

REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

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

Title of the thesis:	The role of Azerbaijan in the context of EU energy security
Author of the thesis:	Abdul Aliyev
Referee (incl. titles):	Mgr. Tomáš Petříček, Ph.D.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	7
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	13
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	9
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	16
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	17
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)	62
The proposed grade (1-2-3-4)	2

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 thesis represents largely empirical work which does not have ambition to either develop or to review theoretical framework which might explain the researched phenomenon. In this regard the theoretical background is not very well defined. In fact it is largely missing.

2) Contribution:

The main research question concerns Azerbaijan's potential role in EU's attempts to diversify its energy supplies. It is an issue already covered in existing literature which author reflects himself in his work. In this respect the thesis does not come up with an exceptionally original idea. Nonetheless, author works with substantial amount of data and sorts them effectively, thus providing comprehensive picture of the research topic. In this respect the work meets requirements at this level. Also the attempt to combine very distinct hypotheses is relatively new, even though it is not fully achieved in the text itself.

3) Methods:

The author defines methods relevant for the purpose of this thesis and describes them in relatively comprehensive way. It could have been more explained why these methods are relevant for his work. Another issue for improvement is the definition of hypotheses. Even though they are clearly stated, there are difficult to be tested and verified. Also the author does not provide very convincing reflection of these hypotheses throughout the text. The chapter 4 is the only part dedicated to the analysis of the research findings. In fact the previous empirical parts

4) Literature:

The thesis is based on relevant literature which is relatively well quoted. In some part of the work, however, there should be more references where author evidently takes over information from

resources used in his research. Although author works with large set of data, which confirms his detailed work with literature, he does not effectively use them for supporting his argument. At this level the facts should be employed in much more comprehensive and erudite way. Some parts of the text represent data without interconnected them in logical way. Even though author provides exhaustive overview of energy policy initiatives and general background, the facts could have been given into broader context.

5) Manuscript form:

The thesis is well structured and logically organized, even though individual parts could have been more interconnected. The author uses traditional structure which is appropriate at this level. The main weakness of the structure is missing chapter or sub-chapter with literature review. The author also uses appropriate language for this kind of text. The work is also improved by graphical elements, including charts, which helps to illustrate facts presented in the work. Also these tools are used according to requirements on master thesis.

DATE OF EVALUATION: 12/6/2015



Referee Signature