



## **ENERGY FUTURES**

### **Europe's Energy Future – security, transition, competitiveness**

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Several of Europe's long-term challenges are connected to the supply of energy. Recent events in Ukraine, EU's long-term climate targets, the findings and use of shale-gas in the US have all come to highlight the need for a well thought energy policy for Europe.

Europe is to a large extent dependent on imports to meet its need for energy. In 2012 Europe spent more than €400 billion, around 3.1% of GDP, on imports of fossil fuels, this compared to around €180 billion in average over the period 1990-2011. Given the increased demand for energy around the globe, competition over energy is likely to increase. Recent events have also shown the risks of being dependent on unreliable regimes for supply of energy.

If Europe is serious about reducing its emissions with 40% by 2030, and with 80-95% by 2050, Europe's energy mix is in need of transition. The share of fossil fuel needs to reduce, while growth of renewable energy and energy efficiency will be a crucial way towards a low-carbon society.

Many have interpreted the findings and use of shale gas in the United States as a major shift in the power balance of global energy markets. Not least have European industries pointed to energy prices as competitiveness issue where the US industry is currently benefiting compared to its European counterparts.

The issue of energy supply is closely related to the interest of the individual member states, as well as the union as a whole. Therefore, it would be of benefit to use a network such as ELF to gather researchers, policy-makers and NGO's to discuss Europe's Energy Future, not least in terms of security, transition and competitiveness. Organizations have different interest and competence – together we can form a centre of competence that can help providing insights into one of Europe's key future challenge.

Fores together with Friedrich Naumann Foundation in Bulgaria and NEOS in Austria will work together, with Fores taking the main responsibility by editing the anthology and hosting one roundtable in Stockholm, while the FNF will be responsible for hosting a roundtable in Bulgaria and NEOS hosting a roundtable in Vienna.