

STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE THROUGH ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY: NAVIGATING CHALLENGES IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

Cătălina BRATOSIN-VASILACHE *₁

Abstract: *One of the key means to foster resilience is by ensuring a secure energy sector. Shaped by the current geopolitical environment, the international energy system has been fronting significant multilayered challenges, that are exerting a growing influence on the energy security dynamics and economic stability. In this context, the energy transition that aims to build a more sustainable and cleaner future does not come without drawbacks, however it could also serve as a catalyst to strengthen the worldwide energy security and create new economic opportunities. In the last decades, governments have been focusing on economic diplomacy as a strategic instrument with an important role in fulfilling the national and international economic interests, strengthening at the same time resilience in the energy sector, enabling nations to navigate geopolitical uncertainties, to secure the energy supplies and to support sustainable energy transitions. Therefore, this paper aims to explore the means and the effects of economic diplomacy in enhancing energy security and sustainability, by focusing on the scientific literature and analysing the findings of the peer-reviewed articles on the matter. This study underscores that a proactive and dynamic approach in economic diplomacy is crucial for building resilient energy partnerships in this increasingly interconnected world.*

Keywords: *economic diplomacy, energy sector, resilience, energy security.*

JEL Code: F50

UDC: 620.9:005.574

Introduction

Economic diplomacy covers a broader range of economic and commercial activities (Chatterjee, 2020) and in addition to the prominent activities concerning trade and investment activities, also plays an important role in fields such as finance, attracting technology and science or issues related to energy and global sustainability (Perez-Castejon, 2013). Bayne and Woolcock (2017) highlight that nowadays the activities have expanded and international trade relations also encompass intellectual property and investments, while the environmental policies interrelate with energy policy and economic management. Furthermore, lately, scientific studies that are focusing on the importance of energy interdependence in shaping the relationships between states have also begun to emerge (Gokce et al., 2024).

Governments have been focusing on economic diplomacy as a strategic instrument with an important role in fulfilling their national and international economic interests. A crucial component of economic diplomacy is energy diplomacy (Chaban & Knodt, 2015), a subset focused on strengthening resilience in the energy sector, enabling nations to navigate geopolitical uncertainties, securing energy supplies and promoting sustainable energy transitions, through international agreements and negotiations. Furthermore, the energy

¹*Cătălina Bratosin-Vasilache, phd. candidate, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iași, e-mail: catalina.bratosinv@gmail.com, ORCID: 0009-0006-5379-2007.

resources are appreciated as the main catalyst of the international economy and politics (Ozhurt Donduncu, 2024), global energy being considered one of the most important dimensions of the multilateral diplomacy (Griffiths, 2019). Energy diplomacy is primarily employed by both energy producing and energy consuming entities, that share a common goal of ensuring reliable access to supplies and resources, fostering cooperation between states and organizations operating in this sector (Ozhurt Donduncu, 2024), being at the same time a crucial factor in ensuring profitability in transnational energy agreements (Cardinale, 2019).

Based on the type of energy source involved, energy diplomacy can be categorized in the following key types, each with distinct geopolitical, economic and strategic implications and also their specific obstacles: coal diplomacy (Mar Rubio & Folchi, 2012), oil diplomacy (Boyuan et al., 2015, Liao, 2021), natural gas diplomacy (Prontera, 2017), nuclear energy diplomacy (Aalto et al., 2017), renewable energy diplomacy. Throughout history, distinct phases can be observed, where a particular energy source becomes dominant, driving the economic growth and influencing the industrial development, for example while the coal diplomacy has been historically important, it was followed by the oil diplomacy. Over time, the dominance of the existing energy carrier gradually declines, as a newer source proves to be more cost-effective, fulfilling the objectives concerning sustainability, leading in the end to the replacement of the older energy form.

Focusing on the transition from coal to oil, that dominated the 20th century, Mar Rubio and Folchi (2012) highlighted that the effectiveness of an energy system depends on a interplay of technical, economic, physical and also social factors, that include the energy density, conversion costs, transport, storage potential, financial risks, impact on health (Mar Rubio & Folchi, 2012). In his study on the Lausanne Conference, 1914-1928, rethinking the legacy of the 1923 Lausanne Treaty, Conlin (2024) is arguing that it overlooked the oil diplomacy and the author is highlighting the role of oil companies in influencing the events, suggesting the urge to appreciate these entities as active players, not just instruments of states.

