

**Jarosław Ćwiek-Karpowicz**

Polish Institute of International Affairs; University of Warsaw, Poland

## **CHANCES FOR CLOSER COOPERATION? AZERBAIJAN'S ENERGY SUPPLIES TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**

### **ABSTRACT**

The article sketches out the development of the EU–Azerbaijan energy relations. It examines energy needs and potentials of these two partners and identifies their main interests. It sums up the main challenges, chances and obstacles for the EU and Azerbaijan related to the strengthening their energy cooperation and illustrates perspectives of development of their energy policies in the nearest future.

### **Key words**

energy supplies, EU-Azerbaijan, Shah Deniz, Nabucco West

### **1. Introduction**

Despite all innovations related with using of renewable sources of energy, it is widely known that fossil fuels will remain dominant in the short and mid-term perspectives. Nowadays they account for more than three fourths of global energy mix and in the next decade their share would be probably on the same level. Among them crude oil and natural gas, as a widely used and globally traded energy resources which reserves are unevenly distributed, are responsible in the most extend for energy security in the world. Therefore relations between the European Union, one of the biggest oil and gas consumer, and Azerbaijan, the energy supplier which is located not very far from the EU, draw special attention of many policy – and opinion-makers in Europe.

In recent years the EU's external policy is focused very much on strengthening energy links with exporting countries from post-Soviet area. The EU, which includes the most developed economies of the world and has very limited access