

Assessment of Master Thesis – Opponent



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

Field of study: **International and Diplomatic Studies**

Academic year: **2018/2019**

Master Thesis Topic: **The Energy Security Dilemma of the European Union in the 21st Century**

Author's name: **Martin Mareš**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **Ing. Mgr. Markéta Votoupalová, Ph.D.**

Opponent: **Ing. Zbyněk Dubský, Ph.D.**

	Criterion	Mark (1–4)
1.	Overall objective achievement	1
2.	Logical structure	1
3.	Using of literature, citations	1
4.	Adequacy of methods used	2
5.	Depth of analysis	1
6.	Self-reliance of author	1
7.	Formal requirements: text, graphs, tables	1
8.	Language and stylistics	1

Comments and Questions:

The submitted master's thesis deals with very important and discussed research topic of energy security of the EU, namely EU's dependency on the import of energy, including natural gas. The author is convinced that the EU will very likely increase its dependence on energy imports. The author defines research questions and hypotheses in the introduction, suggests a methodological approach (research design could be better presented). The work is based on the theoretical concept of security dilemma (and international relations theory of neorealism), which is partly original, but undoubtedly correct, possible approach to the issue examined. The author admits that this is a completely securitized phenomenon. The theoretical approach is correctly applied in the analytical part. The structure of the work is logical, balanced, and the parts are linked. The author approaches the research systematically and tries to show the complexity of dependence and the impact of new importers to Europe on its energy security (through the prism of a security dilemma). The author analysed and interprets important facts, the results are presented in a clear way. The author is familiar with key literature in the field of energy security studies and level of referencing is appropriate. I have no comments on the formal requirements. The thesis provides excellent language level. The text undoubtedly fulfils a level of requirements for master's thesis. I do recommend it for the defence and suggest evaluation "1". Questions for the thesis defence: 1) Is LNG a real alternative to reducing EU dependence on Russian gas? 2) Why is Germany ready to support projects allowing Russia to maintain and potentially increase its share of energy imports into the EU?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **1**

Date: 21/05/2019

Ing. Zbyněk Dubský, Ph.D.

Opponent