Nowadays one of the biggest challenges that contemporary energy diplomacy is facing is represented by energy transition, that, according to Mar Rubio and Folchi (2012) can be defined as the step-by-step replacement of the energy sources or carrier, occurring when one energy source prevails, then gradually fades as a new one emerges and replaces it, process that can also be seen as a step toward modernization. The green economic diplomacy initiative, which emerged in the 1980s, is evolving and expanding, gaining prominence, while diplomatic efforts are aiming at promoting sustainable technologies in order to reduce the environmental impact. In some cases, such as Japan for example, governments historically have focused on protecting the environment, this being one of the key elements of the Japanese industrial policy (Okano-Heijmans, 2012). EU is also leveraging energy diplomacy as a key tool, that according to the European External Action Service is aiming at ensuring energy security (Ozhurt Donduncu, 2024).

As the energy demands of the emerging powers are constantly rising, the relationships between the primary energy consuming nations are a key concern for decision makers and also researchers (Chaban & Knodt, 2015). Furthermore, the relationship between producers and consumers is influenced by the current transition to a low carbon energy (Griffiths, 2019), the current century seeing a growing dominance of the cost-effective renewable technologies and a shift from carbon fuels, with the key uncertainty being the speed of this shift (Fattouh et al., 2018).

Nowadays, scholars concentrate on how governments use energy as an instrument in international affairs and economic development, or as a means to influence political decision, the connection between energy, security and foreign diplomacy being undeniable (Ozkurt Dorduncu, 2024).

Therefore, by focusing on the body of scientific literature on the subject of energy diplomacy, this paper aims to present the main challenges of the energy sector and explore the means of diplomacy in enhancing energy security and sustainability, underscoring that a proactive engagement is crucial for building resilient energy partnerships in this increasingly interconnected world.

Data and Methodology

The study is following a qualitative approach, namely a narrative literature review of the scientific papers. This research method has been chosen because literature reviews synthesize existing research, organizing and clarifying prior findings to establish a foundation for future scientific research (Massaro et al., 2016), enabling at the same time a comprehensive understanding of the current state of knowledge.

This paper is examining the findings of the peer-reviewed studies, from high quality journals, published in the 2015-2025 period. The 2014 situation in Ukraine disrupted a major gas supply route to the EU and undermined the EU's confidence in the Russian Federation as a reliable energy provider (Bocse, 2018) and then the situation has been amplified by the war between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, that started in 2022, war that has had a significant influence on the international energy sector. However, as the number of studies on the topic is limited, the analysed period has been extended until 2015, to cover a relevant number of scientific studies. Although the analysed period has been extended, it has been deliberately kept limited (to ten years), in order to maintain the rigor of the literature review methodology and at the same time a comprehensive and structured approach. The articles have been selected based on specific keywords such as energy, diplomacy, energy security, energy diplomacy etc. indexed by journal databases, namely Web of Science, Science Direct, Scopus, Springer Nature, Taylor and Francis published exclusively in peer-reviewed journals from different academic areas. The selection of the papers has been done considering the citation frequency, the prominence of the journal that published the article and the overall robustness of the research in the field. As it has been observed, most studies on the matter

follow a qualitative approach, while the number of studies that have employed quantitative studies remains limited (Li et al., 2025).

In this study I try to answer the following research question “*what is the role of diplomacy in addressing the current challenges of the energy sector?*”, in an attempt to expose the foremost challenges of the energy sector and explore the means of diplomacy in enhancing energy security and sustainability.

Energy diplomacy has an interdisciplinary nature, as it combines elements of politics, economics, technology, environmental science and international relations to address global energy challenges. Therefore, studies on this topic have been published across various fields such as belonging to international relations, political science, environmental sciences, public administration, energy and fuels. The current paper has not been confined to a single field of study, encompassing studies from all fields that have addressed the topic of energy diplomacy.

Literature Review

According to Chatterjee (2020), a fundamental distinction between economic diplomacy and traditional diplomacy lies in their focus and objectives. While the traditional one mainly aims at fostering and sustaining relationships between states, economic diplomacy is more targeted and the agreements reached through economic diplomacy are expected to translate into concrete outcomes, such as industrial initiatives or other contributions to a nation’s development, being deeply rooted in practical realities, shaped by a state’s intellectual, industrial and scientific capabilities (Chatterjee, 2020). As a subset of economic diplomacy, there is not a universal definition of energy diplomacy, however scholars underline the connection between the national security and energy resources, demonstrating at the same time that cross-border energy infrastructure can play a role in reducing geopolitical tensions (Huda, 2024).

