

Closing Word

Six demands for politics to establish cooperative solutions for global resource security

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Introduction

Besides preservation of peace and liberty one of the primary political goals includes securing prosperity and wealth. In our times wealth is based on raw materials and its utilisation. There is no doubt that, the use of raw materials will continue indispensable in the future. In order to secure prosperity the access to raw materials has to be guaranteed. That is why the secure and cost-efficient supply of raw materials has become an important question of foreign policy.

It is a fact that Europe and the USA do not possess sufficient raw materials. The majority of raw materials has to be imported. Until now the deposits of oil and gas which were used by US-Americans and Europeans were sufficient.

Due to new competitors the situation on the global resource market has become more difficult. Today India, China and other emerging countries have also a huge need of resources. The USA and the European states have nowadays to put up with the fact they are not the only importers of raw materials anymore. Important to add, the new consumers are not our enemies but our partners. They face the same challenges we do and from our point of view it is logical to try solving those challenges together.

Resources' access has become harder through the fact that the majority of resources is found in political instable countries. Around 70% of global oil and gas reserves are to be found in the Golf Region and Central Asia.

Many states which export raw materials are using their resource' advantage as a factor in their power politics, e.g. Russia uses its resources as a strategic instrument in enforcing their own interests. Furthermore, what has been known as a cooperative attitude in the past has changed into an incalculable direction. Iran and Venezuela are the best examples in this case.

It is the duty of every society to secure resources. In this case politics have to be supported by economy. These and other points were discussed at the International Conference of the East-West Institute and the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation. After this conference we can conclude six demands for politics in order to secure resource supply:

1. Securing resource supply through the diversification of suppliers

Suppliers of raw materials are concentrated in certain regions. In spite of this, the USA and the European states should have as many suppliers as possible. Neither the USA nor European states should be dependant on few like-minded suppliers. Such a dependency could create political power-alliances which are neither in the

interest of the USA nor of Europe. Because of this, we recommend politics on one hand to identify new partnerships and on the other hand to make new supply efforts, e.g. building pipelines or expanding capacities of existing harbours.

2. Securing resource supply through maintenance the relationship with suppliers as well as with competitors and in addition by supporting stabile internal affairs in the supplier state

Diversity of raw materials suppliers and security in transit and transport should be backed up by foreign and security policy. In other words, the relationship with supplier states and transit states need to be expanded. Therefore, the European Union should give priority to build good political relationships with its Eastern neighbours also in view of resource' supply. Furthermore, international policies should become stricter concerning resource supply and should include supplier countries, as well.

New competitors should be integrated into the international resource security law system. The USA, the European Union, and emerging countries have, when it comes to resource security, the same interests. The implementation of one cooperative strategy combining all competitors should be the interest of all sides.

An additional very important goal of foreign policy is to achieve political and economical stability in raw materials owning states as well as in transit states. Therefore, supporting stabile democratic conditions in those countries strengthens our resource' supply, too. EWI and KAF have an important role in this case. The results of our efforts are sometimes not seen right away. But there is no doubt that a democratic, reliable and value sharing government in supplier states will assure cooperative approaches and solutions in energy questions.

3. Security of resource supply through quest for new deposits

It is possible that new raw material deposits will be discovered in the future. Sea bottom is a territory that has been rarely discovered for raw materials, yet. Better technologies will make depolymerisation possible in the future. Therefore, it should be invested in the quest for new deposits as well as in further technical development.

4. Securing resource supply through encouraging the use of renewable energies

Renewable energies are not going to substitute the existing energy resources. Bio-power-materials, wind-wheels or solar-cells will not be sufficient enough to cover all our energy needs. However, one part of our energy needs can be covered by

renewable energies and that will decrease the dependency of supplier states in general.

The existing plan of the German government is that until the year 2020 20% of Germany's energy need should be covered by renewable energy. If this is technically possible this opportunity has to be used. Politics and economics should not neglect the possibility of technology development in renewable energies.

Besides, the development of such technologies is an interest of emerging countries, as well. The USA and Germany hold good facilities and know-how in this case and should apply it worldwide.

5. Supply security through new technological development

The new technological advancement should be put into action, e.g. in water recycling and fusion technology. New technologies can decrease the dependency of irreplaceable raw materials. The USA and the European states should use their competence in nuclear technology. Emerging countries could follow on this way. Our leading position in these technologies will help our domestic economy, as well.

6. The resources should be used efficiently and economically

Efficiently used resources lead to a lower usage rate and thus reduced imports of raw materials. Further development of energy saving power plants, engines, and household appliances has to be supported in order to reduce raw material usage. On an international level it should be recommended that saving raw materials technologies should be further developed.