

## REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

IEPS – International Economic and Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Interdependence and Diversification – A view at current EU-Russian energy relations</b>
<b>Author of the thesis:</b>	<b>Anna Beniczky</b>
<b>Referee (incl. titles):</b>	<b>Tomáš Petříček, Ph.D.</b>

**Remark:** It is a standard at the FSV UK that the Referee's Report is at least 500 words long. In case you will assess the thesis as "non-defendable", please explain the concrete reasons for that in detail.

### **SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED** (for details, see below):

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	18
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	16
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	17
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	19
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	18
<b>TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>The proposed grade (1-2-3-4)</b>	<b>1.5</b>

You can even use a decimal point (e.g. giving the grade of 2.5 for 60 points).

**Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the 5 numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).**

#### **1) Theoretical background:**

The concept of interdependence represent theoretical core of the thesis. It reflects the title of the thesis and it is highly relevant for the analysis of its subject. Theoretical framework is well developed in separate chapter. The author covers all relevant contributions to the academic debate on interdependence and provides rather coherent overview of the theory employed in the thesis. This overview does not provide only general features of theory of interdependence but expand on key concepts which have been developed within its tradition and which are relevant for the analyzed subject. The author also uses the theoretical framework defined in separate chapter further in its work when testing the hypothesis and analyzing the empirical evidence collected for this purpose. The nature of EU-Russian interdependence is well defined and described in the thesis, including the role of political power relationship. It also covers the issue of diversification strategies as reaction to interdependence which is supported by strong evidence. Nonetheless, the interpretation of main findings through theoretical foundations of the work could have been more developed.

#### **2) Contribution:**

Although the issue of EU-Russian interdependence is relatively well covered in existing literature, the author attempts to come up with new ideas about this phenomenon. Especially the link between the nature of interdependence, political power relations and diversification strategies of both sides represent relevant subject for research. Also the comprehensive analysis of existing evidence represent valuable contribution, having in mind that it is for the purpose of master thesis. The author could have more critically evaluated the evidence collected for her analysis.

#### **3) Methods:**

The author uses both qualitative and quantitative research methods in her work. They are selected in appropriate way for the purpose of the research and its topic. The author also properly considered the relevance of selected method for theoretical framework used in the thesis. Nonetheless the way methods are defined and consequently employed for the research itself could have been much elaborate. Also the integration of findings from quantitative analysis with that of qualitative research could have been better developed.

#### **4) Literature:**

The thesis is based on relatively rich literature which is relevant for both the topic of the thesis and theories used in it. The author demonstrates good knowledge of relevant issues and general overview of existing literature. She quotes both primary and secondary resources in a proper way. The text also contains representative bibliography which is appropriate for the master thesis. The literature review provides general framework for the thesis and covers most relevant topics developed in the academic discussion.

#### **5) Manuscript form:**

The text is structured in a traditional way with substantial part devoted to the empirical evidence and theory. All parts of the thesis are relatively well integrated and create coherent text. The language used is appropriate for the master thesis. The author uses relevant format for quotations. She also provides number of relevant graphs which are properly listed and referred to in the text. In some cases the text is not easily readable due to complicated structure of sentences. However, it does not decrease the ability of the reader to understand the idea or facts covered.

**DATE OF EVALUATION: 28.8.2015**



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**Referee Signature**