



Policy Conference

Energy Security and Climate Change: Emerging Dimensions after the Invasion in Ukraine

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The Russian invasion in Ukraine has led to the **crumbling of Europe's *Ostpolitik*** and the decade-long Russian integration in the Western political and economic system.

The EU collectively and many member-states individually have decided to cut down and eventually end their **economic dependence on Russia**. These are historic times and a unique opportunity for Europe and the U.S. to **reinvent their transatlantic partnership** in countering the ever-growing threats for global security from Russia and China.

In this perspective, today's conference cannot be more timely. It will zoom in on the impact of the **Russian aggression in Europe** on Europe's **energy and climate security strategy**.

The current energy and geopolitical crisis has demonstrated the **need for a European energy policy vision** that goes much further than a **technocratic approach** to overcoming regulatory and administrative inconsistencies.

The energy crisis that began even before the war and was precipitated by the **Kremlin to pressure Europe or some of its members into complicity**, is a stark reminder that the **energy policy trilemma** of achieving affordability, reliability of supply and environmental sustainability, is far from solved.

The **European Green Deal should be the cornerstone** of this new European strategy. However, its implementation will have to overcome the considerable headwinds of climate skepticism and opposition in EU societies, **fueled by domestic and foreign political pressure**.

The political fallout from the current energy crisis and the specter of inflation getting out of control requires **strong political will to power through necessary reforms** that maintain energy security without comprising the climate transition process.

Energy and climate security risks **will not end with gas supply diversification**. New emerging risks related to the dependence on mineral resources linked to the process of energy transition is looming next on Europe's agenda. Navigating through these challenges requires the **development of innovative and actionable policy instruments** for climate change mitigation and diagnostics.

And finally, I would like to thank the **Konrad Adenauer Stiftung** and personally Mr. **Thorsten Geissler**, who have supported the Center for the Study of Democracy in **bringing together leading U.S. and European policy-makers and experts** to share their insights on how to better align the **transatlantic priorities on strategic issues** such as energy security and the threat from foreign malign influence.