Nowadays, energy diplomacy has two distinct facets, whereas the traditional energy diplomacy focused on non-renewable resources, lacking alignment with the global efforts to accelerate the renewable energy deployment (Huda, 2024), which represents the modern dimension of energy diplomacy. Driven by the contemporary increasing environmental concerns, the international energy environment is facing a transition to a low carbon energy, from fossil fuels to renewable energy obtained from natural sources, evolution that is completely reshaping the geopolitical landscape and where the role of diplomacy in managing evolving energy relations is constantly growing (Griffiths, 2019).

Empirical studies focused on different regions or countries across the globe yield different findings, depending on the level of development, resources, actors involved etc. Chaban and Knodt (2015) address the topic of energy diplomacy in the context of the current landscape dominated by a constant competition between the power, resources of the prominent on the one hand and the emerging actors on the other hand. Furthermore, the uneven global distribution makes certain suppliers irreplaceable in the energy markets (Gokce et. al., 2024).

Analysing the dynamics of the European energy security policies, concerning natural gas and infrastructure, Prontera (2017) has identified a series of three state models likewise the *partner*, the *provider* and the *catalytic*, concluding that the last one is more appropriate in the current dynamics of energy politics, whereas the second one implies a state that is primarily an energy supplier. Historically, the European Union has depended on fossils, therefore has proactively sought to alternate energy sources in order to broaden its supply opportunities (Moghani & Maleki, 2024). Since the mid-2000s, the European Union's decision makers started applying instruments belonging to foreign policy in order to secure access to foreign energy supplies, actions that could be qualified as pertaining to energy diplomacy (Herranz-Surrallés, 2015). In the more recent years, following the Russian invasion of the Ukrainian territory, the EU is actively updating its approach to external energy security, fast-tracking the initiatives concerning energy through energy diplomacy and also authors have noticed a reorientation towards key geopolitical areas, such as the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea (Ozhurt Donduncu, 2024). Moghani and Maleki (2024) consider that the EU's susceptibility to disruptions in energy supply has heightened the importance of diversifying its energy sources. Moreover, in the case of the EU, many scholars highlight the importance of reaching a consensus among the EU member states (Chaban & Knodt, 2015; Dusciac & Robu, 2019; Ozhurt Donduncu, 2024) as a unified approach is crucial to ensuring the success of strategic objectives, that overall aim at enhancing energy security and strengthening the EU's geopolitical influence, as without coordinated participation these initiatives risk fragmentation and suboptimal functioning. A new approach to energy diplomacy would support the EU in advancing its goals, likewise enhancing market competition or safeguarding energy security (Cardinale, 2019).

Analysing the case of United Arab Emirates/UAE, an example of significant exporter of hydrocarbon with a well-defined strategy of using diplomacy as a key instrument, Griffiths (2019) emphasized that the bilateral energy diplomacy is crucial for securing energy supply, monetizing resources and promoting economic expansion. Most of the studies, suggest that energy diplomacy should play a role in the energy transition process, Huda (2024) underscoring that diplomacy will play a crucial role in meeting the 2050 aims. Using a linear regression model, Nassar (2024) exposed the discrepancies faced by the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in the green energy progress: while the UAE is advancing quickly and effectively, maintaining a strong alignment with its targets, Bahrain and Kuwait are taking more time to reach their desired objectives.

Considering the ongoing shifts in global energy markets, Downie (2019) considers that Australia should focus on the energy governance through The Group of Twenty (G20).

Analysing Asian energy diplomacy, Huda and Ali (2017) have focused on the implications of the major regional energy infrastructure project, Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India/ TAPI pipeline, indicating that the attempts to address the obstacles in this case have been too simplistic. Authors advocate for a multi-stakeholder approach, that requires the

involvement of different external actors, stressing that the TAPI project is serving as a tool for peace-building (Huda & Ali, 2017).

