbon Treaty. Thirdly, the member states, which are included in a mix of energy itself and foreign policy relating to this, "retain a significant amount of power". He explained this by saying that "many European Union countries tend to have a different approach than relations with other countries", meaning that some countries' foreign policy and energy policy diverge from the European consensus on those issues. The final grouping of actors that Dario identified is international energy companies, national champions, lobbies and non-government organizations. He stated that they not only have influence within their own sector, but within the states themselves. He then gave an example of the power held by Italian oil and gas companies (such as ENI – Ente Nazionale Indrocarburi) on the government as well as with specific countries in the Mediterranean region. Dario wrapped this section up and continues to the final section of his presentation on the challenges that are being faced.

Dario identified major challenges that are currently being faced as well as challenges that will be upcoming in the future. He started with identifying a "problematic neighborhood" in Eastern Europe, specifically naming Russia, Ukraine, Libya and Algeria. He said that the current market of energy is in between geopolitical considerations and economic constrains given the

current circumstances of the EU and surrounding influencing actors. Dario noted that another challenge is crises as engines, and the impact that the events of 1973, 2009 and the Arab Spring have had on energy policies in the European Union. He specified that these engines essentially force countries to change energy suppliers quite quickly because of new issues, which causes new economic and political issues to arise. Dario cited national oppositions to energy projects is also a challenge faced on a micro level. He briefly touched on pipeline issues, including geopolitical problems slowing the development of energy infrastructure at the EU eastern borders. His final point and main challenge facing European Union Energy Policy were the 20/20/20 targets, looking at 2020, 2030, and 2050. He reiterated the goals by reminding everyone that for 2020, greenhouse gases should be reduced by 20%, including a 20% reduction in energy use and 20% of all energy should be from renewables. 2030 goals involve a diversity in imports and exports, and a further reduction of emissions and pollution, and finally by 2050 emissions should be reduced by 85%.

Amelia Hadfield

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Following Dario's presentation, Amelia Hadfield responded to the presentation with some comments of her own as well as an analysis of what has been said. She began by asking one of the key questions – Why hasn't more work been done? She took a critical approach to the policies by saying that there has not been enough for sustainability, specifically mentioning the actors who have a multitude of contradictions among them. She emphasized the "struggle between an open market driven by liberalizing economics versus an attempt to keep member

states in line” and said that “there’s no way you can marshal solidarity with energy security sitting with the States”. Amelia brought fourth the regional differences between Europe, and the divide from north, south, east and western Europe. She pulled in some hope saying that the parliament could possibly be a source of cohesion for this, however there is no way to draw solidarity from this. Amelia brought up an important point by saying that if the European Union had action plans to promote modernization, there would have been a better chance to see the unfolding issues in Ukraine and possibly have lessened the incredible tension. She said that the strategies that come out of the European Union look good on paper, but when delving into them, there is no clear transformation or mention of governance within them. Amelia ended her discussion by discussing the European Union’s potential, and explaining that there is a much needed reform of how it works from the inside and outside, what it is in place for, and stressing the importance of environmental politics and sustainability.