

POLISH POWER TO 2030

Sketching a more integrated energy policy which meets the needs of the environment, the economy, and society

An initial contribution to a public-private collaboration in developing energy policy in Poland

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Combined economic, environmental and social pressures influencing Poland today and continuing into the coming 20 to 30 years, transform the issue of establishing a new energy policy into one of paramount importance for all areas of society. Poland not only has to solve a range of current energy problems, but also needs to be ready to address a new wave of challenges arising from global, regional, and domestic changes. In order to mitigate the risk of jeopardizing the competitiveness of Polish economy, the policy makers put the energy policy updating at the top of the political agenda.

However, a broad consensus has to be achieved, and a large-scale debate involving a broad constituency of all the stakeholders is necessary in order to generate a general support for the measures needed to implement that policy.

This paper is a shortened and simplified version of the report “Polish Power to 2030” [1] aimed at embracing a range of issues which energy policy should cover - social, environmental, and economic questions, putting that in the wide context of European and global challenges. It also aims to involve a broad group of active participants in the energy debate.

It begins by setting the world and EU energy and environment contexts. The core part of this report discusses the energy demand and the situation of energy sector in Poland now and the magnitude of problems facing Polish economy, Polish society and, last but not least, Polish environment in the coming period. Then, through the analysis of different scenarios it proceeds by discussing the framework of possible developments in the next 30 years, which advocate measures presenting ways in which obstacles can be turned into advantages for Poland as a whole.

Polish energy sector will need huge investment if its capacity is to meet the projected demand, the requirements of European regulations and, given the age of its plants, the necessity to replace decommissioned equipment once it reaches its lifetime. In order to attract such investment, which is indispensable for maintaining Poland’s energy security, it is essential to have in place a firm set of reliable policy measures, based on clear and consensual policy principles, and supported by transparent and stable regulation.

So the last part of the report “Polish Power to 2030” turns this vision for future of energy in Poland into a set of propositions of political programmes. They could be implemented into regulations once they will have been discussed and analysed by the stakeholders and the policy makers in order to provide a stable framework for the future.

Reference

- [1] L. Jestin, S. Blach, G. Wolf, R. Domaradzki, “Polish Power to 2030 - Sketching a more integrated energy policy which meets the needs of the environment, the economy, and society”, Energetyka, Special Edition nr IV (September 2004)