

The energy supply issue is connected with the development of the relations between the EU and Iran, in the near future

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Iran is Europe's sixth most important supplier of energy. Since 1991 Europe has become more and more dependent upon Russia for natural gas imports. Its energy needs have gone up and its diversification strategy has not been efficiently implemented. Given its geographical location and the fact that Iran has the world's second largest fossil energy resources, it has the potential to become the most important supplier of energy to Europe, as well as the most economic transit route between the oil rich Caspian Sea states and Europe. Although the relationship has significant growth potential, its development has been severely hampered by the political turmoil. Over the past three years European energy firms have been pulling out of Iran, and European Union sanctions prohibit any further investment in the Iranian energy sector. There is a risk in this strategy in that, given the competition between energy consumption in Asia and Europe and limited energy resources, Iran will continue to diversify its consumer base and provide energy guarantees to other countries such as India, Pakistan and China. As in other areas, here too Chinese and other Asian enterprises are eager to move in on the Europeans' business territory. How do you see all these? Don't you think EU is losing too much by following the US policies toward Iran, while Iran has announced its readiness to build trust with international community over its peaceful nuclear program?

The energy supply issue is connected with the development of the relations between the EU and Iran, in the near future. I hope for the best, of course, but this will all be dependent on further development.



As I've pointed out earlier, I do not think that the EU is following solely the US policies. The EU also has had serious concerns about peaceful orientation of Iranian nuclear program as well as about the level of human rights abuse. The EU has also announced its readiness to lift the sanctions in the future – and possibly even the energetic sanctions – given specific conditions are met. I believe that both parties will finally fulfill the conditions and the normal, friendly and peaceful cooperation between the EU and Iran could be re-established.

