

Justyna Miecznikowska-Jerzak

Keywords: Austria, political parties, electoral manifestos, environmental protection, tackling climate change, energy transition

The aim of the article is to identify the stances of the five main Austrian parliamentary parties on environmental protection, energy transition and climate change mitigation. It was considered interesting to investigate whether the topic of environmental protection was present on the Austrian political scene in the inter-party rivalry even prior to European Union enacting legally binding climate targets as a result of the implementation of the European Green Deal. The adopted research hypothesis is that environmental policy is a topic around which political groups in Austria are increasingly positioning themselves. The importance of environmental protection, climate change mitigation and energy transition has been demonstrated by the increasing amount of space allotted to these topics in Austrian parties' election manifestos over the years.

The National Council election manifestos of Austria's main political parties from the three legislative elections held between 2013 and 2019 are quantitatively analysed. The 2019 electoral programs are also qualitatively examined, but from before the adoption of the Union's commitment to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. In order to find similarities and differences between political parties, the electoral programs of Austrian parties were scrutinized for variations or consistency in content related to the green transition (in such areas as combating climate change, decarbonization, switching to renewable energy sources, and increasing energy efficiency).

Adam Romejko

Keywords: Austria, EAG-Paket, Leonore Gewessler, Greens, renewable energy

Today, ecology, including renewable energy, holds significant importance and there is an abundance of social and political organisations addressing this matter. One of them is the Green party, which has been active in Austria for several decades. The aim of the article is to discuss the role of the Greens in the deployment of renewable energy in Austria. The article's research hypothesis posits that the Austrian Greens differ from other political groups in Austria regarding renewable energy issues. To verify the hypothesis, the following research questions were formulated: 1. What does the history of the Austrian Greens look like? 2. How did the Greens enter politics? 3. What concepts about renewable energy are included in the Greens' electoral programmes? 4. How have they been implemented in everyday life since the Greens entered into government coalition with the People's Party? 5. What part does Minister Leonore Gewessler play in this process? 6. What flaws in the Greens' environmental policy can be identified? In preparing the article, methods typical of political science research were used, such as formal-legal analysis and the historical method.

In conclusion, it can be stated that the Greens, as an opposition party, openly shared their ideas on renewable energy. Their arrival in government brings, on the one hand, the opportunity to put those ideas into practice and, on the other, the necessity to confront the existing reality. Due to the 'political realignment', the Greens have compromised their previous principles, such as grassroots democracy, and have consented to substantial environmental interference. The last concern involves constructing the facilities required to produce and store renewable energy on an industrial scale.

Magdalena Żakowska

Keywords: Austria, Russia, crisis, press discourse, 2022

The aim of the article is to examine the media discourse in Austria, mainly focusing on the opinion-shaping press, concerning the post-2022 crisis in relations with the Russian Federation and its political and economic ramifications. The author formulated two research hypotheses: 1) The above-mentioned discourse pertains to Austria's ingrained perception of itself as a small, neutral nation and a member of the EU. 2) Depending on which of the three referenced images prevails in particular narratives, issues related to Russia, including the Russian threat, are framed in varying contexts.

The article relies on two main research methods: content analysis of mass media, which includes the search function and extracting keywords, alongside a critical analysis of the discussed discourse (research period: February 2022-December 2023; selected titles representative of the opinion-shaping press: *Der Standard*, *Kurier*, *Die Presse*).

The author reaches the following conclusions: 1) There is a correlation between references to the Second Republic as a small state and the tendency to thematize the crisis associated with Russia in terms of economic survival, and especially – to portray Austria's economic situation more pessimistically than would be warranted by objective factors. 2) There is a consensus in the opinion-shaping press regarding the negative assessment of the Kremlin's actions related to violations of international law. 3) The Austrian media discourse is confronting inquiries about the outcomes of the country's long-standing close ties with Russia. It fluctuates along the narrative spectrum of explanatory vs. error-identifying orientation. The first perspective is common in narratives addressing Austria's unique international status (perpetual neutrality, role as a mediator), while the second is found in those referring to the country on the Danube as part of the EU.

Aleksandra Kruk

Keywords: Austria, international conferences, Munich Security Conferences, Russian-Ukrainian war, migration crisis

The article attempts to examine how Austria's interests and goals were presented at the annual meetings of the Munich Security Conferences in comparison to the WEF gatherings in Davos, which have been organized since the 1960s to discuss international politics.

Austria's status as a small, stable and neutral state has conditioned its diplomatic efforts at the Munich Security Conferences as well as in international politics. Austrian politicians actively engage in the conferences, presenting Austria's interests and political goals that follow from current issues, including the Russian-Ukrainian war and the migration crisis. The article examines the activity of Austria's leading politicians, Sebastian Kurz, Katrin Kneissl and Alexander Schallenberg, through the lens of Austria's standing and image abroad. It also analyses Austria's discourse at the post-2015 Munich Security Conference.

The author of the article decided to verify the hypothesis that the rhetoric presented at the Munich meetings aligned with the Austrian government's stated and carried out policy in other international fora. The second hypothesis postulated that despite the fact that Austria's participation in the Munich Security Conferences was meant to enhance Austria's favorable reputation internationally, it was criticized, particularly with regard to Austria's stance towards Russia.

The method of analyzing strategic documents and the discourse of politicians at the post-2015 Munich Security Conferences was used. Contextual analysis was also helpful in determining the circumstances and background against which Austrian politicians made their security policy statements.

