

Abstract

The main aim of the PhD thesis *Perspektivy evropské energetické bezpečnosti v kontextu vývoje energetické politiky EU* is to complement existing body of literature concerning with the evolution and characteristics of European energy policy. It attempts to add new dimension related to the influence of ideational and discursive factors on this policy. In order to explain the role of discourse in shaping the European energy policy into its current form, which is characterized by its segmentation into three distinct pillars – competitiveness, sustainability and security, the thesis applies the theoretical and analytical framework of discursive institutionalism.

The thesis identifies an internal tension between component discourses, which prioritize different cognitive and normative ideas, to be one of the causes of incoherence and fragmentation of contemporary energy policy of the European Union. The main argument of this text is that three distinct discursive lines has been developed at the European level – liberalization-market, environmental and security lines. Nonetheless, these discourses are rather separate phenomena as they provide ideational frameworks often incompatible with each other due to the non-existent unifying elements. Building on different and often contradicting philosophical and ideological positions they also provide interpretation of challenges for the European energy policy. In addition these discourses are outcome of strategic decisions and behaviour of political actors. In this thesis the focus is on the European Commission's effort to use new ideas in order to produce discursive frameworks which may facilitate the process of Europeanization of this industry.

In relations to the EU energy security perspectives the thesis points out that the Europeanization of energy policy is not balanced process. It is also argued that the persisting discrepancy between individual goals of the European energy policy is determined largely by its prioritization of its internal dimension. In consequence its ability to improve Europe's security of supply is weakened by these conflicting priorities of the remaining two discourses which focus on the integration of internal market and common approach to climate change.