The limited availability of domestic energy resources, apart from coal, is becoming an increasingly pressing challenge for China (Gueldry & Liang, 2016). The attention on the energy diplomacy of China, one of the largest energy consumers in the world, has also increased progressively in the last decades, as the country has been focusing on building its bilateral relations with the energy superpowers (Wu, 2015). China is facing a growing energy demand, importing substantial quantities of fuels such as oil, coal or natural gas, being at the same time an important actor on the energy market (Liang et al., 2023). Moreover, Chinese diplomatic efforts aim to enhance the country's reputation as a rising nuclear energy power (Sun et al., 2022). Undoubtedly, as Moghani and Maleki (2024) underscored, China requires a reliable energy supply to support its economic development, consequently Chinese decision makers are constantly making efforts to improve energy security (Mahmood et al., 2022) and to diminish fossil fuels usage (Liang et al., 2023), energy diplomacy being a fundamental element of its energy security policy (Mahmood et al., 2022). However, Wang's (2020) study concluded that the Chinese energy diplomacy is not strategically focused, having a predominantly mercantile approach in response to the encountered challenges. To study the Chinese energy diplomacy, Li et al. (2025) used a fixed-effects model to analyse the bilateral relations with 43 states, for the 2000-2023 period. The results of the study emphasize the importance of the bilateral diplomacy, revealing that, in this case, it is more effective than the multilateral one.

In the energy sector, the Russian Federation is one of the key players, with an important asymmetrical advantage over energy resources (Ozhurt Donduncu, 2024) and a dominant position as an energy supplier in Europe (Chun, 2009). Furthermore, the Russian energy diplomacy involves a combination of factors that empower the country to leverage these vast resources as an influent tool in this field. Concerning the relation with the EU and East Asia, Wang (2020) appreciates that the foremost objective is maximizing business profits, Russia's approach being a genuinely mercantile one. In their study on the Russian nuclear energy diplomacy, the authors Aalto et al. (2017) identified that the diplomatic efforts are being shaped by three key interests such as the energy sector and its related benefits, the economic development of Russia and the foreign policy objectives, especially in response to challenges in EU-Russian Federation energy relations. Dusciac and Robu (2019) consider that the Russian energy strategy is not limited to the commercial interests, in the last 25 years being an important and prevailing instrument in exercising political pressure against the former soviet countries. In Wang's (2020) opinion, regarding the energy cooperation, Russia deliberately maintained a low political profile, fostering a collaborative environment with the European states, a stronger influence on the former Soviet countries and a rising interest in East-Asian markets.

Results and discussions

Undoubtedly, a stable and secure energy sector is essential for ensuring resilience at national and global level, as energy security is one of the key pillars of national and international security.

Energy diplomacy, central component of economic diplomacy (Chaban & Knodt, 2015) is mainly focused on strengthening resilience in the energy sector, possessing the appropriate tools to achieve objectives such as securing energy supplies and promoting sustainable energy transitions and to navigate geopolitical uncertainties, through diplomatic instruments like international agreements and negotiations. Shaw et al. (2024) underscored the importance of understanding the connection between energy, sustainability and resilience.

Energy diplomacy represents a multifaceted phenomenon that incorporates various complex elements in its development, identified in different dimensions, parties involved or communication strategies (Chaban & Knodt, 2015).

In the contemporary global context, the primary challenges facing energy diplomacy stem from two major fronts: the transition process on the one hand and the geopolitical developments on the other hand.

Challenges arising from the transition process

Diplomacy is essential in addressing the challenges of the global energy transition. Concerning this process, Huda (2024) has observed the following issues and potential threats: the insufficiency of resources, that may lead to tension and competition among actors, cyber threats, social-economic disruptions determined by the decline in fossil fuel revenue and the intentional power outages. Kivimaa et. al. (2022) draw attention to the security implications that may occur in case of economic losses in the hydrocarbon producing actors, that can also lead to the weakening of these states, increasing the dependence on other states or increase internal tensions. In facing the consequences of the transition from fossil fuels to the renewable energy, Griffiths (2019) has highlighted the crucial role that the bilateral diplomacy holds, noted that, in his view, the relationship between its key actors, producers and consumers will also face challenges. Rudiany et al. (2022) argue that substate players enhance the energy policies that have been previously regulated at the national level, through a bilateral cooperation with other similar entities, they can contribute to building a more efficient approach regarding energy utilization, ensuring the alignment with broader regulatory frameworks, while fostering collaboration and innovation in this sector. Boyuan et al. (2015) highlighted that, in the case of promoting crude oil trade, the bilateral dimension of diplomacy is more effective and that trade cooperation could be enhanced by conducting more visits and adopting a proactive approach towards this kind of diplomacy. Griffiths (2019) also emphasised that if the number of actors is a limited one, it is more cost-effective and aligning interests is simpler, however the large-scale transition to a low carbon system will undoubtedly imply coordinating the interest of various stakeholders through the multilateral diplomatic

activities. Similar results have been disclosed in the study on the Chinese crude oil trade of Li et al. (2025), authors suggesting an increase in the foreign visits and a more proactive approach, actively engaging with other countries, considering that it is advisable to adhere to the principle of doing more and speaking less.

