**A *sui generis* nature of the EU in the promotion of its collective energy security policy**

Facing ongoing energy crisis, energy security, has become an important political and economic component for the European Union. In this sense, the understanding of EU’s nature and its role in promotion of common energy security policy becomes vital from the prospects of focusing on the definition of essential features of EU and explanation of how legal, institutional, ideational attributes interact to create a *sui generis* approach for these challenges.

The hypothesis in the study is that a *sui generis* nature of EU may allow European Union to reconsider the common energy security policy in a way it makes Union less dependent on the energy supplies and makes its own domestic and foreign policy less vulnerable. In this sense, to answer on the research question whether a *sui generis* approach to the study of EU helps to understand the Union’s nature the following questions arise:

1. What is the definition of a sui generis nature concept in a way it explains the current policy of EU in the promotion of energy security policy?
2. Is there a sufficient evidence given that the concept of sui generis nature of EU suits to the study of EU's common energy security policy. ​
3. Can the analysis of EU’s energy policies estimate the efficiency of EU’s initiatives in the promotion of a common energy security policy?
4. To what extent the analyzed initiatives can correlate with the defined level of applicability?

Basically, these questions are dedicated to the definition of *a sui generis* concept, analysis of the EU’s energy policies, their comparison and the correlation to the *sui generis* nature of Union.

For the methodology and research methods, constructivist approach to the ontological study of the European Union has been chosen, as well as content analysis of fundamental treaties and acts on the EU’s energy security policy, data envelopment analysis and comparative analysis of EU’s energy initiatives.

A thorough analysis has reflected the following findings:

**First,** with help of the exposition of ontological and epistemological inquiries of EU and constructivist vision of ideational factors of state’s behavior, it becomes clear that it is important to identify the EU as an entity and reveal what exact traditional notions of an international actor the EU is challenging. In this sense, traditional notions that EU challenges by being a *sui generis* actor have been revealed.

**Second,** having compared the vision of nominalists and constructivists on the *sui generis* nature of EU it has been stated, that the concept allows to study interaction among EU’s Member-States in promotion of common energy security policy considering the process of shaping the policy by a set of shared values and goals. Consequently, with the acknowledgement of social constructed nature of EU, its unique identity and institutional framework, a sui generis concept has been proven to be applicable towards the study of the EU's common energy security policy.

**Third,** to estimate the efficiency of EU’s initiatives in the promotion of common energy security policy, following criteria were chosen: Alignment with EU's Legal Personality. Contribution to EU's Political Identity. Engagement of Institutional Frameworks and Compliance with EU's Energy Governance.

For the complex study of *sui generis* applicability the following initiatives and policies have been chosen for the analysis:

Energy Union, REPowerEU, Green Deal, Sothern Gas Corridor project and Nord-Stream 2 project.

According to the analysis of these policies the conclusions were highlighted in a way it shows the effectiveness of every energy initiative as an integral part of CESP

**Finally,** basing on the metric data a DEA analysis has been conducted. As a result, it has been stated that the EU's *sui generis* nature is reflected in its ability to establish and implement common policies, coordinate actions among member states, and leverage its institutional frameworks.

Taking every single point into the consideration in this study, it is possible to conclude that a *sui generis* nature of EU indeed allows European Union to reconsider the common energy security policy in a way it makes Union less dependent on the energy supplies and makes its own domestic and foreign policy less vulnerable. In fact, the *sui generis* nature of European Union helps to both understand the energy security policy conducted by union and helps Member-States to take the most appropriate decisions acting as single one entity. However, it is still important to consider that the application of *sui generis* thinking of the EU, it is not possible to give a totally accurate predictions on the following energy policy conducted by the Union, but it is possible to find the vulnerable points of EU’s decision-making processes and institutions. At the same time, the *sui generis* notions of European Union will play a crucial role in the development and fostering the future system of energy security. Therefore, whether the EU could become less dependent on the energy imports depends only on its further cumulative actions.

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