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OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS DIVERSIFICATION OF ENERGY SOURCES – INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE SUMMIT TOGETAIR 2022

Russian aggression has rapidly and profoundly changed the European Union's approach to the energy market. The importance of energy security and the need to diversify supplies and reduce dependence on Russia has increased dramatically. Europe faces key challenges today: how to pave a new way to climate neutrality in 2050? Is it possible to secure sufficiently large and cheap gas supplies from other directions? And what will be the cost for the society and economy? These will be the main issues tackled by participants in the TOGETAIR 2022 Climate Summit.

- The current geopolitical situation affects many aspects related to energy policy and makes it necessary to take immediate and decisive steps, but also to review long-term policy assumptions. That is why we added the component of energy sovereignty to the existing pillars of the Polish Energy Policy by 2040. As the Ministry of Climate and Environment, we are determined to take serious action to derusify energy policy. We undertake this effort not only as an act of solidarity with Ukraine, but also to strengthen our security. – emphasized Anna Moskwa, Minister of Climate and Environment .

Three days, thirty debates, dozens of Polish and foreign experts – this is what this year's TOGETAIR Climate Summit 2022 (20-21-22 April) looks like. This year, one of the most pertinent questions will be how will the European Union do without Russian oil, coal & gas?

TOGETAIR 2022 THEMATIC AGENDA <https://togetair.eu/agenda>

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ENERGY-(IN)SECURE EUROPE

- Russian aggression has undermined the foundations of long-standing energy policies of European countries, possibly forcing a profound overhaul. The plans of the coal phase-out by means of cheap Russian gas, supplied to Western Europe at a low price by the “somewhat eccentric” but “fundamentally reliable” Putin, has crumbled like a house of cards. It is necessary to reconfigure the plan of achieving climate neutrality, and in particular to urgently diversify the directions of energy raw material supplies. – explains **Agata Śmieja, the President of the Clean Air Foundation and the originator of the TOGETAIR Climate Summit** .

By 24 February 2022, Europe was planning its energy future on the basis of ambitious and laudable environmental goals, pushing aside issues of economic competitiveness and security and independence of energy supply. The tacit assumption was that relations with the Russian neighbour would remain stable and that oil and gas purchases could be made under any political conditions. This widespread desire to decarbonize as quickly as possible, as well as the denuclearization policies implemented in some countries, have led to a dramatic increase in the importance of volatile renewables. But despite this, today only 15 percent of the primary energy generated in the European Union comes from RES. A significant side effect of the processes of rapid transition away from our domestic raw materials - mainly hard coal and lignite - has been increased dependence on exported fossil fuels. Or rather, on a single exported fuel, namely the Russian gas.

THE DREAM OF A FULLY RENEWABLE FUTURE

- The war unleashed by Russia gave Poland a unique opportunity to “polonise” the EU’s climate policy, i.e., to arm it with the attributes of derusification and diversification. However, in order to play these cards, Warsaw will need to demonstrate powerful political skills. – comments **Jakub Wiech, deputy Editor-in-Chief of Energetyka24**.

Replacing the Russian raw material with the Qatari or Iranian one is only a half-measure, because using gas is connected with CO₂ emission. Therefore, Europe’s next step is to think about accelerating the transition even further towards meeting its needs entirely through renewable sources. Germany has even declared a super ambitious plan to achieve 100 percent RES generation in just 13 years, by 2035.

Leaving aside the issues of financial and social costs of such acceleration, further growth of already high energy prices, as well as doubts about the environmental impact of RES installations at the production and maintenance stages, it is worth noting that the basic deficit of these sources is still unsolved in the systemic dimension: they are dependent on natural conditions (weather, day time, hydrology, geology, etc.). For the foreseeable future, renewables will need to be supported by other proven and stable generation technologies to ensure an uninterrupted supply of electricity to our factories and homes.

- Development of RES is a key element on the way to independence from conventional energy sources, as well as to increase Poland’s energy security. Łukasiewicz Research Network conducts a number of research and development projects in the field of innovative energy storage technologies, hydrogen technologies as well as

wind energy, which directly support the dynamic process of energy transformation of the country. – **adds dr Piotr Dardziński, President of Łukasiewicz Research Network.**

CLIMATE NEUTRALITY IN A SECURE EUROPE

In light of the Russian aggression, nuclear power, available almost immediately, proven and climate-neutral, may become the best, most effective and cheapest way to achieve energy security for our continent. And, incidentally, to deprive Russia of its gas weapons.

- Large-scale nuclear energy can successfully replace coal and gas, making Poland and Europe independent of Russian supplies and guaranteeing access to large amounts of cheap energy in a long, over 60-year perspective. – **says Artur Beck, producer and organizer of the TOGETAIR Climate Summit, President of the Positive Ideas Foundation.** - *It is a fully controllable, safe, modern and zero-emission source. It is characterized by the lowest environmental footprint if we take into account the entire process of manufacturing the equipment, its disposal, the lifespan of the installation and the amount of energy produced. Implementation of the Polish Nuclear Power Programme within the assumed timeframe should be an unquestionable priority.*

TOGETAIR 2022 – THE VOICE OF THE THREE SEAS INITIATIVE

The Climate Summit will traditionally be held on 20-21-22 April to include the symbolic 22 April, the International Earth Day. The event, realized in hybrid formula and broadcast from a studio, will be available for free and without registration on the main websites of the most important Polish internet portals and on social media. Considering the previous editions, the audience is expected to reach a total of about 30 million viewers.

In 2022 the event will have an international dimension, strengthening cooperation between Poland – the countries of the Three Seas Initiative and the European Union.

The organizers of the international Climate Summit have invited representatives of ministries, local governments at the rank of marshals, representatives of state-owned companies as well as international corporations and smaller businesses. They will also host a number of institutions: universities and research institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations and the media, which will conduct thematic debates.

Learn more:

[TOGETAIR Programme Board](#)
[Thematic Agenda TOGETAIR 2022](#)

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Press Room

TOGETAIR Climate Summit

Polish Multimedia Climate Report

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