

Energy – A Reinforced Obstacle to Democracy

An international seminar organised by the Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (FRIDE), with the support of German Marshall Fund of the United States

Madrid, 23rd May 2008

Casa de Galicia, Casado del Alisal, Madrid 28014

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AGENDA

09.30 – 10.00 Registration

10.00 – 10.15 **Words of welcome**

- **Pierre Schori**, Director General, FRIDE, Spain
 - **John Glenn**, Director of Foreign Policy, German Marshall Fund, the United States
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10.15 – 11.45 **Energy and Democracy: Global Trends**

Chair:

- **Pierre Schori**, FRIDE, Spain

Panel:

- **Terry Lynn Karl**, Professor of Political Science, Stanford University, USA (*Invited*)
- **Ricardo Soares de Oliveira**, Lecturer in Comparative Politics, Oxford University, UK (*Invited*)
- **Michele Dunne**, Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (*Invited*)

Not one of twenty-two countries whose economies are dominated by oil is a consolidated democracy, and all have levels of corruption disproportionately high for their respective levels of development. Many analysts argue that the rise in oil prices in recent years is unremittingly bad for democracy. Is the equation really as simple and as bleak as that?

11.45 – 12.15 Coffee break

12.15 – 13.45 **Comparing Democracy Promotion in Energy-Rich Countries: US and EU Approaches**

Chair and introduction

- **Richard Youngs**, Director, Democratisation Programme, FRIDE, Spain

Speakers

- **Vidar Helgesen**, Chair, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Sweden (*Invited*)
- **Matthew Bryza**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Department of State, USA

(Invited)

- **Sean O' Regan**, Policy Unit, Council of the European Union, Belgium (*Invited*)

Many experts point to the increasing dependency of the EU and US on energy supplies from non-democratic states, themselves emboldened by rising oil and gas prices. Conventional wisdom is that this is seriously undermining the commitment to democracy promotion. Is this true?

13.45 – 14.45 Lunch

14.45 – 16.15 **Democracy and Energy Case Studies: Angola, Azerbaijan and Saudi Arabia**

Chair and introduction

- **Paul Isbell**, Director, Energy Programme, Real Instituto Elcano, Spain (*Invited*)

Speakers

- **Alex Vines**, Head of the Africa Programme, Chatham House, United Kingdom (*Invited*)
- **Leila Alieva**, Director, Centre for National and International Studies (CNIS), Azerbaijan (*Confirmed*)
- **Gerd Nonneman**, Professor of International Relations and Middle East Politics, University of Exeter, United Kingdom (*Confirmed*)

Focusing on three country case studies, this Session will discuss how global energy requirements have affected these producer countries and how measures outlined by previous speakers to foster democratic governance may or may not apply to these case studies. All three countries are distinct in their energy economies and political circumstances. Examined together do they show that the relationship between energy security and democratization policies differs between contexts?

16.15 – 16.30 Break

16.30 – 18.00 **Policy Implications: How to Reconcile Democracy and Energy?**

Moderator:

- **Richard Youngs**, FRIDE, Spain

Panel:

- **Anthony Cordesman**, 'Arleigh A. Burke Chair' in Strategy, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), USA (*Invited*)
 - **Thomas O. Melia**, Deputy Executive Director, Freedom House, USA (*Confirmed*)
 - **Roel von Meijenfeldt**, Executive Director, Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), the Netherlands (*Invited*)
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21.00 – Dinner at restaurant Cenador del Prado, Calle Prado 4

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