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TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE STRENGTHENING OF THE UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE THROUGH THE INTEGRATION INTO THE EUROPEAN ENERGY SYSTEM

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The sustainable energy management and diversification of energy sources are the basis of energy independence of any country.

Due to researches that have been conducted in 2020 by the Global Energy Institute (USA), Ukraine ranked the last the 25th place among the world's largest energy countries in terms of energy security. In addition, Ukraine has been one of the largest energy markets in continental Europe. In view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the European Commission has reconsidered its approaches to strengthening energy security. The situation caused by hostilities on the territory of Ukraine has shown how the European energy supply system was imperfect and vulnerable. Therefore, today in the EU the issue of sharing energy produced by member states has been on the agenda.

Issues of Ukraine's energy independence, prospects and ways to achieve them were relevant and were in the field of constant discussion by Ukrainian and foreign experts, specialists, activists, business representatives. On their opinion, Ukraine has had the best chance to resolve crisis issues and make the right decisions.

The issue of creating road maps and choosing the direction of development of the industry for Ukraine was no longer relevant now. Today the time of practical decisions and actions has been at the state level, monitoring of the integration of the domestic energy system into the European one.

European integration processes in the industry would have a positive impact on strengthening Ukraine's energy independence in several aspects simultaneously:

• reduction of the energy intensity and increase of the energy efficiency;

• reduction of the import dependence and dependence on one supplier with the development of competition;

• synchronization with the European energy system ENTSO-E;

• development of the renewable energy sources to reduce dependence on traditional one (coal, gas, oil).

The implementation of the national legislation with European energy sector would help to strengthen Ukraine's energy independence. This would allow domestic enterprises of the industry without significant losses to enter into a single European energy system and create common rules for all market players (participants). This state

of the industry would increase its investment attractiveness and competitiveness in order to transition to clean and safe technologies.

An important task of the domestic electricity market today was to complete its liberalization as soon as possible. The application of the European experience in the management of the industry would solve some systemic problems, and consumers and manufacturers would benefit from such a market through the development of competitive areas of industry [1].

Ukraine has had enough resources of alternative energy sources (wind, solar) to produce energy and invest in the domestic industry, create jobs, abandon the export of energy resources and spend significant funds, paying for energy.

It has been proven that renewable energy sources are expensive – this is a myth. Wind energy was one of the cheapest types of energy today. Ukraine also has had significant technical and potential resources to build the wind turbines.

The indispensable experience Germany, which had thousands of power stations across the country using renewable energy sources was an excellent example for Ukraine. This provided Germany the energy security and reliability with a high degree.

Unfortunately, the energy has become a lever of influence and blackmail, which consequences could lead to a long-term energy crisis. This has been repeatedly provoked by Russia and other dishonest countries. But, according to experts, Ukraine should be considered in the European energy sector as a field of opportunity, and not as a country-object of energy pressure. Among the components of energy independence, they called the next: the need to monitor energy consumption and understand the energy picture; the analysis and regulation of the energy consumption model, introduction of the so-called “smart energy”, which has created jobs, reduced the burden on the environment and increased the level of independence [2].

It was quite justified that the main problems of the domestic energy sector include imperfect regulatory policy, high levels of import dependence and low energy efficiency [3]. The experts have called the monopolization of certain segments of the energy market, non-transparency of the tariff and subsidy system, insufficient level of diversification and extraction of resources, shortage of certain types of natural energy sources among other reasons. The imperfect technical condition of energy infrastructure, the high level of debt for consumed resources contribute to the deepening of the social crisis and in general have reduced the level of energy security of Ukraine. Today, the above-mentioned problems were also added to those that were provoked by military actions on the territory of Ukraine, including the destruction of a large number of infrastructure facilities.

Before Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, goals and objectives were set to strengthen the country's energy independence – the availability of a projected resource base, improving the discipline of consumption, development of a civilized energy market, institutional and legislative integration into European energy networks. Russia's daily military aggression was causing devastating damage to the national economy, including the energy sector, adding the task of rebuilding and creating a reliable infrastructure with its complete technical re-equipment. Moreover, issues of energy independence and energy efficiency were a priority.

But the main focus has remained on the introduction of a common regulatory policy with the EU. The task of fulfilling Ukraine's international obligations within the framework of the Paris Climate Agreement on energy decarbonization and combating climate change through the formation of a balance between the environmental friendliness of energy-generating capacities was especially important.

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