

**UNIVERSITAS CAROLINA PRAGENSIS**

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## **Master's Thesis Assessment**

**AUTHOR:** Shahmar HAJIYEV

### **TITLE OF THE THESIS:**

ENERGY PROFILE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN.  
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE EUROPEAN  
UNION'S ENERGY SECURITY

**ASSESSED BY:** Markéta Žídková (Dept. of Politics and European Studies, Palacky University)

**ASSESSMENT TYPE:** Opponent

### **1. ASSESSMENT OF THE THESIS CONTENT**

#### **ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES MARK**

**Relevancy of the topic in relation to the current scientific knowledge: 1**

**Originality of the thesis, contribution to the science subject field: 2**

**Integrity and scale of sources and literature relevant to the subject study: 2**

**Ability for critical appraisal of the sources: 2**

**Standards of working with sources: 3**

**Methodology and its relevancy to the subject study and thesis goals: 3**

**Logic of the thesis structure: 2**

**Ability to argue, cohesion and coherence of the argument: 2**

**Terminology in the relevant field: 1**

**Adhesion to the citation norm: 1**

**Language, stylistic and formal standard of the thesis: 1**

#### **COMMENTARY:**

Shahmar Hajiyev's Thesis deals with Azerbaijan's oil and gas industry. Among other issues, the text discusses the following: Azerbaijan's use of its energy revenues, role of Azerbaijan in the Caspian basin, and an impact of the states' energy resources and policy influence the EU's energy security.

The author speaks about "using" the following hypotheses (p. 2):

- Azeri energy potential and politics of oil-gas sales;
- Azerbaijan managed to avoid the negative pathology of resource curse that have affected other resource-exporting countries, such as „Dutch disease“;
- EU demand for energy and its politics of security;
- Diversification of supplies and supply routes, as well as a common energy market can insure the EU energy security.

It is a question whether all/any of the above phrases can be considered hypotheses; in addition to that, it is doubtful that any of them were actually verified/falsified. However, an effort to provide the analysis of the Azerbaijan's oil and gas industry and trade must be appreciated. The author is well-informed about the situation and he proves it throughout the text. The third and fourth chapters ("EU energy security and the role of Azerbaijan as a potential energy supplier"; "The EU's energy security challenges") summarize the situation correctly, the text is based on relevant, well-balanced sources (although more sources would be welcome, especially when the author criticizes Turkey and other states and their gas/oil policies).

## **2. QUESTIONS FOR THE DEFENSE**

In case it is built, what impact will the South Stream pipeline have on the Azerbaijan's trade with the EU?

## **3. SUGGESTED MARK**

I suggest to evaluate this Thesis as *very good (2)* – with regard to Shahmar Hajiyeu's defense.

Markéta Židková  
June 20 2012