

*Review of the Shahmar Hajiyev M.A. Thesis „ENERGY PROFILE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN:  
Recent developments and their impact on the European Union's energy security“*

The author tried to analyze the topic which is a part of wide discourse in the world scientific and political literature. Nevertheless, the applicant was able to find out his niche in the topic. The connection of theoretical and, above all, practical approaches, as well as insight views from Azerbaijan are the key factors of his distinctiveness. The text does not bring a host of new ideas and information, however, author used the facts with the detailed and objective analysis.

Mr. Hajiyev proofed his highly professional style of analysis as well as sense to point out the important factors. He mostly analyses the principal ways of oil and gas extraction as well ways of transport oil and gas from Azerbaijan to the west. Furthermore, the author emphasizes the impact of vast energy revenues for Azerbaijan economy and bring into the focus the problems and challenges for the country in connection with the wealthy. I consider, however, the third and fourth parts focusing on the European energy politics and the role of Azerbaijan for European energy market as a keystone of the thesis. In these chapters, the author analyses EU-Azerbaijani energy relations in very objective, balanced and critical view (surprisingly for analyst born in the region). The main obstacles and problems of these relationships, principal competitors and opportunities are introduced to the reader. In sum, the author did not tell us anything completely new, although he summarizes the problem in a very comprehensive way.

If pointing out some problematic side of the work, the author is sometimes too much Azerbaijani-centered in his thesis, despite all his efforts to be objective. It is logical considering the choice of the topic, however we should take into the consideration that Azerbaijan could become merely one of many European suppliers, not the key one as it sometimes appears (indirectly) in the text.

Nevertheless, as thesis leader, I have to stress the conscientious and punctual approach of the student, meeting the deadlines as well as strong goal-directed attitude. *It enables me to conclude that the text is fully acceptable as Master thesis with grade 1 (excellent).*

Slavomír Horák, Ph.D.

Institute of International Studies

Prague, June 18, 2012