Agnieszka Kisztelińska-Wegrzyńska

Keywords: Austria, patriotism, identity, globalization, neutrality, Central Europe

In order to assess the patriotic attitude embodied by Bruno Kreisky, a prominent Austrian leader, diplomat and politician, the article uses the biographical method to examine his views and political activity. The author explores Kreisky's emotional bond with Austria and his role in forming Austrian national identity within the framework of patriotism. As a champion of democratic values, Kreisky showed a strong commitment to the ideals of equality, social justice and human rights. His political decisions were often motivated by concern for the welfare of the nation and the need to build a strong community. Kreisky was one of the first European leaders to recognize the increasing globalization and the importance of international collaboration. He promoted dialogue as a means of resolving disputes and actively participated in international negotiations as part of his innovative approach to diplomacy.

The article discusses pivotal events in Kreisky's political career, including the State Treaty negotiations, the formulation of Austria's neutrality policy, and initiatives to improve Austria's standing in international organizations. His attitude toward social concerns is also scrutinized, indicating a dedication to building a democratic society. The conclusions show Kreisky as a leader that shaped Austria's national identity in addition to being a diplomat who had a significant impact on world affairs. Today's elites, who aim to strike a balance between national values and a global perspective on international collaboration, find inspiration in his legacy.

Janusz Józef Węc

Keywords: EU constitutional reform, EU institutional system, EU axiology, enhanced

cooperation in the EU, annual and multi-annual EU budgets, treaty revision procedures

The research objective of the article is a comparative analysis of the proposal from the European Parliament dated November 22, 2023 and the Franco-German working group of September 18 of the same year regarding the European Union treaty reform. The author puts forward a research hypothesis grounded in the assumption that the initiative to convene a new Intergovernmental Conference is both premature and relies on a tactical approach akin to that of Germany and France during the Convention on the Future of Europe (2002-2003) and the Intergovernmental Conference (2003-2004), suggesting that the prospective enlargement of the EU with possibly nine new member states will necessitate significant reforms.

Based on this claim, the author formulates two research questions. Firstly, which proposals from the European Parliament and the Franco-German working group for amending the EU treaties were the most extreme, and why? And secondly, which EU member states were likely to gain the most from these changes, and why?

Beata Molo

Keywords: Germany, Russia, energy policy, *Zeitenwende*

The aim of the article is to analyze and elucidate how the federal government's decisions – and those of the Federal Ministry of Economy and Climate Protection (Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, or BMWK) – have affected Germany's energy policy in light of Russia's full-scale

aggression in Ukraine. The author restricts herself to outlining initiatives that will ensure supplies of natural gas, crude oil and, to a lesser degree, hard coal as replacement for Russian energy sources, and eventually help Germany become energy independent of Russia. In this regard, the problem of creating hydrogen and renewable energy sources is also considered.

The following research questions were asked: How has Germany's energy strategy changed as a result of the full-scale conflict in Ukraine, and are these changes long-lasting? What steps have been made to ensure that Germany is not dependent on imports of energy raw materials, particularly natural gas, from Russia?

The research objective was accomplished and the research questions were addressed through content analysis, comparative analysis, and components of the decision-making method. Various source materials, studies, reports, and press documents were reviewed.

Marcin Koczan

Keywords: Germany, Russia, natural gas, energy crisis, cooperation

The aim of the article is to identify the underlying principles of German-Russian cooperation in the natural gas sector in order to verify the cooperation model after 2022. The text is organized into three main parts that address the following topics: 1. Russia's significance as a natural gas supplier to the European market prior to 2022; 2. Russia's actions in 2021 that exacerbated the energy crisis in the European Union; and 3. a description of the German government's actions in 2021 to lessen the effects of the energy crisis and redefine *Ostpolitik* in light of Russian aggression against Ukraine in February 2022.

The article makes extensive reference to recent world events. Their current characteristics can be found in analytical and expert texts of Polish think tanks such as: the Centre for Eastern Studies, the Institute of Central and Eastern Europe

or the Polish Institute of International Affairs. The redefinition of *Ostpolitik* in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the German-Russian model of collaboration in the gas industry, however, are not well covered in scientific publications. The article is an attempt to change this state of matters and contribute to the debate on the revision of Germany's policy of cooperation with Russia in the gas sector.

The author attempts to answer the following question: How important was Russia as a natural gas supplier to the European market prior to 2022? Did Germany and Russia form a strategic alliance in the gas industry, and if so, how? What effects will Russian measures have on Germany's gas sector? Will the energy sector's strategic collaboration with Russia be permanently terminated?

The primary research method adopted in the article is a critical analysis of the collected materials, which is supplemented by predictive, comparative and systemic analytic methods.

Łukasz Wojcieszak

Keywords: natural gas Russia export sanctions

The aim of this article is to outline the key trends in Russian natural gas exports from 2022 to 2024, when the sanctions imposed led to various limitations, prompting numerous countries to abandon cooperation with Russia.

The thesis that Russia will seek to develop LNG infrastructure in the future has been affirmed. However, this effort will be obstructed by the USA, the top producer of shale gas. Despite many sanctions intended to harm the Russian economy, especially its energy sector, Russia still profits from natural gas sale, including LNG, which helps finance war costs, among other expenses. At present, Russian gas is delivered not only to Western European countries (in liquefied form), but also through pipelines to countries like Turkey, China and the former

USSR states. Russia has managed to offset the decline in gas sales to Europe largely by increasing energy resource prices. US sanctions have contributed to a decrease in Russia's export capacity, hindering the progress of LNG and mainly affecting shipments via the Arctic.