In the current rapidly evolving digital environment, Kivimaa et al. (2022) bring to attention potential security risks that should not be overlooked, meaning the ones related to technology, given the dependence between the new energy systems and digital devices. Also related to technology, Fattouh et. al (2018) draw attention to the endgame leader, the innovation that will prevail, as the transition process will yield different results among the regions. In this new paradigm, the oil companies and the exporting nations have to wisely choose their position and their next steps, while governments should adapt and update their diplomatic initiatives.

Challenges arising from geopolitical tensions

Diplomacy is also indispensable for navigating the challenges arising from the geopolitical tensions within the energy sector. The geopolitical events, such as the Ukrainian and the Syrian crises have intensified market-driven impact, making the arena for the Russian energy diplomacy even more complex and complicated (Proedrou, 2016).

Studies published before the invasion of Ukraine, suggested the need for a renewed approach to energy diplomacy (Cardinale, 2019), that would help the EU advance its strategic objectives, such as ensuring energy security. Nevertheless, the invasion compelled the EU to implement new initiatives aimed at building resilience, particularly in areas such as energy security and autonomy. Moghani and Maleki (2024) stated that in order to face the security challenges of the war conducted by the Russian Federation against Ukraine it is mandatory for the EU to build and maintain a sustainable energy supply, an opportunity being consolidating the energy diplomatic relations with Azerbaijan and Iran (Bocse, 2018). Following the invasion of Ukraine, the oil and gas prices became the highest in over ten years (Moghani & Maleki, 2024). Despite facing sanctions, a form of diplomatic pressure, the Russian Federation rapidly adapted, maintaining at the same time its influence on the global energy dynamics. However, regarding its foreign policy objectives in the Asia-Pacific region, Xu and Reisinger (2018) appreciate that the progress has been a modest one, that yielded only partial success and limited results. Even though the invasion and the activities in the energy sector damaged its image, Russian Federation remains a strong player on the international stage (Szulecki & Overland, 2023).

Energy relations are not always impacted by the geopolitical tensions among countries. An example in this case are the diplomatic issues between United Arab Emirates and Qatar, which unfolded between 2017-2021, when despite the blockade on Qatar, the gas flows to UAE remained largely uninterrupted (Gokce et al., 2024).

Nevertheless, the geopolitical factors also have a significant effect on the transition process, shaping new directions and diplomatic approaches in order to achieve sustainable development goals. For example, the war between Russian Federation and Ukraine has had an impact on the necessary resources for the development of the renewable energy technology, as

the prices of nickel, neon gas, palladium, have increased significantly (Huda, 2024) and it also increased the fossil fuels demand (Nassar, 2024).

Another factor that can significantly impact the energy sector and must not be overlooked is the corruption within the energy industry. Dusciac and Robu (2019) for example, mention a case in which oligarchs engaged in this practice by procuring gas at below-market prices and then reselling it to the Ukrainian authorities at a competitive rate, artificially creating benefits for the parties involved.

Considering the multidimensional energy diplomacy, Moghani and Maleki (2024) added that geopolitical factors, cooperation, international entities, together with the global organizations, political systems and national strategies have an impact on this type of diplomacy. Boyuan et al. (2015) highlighted the important role of diplomatic interactions in securing ensuring energy security. In their paper, the authors analysed the role of diplomacy by concentrating on the official visits, diplomatic relations and the level of diplomatic activities, suggesting that these interactions have a significant impact in encouraging collaboration between states and safeguarding energetic security (Boyuan et al. (2015). Focusing on diplomatic interactions and exploring whether energy relationships between countries influence their foreign policy choices, the findings of the study of Gokce et. al. (2024) provided significant evidence supporting the idea that energy interdependence fosters greater alignment in foreign policy between countries.

National-level challenges are distinct from those arising at the supranational level, partly due to the complex interaction between domestic priorities and overarching regional and international frameworks. In the particular case of the European energy diplomacy, challenged by the entity's supranational character and the multilayered characteristics of its international discourse, literature suggests that this model of diplomacy combines the inclusive stakeholder-driven and the state focused mechanisms, and in terms of its actors, there is also a mix between state and non-state ones (Chaban & Knodt, 2015). An issue observed at the European level is that the multiple players do not always operate in coordination, the transparent communication approach can lack coherence and the tensions between the EU institutions further entangle this framework (Chaban & Knodt, 2015). The lack of alignment among the member states has also been emphasized by Ozhurt Donduncu (2024), considering that this feature is weakening the European energy diplomacy, that has yet to fulfil its whole potential.

