

18th EUREN Meeting

Energy and climate policy: The prospects for EU-Russia cooperation on the path towards carbon neutrality

15:00-18:00 (Moscow time)/

13:00-16:00 (Brussels time) via Zoom

The economic fallout from the Covid-19 crisis has thrown global energy markets into disarray. The situation in the EU gas market has been of particular concern. With Gazprom's natural gas storages in the EU much emptier than usual in autumn, energy security for the upcoming winter has become a pressing issue. The situation has been especially dire for Moldova, which declared a state of emergency in October after tense negotiations with Gazprom over a new gas contract led to an acute supply shortage. Gas prices in the EU have remained very high with Gazprom's deliveries only picking up slowly. The current situation on the EU gas market is likely to have a lasting effect on EU-Russia energy relations. For the EU and its ambitious climate agenda, it is a painful reminder that the era of fossil fuel is not over just yet.

At the same time, international climate negotiations continue to gain momentum. The EU's climate goals will limit the use of oil and, eventually, gas in the future. In the run-up to COP26 in Glasgow, Russia declared its own goal to become carbon neutral by 2060. With enough political determination in Moscow and Brussels, the move towards carbon neutrality could be a field where the EU and Russia work together. Cooperation in climate-friendly technologies would gradually replace today's hydrocarbon-based trade relationship.

However, this optimistic scenario cannot be taken for granted. There are increasing signs that climate policy could lead to more irritation rather than more cooperation in the relationship, as perspectives on the appropriate political instruments and the speed of the green transition diverge.

What will be the fallout from the ongoing gas crunch for EU-Russia energy relations? Will fossil fuel trade be transformed into cooperation on low-carbon energy supply in the long run or will there be a gradual economic decoupling? What is the perspective of climate cooperation between EU and Russia? Is there a way to avoid or limit the politicization of the EU-Russia energy and climate relationship?

Monday, 13 December 2021

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15:00

Welcoming remarks

Ivana Norsic: Deputy Head of Mission of the European Union to Russia

Andrey Kortunov: RIAC, Moscow

15:15

**EU-Russia climate and energy cooperation:
Between transformation and politicization**

Oksana Antonenko: Control Risks, London

Szymon Kardas: Centre for Eastern Studies, Warsaw

Tatiana Mitrova: SKOLKOVO Business School, Moscow

Chair: Ivan Timofeev: RIAC, Moscow

16:00

Q&A and discussion

16:45

Coffee break

17:00

**Open internal exchange on current developments
around Ukraine and Belarus**

Chair: Janis Kluge: SWP, Berlin

18:00

End of meeting

Please note that this meeting will be held under the Chatham House Rule.

