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Iran towards Europe: Challenges and Opportunities

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Abstract:

Natural gas and oil have always been considered as important resources for years. All commodities' prices depend on gas and oil prices, and there is a high correlation factor between them. This means that hydrocarbon prices are crucial and have a huge impact on world economic indicators and policies.

The hydrocarbon-rich countries are trying to implement own economic rules for the rest of the world. Recently, namely in 2008-2009 and 2013-2014 Europe faced the energy crisis derived from Russian gas reduced supply. In response and due to other geopolitical factors Europe set up the economic sanctions against Russia diversifying simultaneously energy supply schedules.

However, the problem is not ultimately solved, and Europe is facing the energy security problems. That is why the EU intensively tries to get alternative natural gas sources and to ensure this way its energy security. Affords to develop renewable energy infrastructure seems to be not sufficient.

From this point of view Iran represents a key economic and political actor. After the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran developed and gained success in economic, energetic, socio-cultural and other fields. After the actual presidency, Iran improved its relations with towards the Caucasian and the EU countries.

The basic goal of the presented work is to demonstrate strategic importance of relations between European countries and Iran. Iran as one of the richest country of natural gas reserves and is able to supply this energy resource to Europe via Georgia. From this point of view and taking into account possible growth of freight flow from Iran to Europe, Iran-Georgia strategic partnership becomes crucially important. If it is done, Iran will become an energetic and economic centre, and Georgia will become a hub for energy flow from Iran.

Keywords: (Natural gas, oil, strategic, energy security)

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