EU ENERGY PANEL HIGHLIGHTS
December 1, 2015

BRIGHAM MCCOWN:

[00:00:00] I'm honored to serve as chairman and CEO of Aii and I hope you'll have an opportunity to read an article titled "An Energy Disunion: Challenges and Opportunities in Europe's Emerging Energy Market" which will be published in early January in the European Energy Journal.

DOUGLAS HENGEL:
If you go back to the beginning as of European integration after World War II, energy was at the center of it. It wasn't, you know, the treaty establishing the European coal and steel community, um, but since then, European integration as it affects energy policy has not been smooth, I would say. There are differences among the countries and their energy mixes and structures of energy markets and a desire to protect national champions. This has all resulted in different interests of member states, I think, hindering energy policy cooperation. **[00:01:00]** so where are we today? The EU imports more than half of the energy it consumes. Its import dependency is particularly high for oil, more than 90% and natural gas about 2/3, uh, with a total import bill of more than a billion Euros a day. Um, these dependencies on imports for oil and natural gas are likely to grow. Of particular concern is where countries rely on a single supplier for an energy source such as the countries, I think there are six of them that rely entirely or almost so on Russia for their natural gas, and in the Baltic countries which are heavily dependent on Russia for operation in balancing of electric grids. Russia supplies about 30% or so of EU's gas supply. So, this dependence leaves these countries vulnerable to the supply disruptions whether it is for political reasons or commercial disputes or failure of infrastructure.

PETER ZELENAK:
As far as the dependence on the, **[00:02:00]** uh, imports of oil and gas, the situation has not changed, you know, for as we are fully dependent on, on Russian imports and as was correctly mentioned, um, this is not a very good situation because Russians are not hesitant to use that position, monopolistic position, uh, for their, uh, for their, for improvement of their own situation and they could be quite ruthless. And we understand that the US is putting more and more gas on the world market and it is having its effect but we would like to increase, we would like to have the increase of that tendency to a larger extent so that we in Central and East Europe would feel it also. That that is the main message.

MINDAUGAS ZICKUS: Like what is going on in, in Europe, um, is not a joke. It, what Russia has triggered is something really serious and, um, also serious not just in security and defense perspective but also from the economic and energy perspective, **[00:03:00]** that a power like the United States simply cannot stand behind the closed door, having the key and having the ability to open that door, and just refuse to enter the new realities that, that this world presents. And the new realities come not just because Russia has provoked the United States to open the door but because it's natural because United States went through the Shale revolution that the United States facing realities related to oil and other hydrocarbon resources.

AMBASSADOR RICHARD KAUZLARICH:
There, there is a demand side to this that I think both policymakers and businesses need to, need to look at. Um, demand that we will just talk about gas right now, uh, in Europe for gas is declining. Uh, it's going to be a very, very competitive market. It's not just a question of whether US ally and EU will or will not be exported **[00:04:00]** so all of you people out in the audience who have anything to say about this, make sure we get legislation that allows US to, to export gas and oil. You know, the real question is, you know, let's talk about what can, the US do, what should we do. What can we do as a government? The major thing is both the US and Europe have to remove the barriers to the market working. That means, allowing exports of oil and gas from the United States, for starters, and these liberalization measures that we have been talking about in Europe still haven't entirely, entirely taken hold.

AMBASSADOR ANDRAS SIMONYI:
So if the EU vice president comes here and says that America, listen to me, we need your participation for all kinds of reasons, for all kinds of reasons, um, then you better believe it. Russian gas will never only be energy. It's always geopolitics and trust me, while of course the CEO of Gazprom has this calculation, uh, is it viable, is it, is it, is this really **[00:05:00]** a business we can carry? But trust me, the consideration is first and foremost political. As we sit here today, as we have are having a discussion in the US congress, there is another meeting in Moscow in the Kremlin discussing how can we use the energy tool to further divide Europe, further divide the United States and Europe and wreak havoc in the European Union? And this is the, this is the way you have to think about it. But as things stand today with all the mess that we have in Europe, I think it is in the interest of the United States to be part not only of the debate and dialogue but show some leadership on how we can fix this together, how the transatlantic community can be more energy-independent taking into account all the developments, renewables, the future of gas, coal, **[00:06:00]** everything, so that we can in a few years that we can say in a few years that we actually did the right thing. At the end of the day, if there is an understanding that the United States needs to be a participant to make Europe less dependent on sources of gas and oil that are, that are sources that are difficult, that are threatening, that are unilateral, uh, you know, if, if that is, is clear, then I think that is, that is really our intention, our goal. **[00:06:38]**