

Review
of the Master thesis written by Elena Ionenkova
on the topic: "External economic strategy of the Russian Federation in the sphere of energy for
the period until 2030"

| | Scale of assessments, scores | | Scores | | | |
|-----|--|----------|------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| | | | High | Medium | Low | Unsatisfactor |
| | excellent (A) | 8,5 – 10 | | | | |
| | verygood (B) | 7 – 8,4 | | | | |
| | good (C) | 6 – 6,9 | | | | |
| | satisfactory (D) | 5 – 5,9 | | | | |
| | low (E) | 4 – 4,9 | 0,8 | 0,8 | 0,5 | 0 |
| | failed (F) | < 3,9 | -1 | - 0,5 | - 0,1 | |
| 1. | Compliance of the thesis theme with the MA programme competences | | 1 | | | |
| 2. | Conception's authenticity, the author's own approach to the problem | | 0,9 | | | |
| 3. | Clarity of goals and objectives of the study | | 1 | | | |
| 4. | Scientific and practical significance of the study | | 0,8 | | | |
| 5. | Presence of authentic information collected and processed by the author | | 0,8 | | | |
| 6. | The author's relevant use of economic analysis methods | | 0,8 | | | |
| 7. | Theoretical background of the study | | 0,8 | | | |
| 8. | The scale of use of foreign sources by the author | | 1 | | | |
| 9. | The scale the author uses the studies issued by the Economic Faculty of SPSU | | 1 | | | |
| 10. | Degree of compliance with the University requirements for diploma works | | 0,8 | | | |
| | Total score | | 8,9 | | | |

The Master thesis could be criticized by the following issues:

1. On page 22, the author refers to the intellectual debate on the impact of natural resources on national economic development. In this sense, it is probably worth to present broader overview and analysis of different theoretical approaches in this field and their influence on determination of external economic strategy in whole and energy strategy in particular.

2. The Part 1 of Chapter II is assumed to indicate legal and theoretical aspects of Russia-EU and Russia-USA energy dialogue, what are they? Could the author specify them more clearly?

3. On page 51 and later on, the author concerns the concept of 'energy security'. What is energy security by Russian perspective and by perspectives of its main partners? And how could we characterize the role of Russia in terms of international energy security?

4. In the Part 4 of Chapter III, the author reveals that the main focus of Russian-Latin American energy relations is on projects in gas extraction and Gazprom activities. This view is seemed to be too narrow. For instance, PetroMiranda is not the only example of Russian-Latin American cooperation in the oil industry.

5. Finally, there are some formal remarks. The size of the thesis seems to be exceeded. There are no graphs and tables in the text (all of them are in annexes). The Chapter I doesn't have paragraphs. And the conclusion is too broad.

However, the Master thesis of Elena Ionenkova is broadly in line with the University requirements for studies of this kind and may be admitted to assessment; preliminary evaluation is excellent (A).

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