Soft power or hard power in energy diplomacy?

In pursuing their interests in the energy sector, studies highlight the deployment of both soft power and also hard power strategies, a dual approach that allows decision makers to shape global energy dynamics. EU exercises significant influence over the global energy markets, by leveraging its economic dimension (Stoddard, 2016), rather than through hard power. An example of soft power is the case of the Hanhikivi-1 nuclear power plant, where the Finnish companies with interests in the Russian Federation, had the motivation to invest, due to their existing business relationship (Aalto et al., 2017). However, energy diplomacy is not limited

to soft power and can also imply the use of hard power. A study on Turkey, an actor that is aiming at reducing the dependence on imported energy (Kilic et al., 2019) is revealing four different situations, from 2015 to 2022, in which Turkish decision makers have had a tendency to use coercion or aggressive tactics in the energy related diplomatic efforts, shaped by political ideas and domestic considerations (Ipek, 2025).

Introducing significant obstacles to diplomatic engagement in the energy sector, the current crises that have been taken place in the middle east region or east Europe, together with the energy transition process underscore the necessity for renewed strategies in this sector (Ipek, 2023). For example, Ozhurt Donduncu (2024) considers that the geopolitical consequences of external energy disagreements are the ones that undermine the effectiveness of energy diplomacy within the EU. The international scene is experiencing an energy supply shortage coupled with excessive demand, that is driving energy commodity prices to record highs, impacting inflation, economic development, the quality of daily life and at the same time the global efforts to reduce carbon emissions (Moghani & Maleki, 2024). As Gokce et al. (2024) demonstrated, the international energy trade, that is playing an important role for both parties, importers and exporters, can strongly impact the global politics, therefore a better understanding of the current energy dynamics and foreign policy stances is crucial in the decision-making process of the present geopolitical environment.

Conclusions

One of the means to foster resilience is by ensuring a stable and secure energy sector. However, the energy sector has permanently been dominated by transitions, from coal fuels to oil or nuclear, and nowadays to the renewable energy sources, as an alternative to the fossil fuels, in order to reduce the carbon emissions and combat climate change issues. These shifts have historically shaped the global economies, having an impact on the technological and industrial advancement, international relations, foreign trade or foreign direct investments.

In the last decades, the international energy system has been fronting significant multifaceted challenges that are exerting a growing influence in the energy security dynamics and economic stability. Now, energy diplomacy is primarily challenged by the transition process and the geopolitical tensions, dynamics that necessitate a reassessment of diplomatic priorities. For example, after Russian Federation invaded the Ukrainian territory, the EU took swift action to revise its energy security strategy, expediting energy related initiatives through energy diplomacy measures. However, geopolitical tensions between countries do not always affect energy relations (ex. UAE and Qatar case), which can continue due to mutual dependencies and strategic interest.

In the current global context, the geopolitical evolutions and the energy transition that aims to build a more sustainable and cleaner future do not come without drawbacks, however, this situation could also serve as a catalyst to strengthen the worldwide energy security and create new economic opportunities, consolidating global resilience. Undoubtedly, energy

diplomacy, through its key instruments, such as negotiation and strategic partnerships, and use of soft power or hard power, can foster cooperation among the state and non-state actors and play a role in managing the energy related interest, supporting the development of resilient energy markets, contributing not only to national energy security, but also to sustainable development and stability at the international level.

