



5.INTERENEF

International energy forum

EU ENERGY POLICY AND ENERGY
DEMOCRACY

Split, 23.7. 2021, Cornaro hotel

The change of date is possible based on the epidemiological situation. The participants will be notified in a timely manner.

See more about admission fees [HERE](#)

See more about program [HERE](#)

Organized by the Institute for European and
globalization studies

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and director



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**The forum is held under sponsorship of the President of
Croatia
Zoran Milanović**



The Fifth International Energy Forum is placed in the context of rethinking the global risk society and the new social paradigm (www.inegs.com). The Covid-19 pandemic during 2020 generated an economic and energy crisis. Under the influence of the crisis, countries reacted differently in the field of energy policy. On the eve of the Covid-19 pandemic, energy policy actors pursued their interests and goals. The European Commission has announced a new development policy and a European green plan. Russia and Ukraine have signed a long-awaited agreement on gas transit under new conditions. The United States has imposed sanctions on companies working on the Nord Stream 2. The Turkish Stream has been put into operation. What all this means for EU countries and citizens is the topic of the Fifth International Energy Forum (INTERENEF).

PANELS

1. EU energy policy. A common energy market between myth and reality

At the first panel, we will look at the new vision of EU development based on clean energy and climate neutrality until 2050 from an expert perspective. What are the challenges facing the EU internally, and which in cooperation with economic partners? At the same time, we will open a discussion on climate and energy plans and the energy strategy of the Republic of Croatia. In the last ten years, the European Union has undergone a major internal transformation towards an energy sector that will enable a secure energy supply, a fully integrated EU internal market, energy efficiency and the decarbonisation of the economy. Since 2015, the EU has taken a leading role in the global climate struggle by ambitiously implementing the Paris Climate Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in European Union legislation. A year after the most complex legislative package since the creation of the European Union - the Energy Union - was completed, the new European Commission proposed the Green Deal to set a target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% compared to 1990 to 2030, significantly tightening the existing 40% agreed in 2014. It sounds almost unbelievable that just three months after the Commission's proposal, Member States in the EU Council accepted the proposed reduction rate as an initial negotiating position with the European Parliament, which is expectedly more ambitious with its 60% emission reduction proposal.

PANEL I

The vision of the Green Agreement to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 requires a development program for rapid adaptation of all sectors of the economy, industry, production and consumption, infrastructure, agriculture, tax policy, etc. In addition, this goal implies significant investments that will have to increase by about 350 billion a year. In the age of globalization, this turn will affect the surrounding countries and all economic partners of the EU, so that the EU does not remain alone in the implementation of climate policy. How will this turnaround affect EU industries, such as the chemical industry, iron and cement production? Will all member states be able to adapt to the new direction in EU energy policy, or will this path be more difficult for some, as some Eastern European members have already announced? What challenges can the EU expect in working with major economic powers when it comes to energy transition?

2. Diplomatic Energy Club-Croatia / EU Online

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3. Geopolitics of energy. Northern Stream and the role of global players: Germany-Russia-USA. A war of all against all

In the third panel, we will discuss Nord Stream 2 and the different perspectives of the most controversial energy project in the world. Is this pipeline an economic or political project, and what are the views of its opponents? The production of electricity from gas emits 50% less CO₂ compared to coal, which contributes to achieving climate goals, and natural gas from underground deposits has a significantly better carbon footprint than LNG produced from shale.

Nord Stream 2 can supply cheaper and cleaner Russian gas to much of northern and Central Europe, especially in the face of a significant drop in domestic production and an expected increase in consumption. However, not everything is so simple. Nord Stream 2 from Russia with its 2300 km passed through the Baltic Sea to Germany, and only a hundred kilometers separates it from the completion on the German mainland. Since the United States imposed sanctions on companies that install pipes for the project, it is not progressing as fast as expected. There are open issues on the part of the EU in terms of the implementation of the Gas Directive and its jurisdiction. The European Parliament is passing resolutions against the project, and recently the Polish competition authority issued a verdict against Gazprom and five European companies-investors in Nord Stream 2 with draconian penalties. Efforts to stop the project have brought together various political motives: the EU's current position that gas cannot be considered a transitional fuel because it will jeopardize the achievement of EU climate goals and slow down the use of renewables and energy efficiency; consequently a ban on financing gas infrastructure from EU Funds in the programming period 2021-2027, and thinking about banning the use of natural gas in new installations after 2030; the EIB's position to drastically reduce investment in the gas sector; to the view that this pipeline will in fact reduce the security of energy supply of the EU and weaken the principle of solidarity as one of the pillars of the Energy Union. The questionable economic viability of the project is becoming another problem, because even Gazprom envisages the delivery of about 200 bcm per year for the EU for the period 2020-2030, and the existing capacities enable the transport of 270 bcm. Meanwhile, the European Commission is coming out with the Hydrogen Strategy as the energy source of the future after 2030, initiatives supporting the strategy are strengthening across the EU, but the fight in the hydrogen ring is between "green" hydrogen originating from renewable sources and "blue" and "gray" hydrogen originating from natural gas. There are emotional debates on this topic in the Bundestag. The gas pipeline is connected with every move of the Russian leadership in relation to the EU. What is the fate of the project? What is the role of gas in the EU's new energy vision? Will the new US administration try even harder to stop the project? Can Europeans reach a unified position on the pipeline and US extraterritorial sanctions? Is this kind of geopolitical struggle a relic of the Cold War or is it a purely market game of American LNG against cheaper Russian energy? Will blue and gray hydrogen win in the hydrogen ring and thus prolong the life of natural gas? And will this debate cease to be topical in 2025, when gas transit through Ukraine will be minimized?

4. Energy democracy

In the fourth panel, we will discuss the voice of the people. Energy democracy represents the desire for equal participation in the markets of the energy sector in relation to the situation in which corporations and geopolitics dominate. We will hear activists from Europe and our region fighting for the right to transparency and consensus in energy and the environment.

There is a growing global demand for a socially just system, universal access to energy, fairer prices and decently paid jobs in the energy sector.

There are growing voices demanding a system that works in the public interest, with profits giving way to social and environmental equality. It is a massive movement in a world where renewable energy stands opposite the energy that pollutes the planet. A new approach to energy is proposed, with an emphasis on transparency, democratic control and equal opportunities for all. This need is also recognized by the EU, which recognizes that the transition to a climate-neutral EU must be fair and inclusive with support for the regions, industries and workers who will feel the greatest challenges in the process. Solutions must happen at the local level, because only in this way will we achieve the desired goals. The participation of the public, local executive, NGOs and industry, and confidence in the energy transition, is key to success, however, administrative and bureaucratic obstacles need to be removed and costs made acceptable to citizens. Are environmental activists heroes of our time? Is the action of non-governmental players and citizens a luxury that only richer countries can afford? Can we think of a fairer energy sector in a pandemic and economic downturn? Can we expect changes in energy companies that will accept citizens as partners, and not as competition whose activities are blocked by all possible bureaucratic and market barriers? What are the challenges for ordinary people in the process of energy transition? Is energy democracy a utopia or a possible emerging reality?