



## EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

While we are currently experiencing a collapse in crude oil prices, global energy demand continues unabated. Competition for resources is set to increase further over the medium to long term. This trend applies equally to industrialised countries and developing regions. In these times of global unrest, crises and wars, this observation becomes more critical when one considers the aspect of energy supply security. Regulatory policies – and therefore the significance of the supply of energy and natural resources as a vital prerequisite for any economy – are becoming increasingly intertwined with foreign and security policy. In addition, the field of actors involved in this area has become more diverse, providing potential for conflicts of interest. Where energy security is concerned, private companies, (semi-)state-owned enterprises, government institutions, international organisations, the civil society and other market players pursue different goals.

With a view to ensuring long-term energy supply security and careful use of scarce resources, Germany is pushing the *Energiewende* forward, the virtually complete move to renewable energies by 2050. The U.S., by contrast, prefers to invest in its vast reserves of domestic shale gas to cover its energy demand. Compared to coal and oil, this fuel is lower in emissions, and its production does not entail the risks nuclear energy does. It does, however, entail unforeseeable environmental risks. The collapse of crude oil prices also raises questions about the cost-effectiveness of shale gas production. By pointing to the United States, energy expert Jan-Justus Andreas explains that

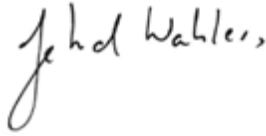
while its concern for energy independence “does not provide total protection against external crises in the era of globalised energy markets, it does place the United States in a stronger geopolitical position”.

The continuing crisis in Ukraine illustrates how energy supply issues can serve as bargaining chips for power politics and territorial interests. Energy supply security as a public good cannot be provided by market forces alone or decreed by law. Legal expert Hartmut Kahl points this out in his analysis of European energy security. That said, the European Union can put various legislative instruments in place to provide a framework as a provision for the future and as a means for coping with acute crisis situations. Under former EU Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger, important steps were taken to set the course for a common energy policy. The new EU Commission is maintaining this approach, which is reflected, among other things, by the creation of the post of Vice President for the Energy Union and by the goals set for the further development of the internal energy market. The EU is intent on reducing its dependence on fuel imports and on diversifying its sources and channels of supply while at the same time fulfilling its international obligations regarding climate protection.

2015 will be a crucial year in this respect. Previous UN climate conferences have left many questions unanswered, and industrialised and emerging countries are deliberating over binding obligations. As a case in point, the Lima Climate Change Conference (COP 20) held a few weeks ago produced only a compromise. The outcome gives little hope for an effective climate protection agreement – measured by the two-degree target – to be reached in Paris (COP 21) in December 2015. This is in part due to the conduct of the two largest carbon dioxide emitters, the U.S. and China, who only agreed to non-binding and low-scale goals. And in China’s case, these will not enter into effect until 2030.

The activities of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Germany and around the world reflect its support for a secure, economically viable and climate-friendly energy supply. We see this topic as a challenge that bears security and regulatory implications. In that respect, inter-generational equity and preservation nature are determining factors. As

two sides of the same coin, the protection of climate and resources as well as energy security therefore represent a central cross-cutting task, which we engage with competence and commitment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gerhard Wahlers," with a stylized flourish at the end of the word "Wahlers".

Dr. Gerhard Wahlers  
Deputy Secretary General

[gerhard.wahlers@kas.de](mailto:gerhard.wahlers@kas.de)