References

- Aalto, P., Nyyssonen, H., Kojo, M., & Pal, P. (2017). Russian nuclear energy diplomacy in Finland and Hungary. *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 58(4), 386-417. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15387216.2017.1396905>.
- Bayne, N., & Woolcock, S. (2017). The Future of Economic Diplomacy. In N. Bayne & S. Woolcock (Eds.), *The New Economic Diplomacy: Decision Making and negotiation in international economic relations* (4th ed.). Routledge.
- Boyuan, L., Zhingyuan, R., & Pina, G. (2015). A Study on the Impact of Energy Diplomacy on China's Crude Oil Trade. *Energies*, 18(4), art. 851. <https://doi.org/10.3390/en18040851>
- Bocse, A. M. (2018). EU Energy Diplomacy: Searching for New Suppliers in Azerbaijan and Iran. *Geopolitics*, 24(1), 145-173. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2018.1477755>.
- Cardinale, R. (2019). The Profitability of Transnational Energy Infrastructure: A Comparative Analysis of the Greenstream and Galsi Gas Pipelines. *Energy Policy*, 131, 347-357. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2019.03.040>.
- Chaban, N., & Knodt, M. (2015). Energy Diplomacy in the Context of Multistakeholder Diplomacy: The EU and BICS, Nordic International Studies Association. *Cooperation and Conflict*, 50(4), 457-474. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0010836715573541>.
- Chatterjee, C. (2020). *Economic Diplomacy and Foreign Policy-making*. Macmillan.
- Chun, H. C. (2009). Russia's energy diplomacy toward Europe and Northeast Asia: a comparative study. *Asia Europe Journal*, 7(2), 327-434. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10308-008-0206-y>
- Conlin, J. (2024). Fouled by Oil? Oil Diplomacy and the Lausanne Conference, 1914-1928. *International History Review*, 47(3), 448-466. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07075332.2024.2393642>.
- Downie, C. (2019). Australian Energy Diplomacy. *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, 73, 119-225. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10357718.2018.1534941>
- Dusciac, D., & Robu, A. (2019). Economic Diplomacy in the Energy Sector in the EU's Eastern Vicinity, *Politické Vedy*, 22(2), 42-60. <http://doi.org/10.24040/politickevedy.2019.22.2.42-60>
- Fattouh, B., Poudineh, R., & West, R. (2018). The Rise of Renewables and Energy Transition: What Adaptation Strategy for Oil Companies and Oil-Exporting Countries. *The Oxford Institute for Energy Studies*, OIES Paper. <https://doi.org/10.26889/9781784671099>
- Gokce, O. Z., Hatipoglu, E., & Belaid, F. (2024). Navigating Energy Diplomacy in Times of Recovery and Conflict: A Study of Cross-Border Energy Trade Dynamics, *Resources Policy*, 90, art. 104850. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resourpol.2024.104850>
- Griffiths, S. (2019) Energy Diplomacy in a Time of Energy Transition. *Energy Strategy Reviews*, 26, art. 100386. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esr.2019.100386>
- Gueldry, M., & Liang, W. (2016). China's Global Energy Diplomacy: Behavior Normalization

- Through Economic Interdependence or Resource Neo-mercantilism and Power Politics? *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, 21(2), 217-240. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11366-016-9405-3>
- Herranz-Surrallés, A. (2015). An Emerging EU Energy Diplomacy? Discursive shifts, enduring practices. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 23(9), 1386-1405. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2015.1083044>
- Huda, S. M., & Ali, S. H. (2017). Energy Diplomacy in South Asia: Beyond the Security Paradigm in Accessing the TAPI Pipeline Project. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 34, 202-213. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2017.07.013>
- Huda, S. M. (2024). Renewable energy diplomacy and transitions: An environmental peacebuilding approach. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 50, art. 100815. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2024.100815>
- Ipek, P. (2023). Energy Dynamics in Türkiye's Relationship with BRICS countries, *Turkish Policy Quarterly*, 22 (4), 34-40. <https://doi.org/10.58867/JPFX7559>
- Ipek, P. (2025). Turkey's energy diplomacy and instrumentalization of hard power, *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, 25(1), 141-161. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14683857.2024.2445353>
- Kilic, F. C., Kilic, M. K., Eydogan, M., & Kaya, D. (2019). A General Evaluation of Turkey's Energy Diplomacy and the Latest Climate Change Studies. *International Journal of Ecosystem and Ecology Science*, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.31407/ijeec9104>
- Kivimaa, P., Brisbois, M. C., Jayaram, D., Hakala, E., & Siddi, M. (2022). A socio-technical lens on security in sustainability transitions: Future expectations for positive and negative security. *Futures*, 141, art. 102971. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2022.102971>
- Liang, L., Jin, L., Selopal, G. S., & Rosei, F. (2023). Peace Engineering in Practice: China's Energy Diplomacy Strategy and Its Global Implications. *Sustainability*, 15(2), art. 1442. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15021442>
- Liao, J. (2021). China's Energy Diplomacy towards Central Asia and the Implications on its "Belt and Road Initiative". *Pacific Review*, 34(3), 490-522. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09512748.2019.1705882>
- Li, B., Ren, Z., & Gao, P. (2025) A Study on the Impact of Energy Diplomacy on China's Crude Oil Trade. *Energies*, 18(4). <https://doi.org/10.3390/en18040851>
- Mahmood, A., Khan, M. I., Ali, S., Abbas, Z., & Khan, N. (2022). The Role of Chinese Regimes of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Belt and Road Initiative in the Transformation of its Energy Diplomacy: Quest for Economic Sustainability, *Sustainability*, 14(24), art. 16997. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su142416997>
- Massaro, M., Dumay, J., & Guthrie, J. (2016). On the shoulders of giants: undertaking a structured literature review in accounting. *Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal*, 29(5), 767-801. <https://doi.org/10.1108/AAAJ-01-2015-1939>
- Moghani, A. M., & Maleki, A. (2024). China's Energy Diplomacy in the Caspian Basin and its Impact on the Energy Security of Europe. *Energy Reports*, 11, 2279-2294. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.egyr.2024.01.070>
- Nassar, A. K. (2024). Strategic energy transition in the Gulf Cooperation Council: Balancing economic, social, political and environmental dynamics for sustainable development. *International Journal of Green Energy*, 1570-1586,

- <https://doi.org/10.1080/15435075.2024.2435434>
- Okano-Heijmans, M. (2012). Japan's 'Green' Economic Diplomacy: Environmental and Energy Technology and Foreign Relations. *Pacific Review*, 25(3), 339-364. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09512748.2012.685090>
- Ozkurt Dorduncu, F. Z. (2024). The EU's Future Under Scurtiny: Foreign Policy Implications of the EU Energy Diplomacy in the Eastern Mediterranean. *Ankara Avrupa Calismalari Dergisi-Ankara Review of European Studies*, 23, 199-228. <https://doi.org/110.32450/aacd.1439566>
- Proedrou, F. (2016). Why Russian Gas Diplomacy Fails: the Geopolitics-energy nexus in Ukraine and Turkey. *Asia Europe Journal*, 15, 21-37. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10308-016-0460-3>
- Prontera, A. (2017). Forms of State and European Energy Security: Diplomacy and Pipelines in Southeastern Europe. *European Security*, 26(2), 273-298. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09662839.2017.1313233>
- Rubio M., & Folchi, M. (2012) Will small energy consumers be faster in transition? Evidence from the early shift from coal to oil in Latin America. *Energy Policy*, 50, 50-61. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2012.03.054>
- Rudiany, N. P., Anggraeni, S. D., Nurhidayah, G. M., & Firmansyah, M. (2019). The Role of Cities in Energy Diplomacy: Indonesia, Japan and the Surabaya-Kitakyushu Partnership. *Hague Journal of Diplomacy*, 17(1), 64-90. <https://doi.org/10.1163/1871191X-BJA10082>
- Sanchez Perez-Castejon, P. (2013). La diplomacia comercial en el centro de la diplomacia economica espanola = The primacy of commercial diplomacy in spanish economic diplomacy strategy. *Anuario Juridico y Economico Escorialense*, 46, 345-362.
- Shaw, R., Silva, K., & Chollacoop, N. (2024). Energy, Sustainability and Resilience, A futuristic Vision from Asia, Disaster Risk Reduction. Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-4174-8>
- Stoddard, E. (2016). Tough Times, Shifting Roles: Examining the EU's Commercial Diplomacy in Foreign Energy Markets, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 24, 10148-1068. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2016.1170190>
- Sun, D. G., Xu, H. Y., & Tu, Y. C. (2022). In with the New: China's Nuclear-Energy Diplomacy in the Middle East. *Middle East Policy*, 29(1), 41-60. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mepo.12619>
- Szulecki, K., & Overland, I. (2023). Russian Nuclear Energy Diplomacy and its Implications for Energy Security in the Context of the War in Ukraine. *Nature Energy*, 8(4), 413-421. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41560-023-01228-5>
- Wang, X. (2020). Leadership-building dilemmas in Emerging Powers Economic Diplomacy: Russia's Energy Diplomacy and China's One Belt One Road. *Asia Europe Journal*, 18, 117-138. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10308-019-00536-4>
- Wu, F. (2015). China's Puzzling Energy Diplomacy toward Iran. *Asian Perspective*, 39(1), 47-69. <https://doi.org/10.1353/apr.2015.0009>
- Xu, B., & Reisinger, W. M. (2018). Russia's Energy Diplomacy with China: Personalism and Institutionalism in its Policy-Making Process. *The Pacific Review*, 32(1), 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09512748.2018.1428675>