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WORD OF WELCOME

On behalf of the Institute for European and Globalization Studies, as an organizer, I would like to welcome the participants of the second EU-Eurasian Energy Banking Forum, representatives of the academic, diplomatic, political and business community from the Croatian and international community. A year has passed since the foundation of the first international energy forum. After the success of our second forum, I can already announce a new forum in 2019, at the same place. In this way the Forum becomes traditional and already recognizable in the Republic of Croatia and the international community.

The importance of this second round of the Forum is that its content is placed within the framework of great geopolitical changes happening in the world at the beginning of the 21st century. These changes are seen in the emergence of the new polycentric structure of the world, the new conflict between the West and the East, the West and the West (America-vs.EU), and the conflict between different models of globalization: the Atlantic, the new Eurasian and, so to say, the New Ottoman. Turmoil and conflict are energy-related, which appear to be an essential content of meta-politics, geopolitics and geo-economics. Food, water and energy are essential components of each national state strategy.

Energy in the sense of political science becomes interesting as a means of political power of actors in the international community, and a field of possible editing in the form of policy making. The organization of energy policy as a public policy involves different public actors, among who are people here in this hall.

States and corporations in the field of energy are guided by their own interests. Energy interests and competition generate conflicts between states and corporations. Discourses are often used to address undemocratic regimes, demolishing them to establish democracy. Then, deconstruction of the state follows, in the name of democracy. However, this is just a platform for gaining control over energy resources, for example in the eastern Mediterranean. The consequences are devastated states and massive migrations to Europe.

The gain for those who do it is control over energy resources, as without them there is no system, economy, life, because systems, as is well known in sociology, without energy and information cannot exist. Therefore, the issue of energy is included in the strategies of development, system maintenance and above all national security. Conflicts about energy are above all political. Energy is a policy by other means. It is a possible source of domination and conquest.

The Society at different levels can be observed in two models of relationships. The first is consensus. Another model is a conflict. In the case of energy policy at the international level, we are closer to the conflict model.

Contrary to the conflict model, this Forum is based on the idea of freedom and pluralism of opinions and attitudes, tolerance and dialogue. I would like to thank those here who are cultivating the political philosophy of this Forum. There are those in the Republic of Croatia, who are not willing to join the dialogue, like the LNG leader Mrs. B.D. , and the current Minister of Economy D.H. Dialogue has not killed anyone! Everyone has their reason to avoid dialogue. Those who are free and are not instrumentalized, persons which do not go in early morning, before their working day starts, to Buzin (to the US embassy) to get instructions on their opinions, those are people who are openly speaking about such things.

Here, in fact, I advocate dialogue and economic cooperation between the EU and Eurasia, which applies

to the Republic of Croatia, which should not fall into “Eurocentric blues”. It must be open to the world! I also advocate the distinction between the EU and Europe, because the EU is not the whole of Europe. Europe is a geographically Eurasia. Her beak is Istanbul. Its bridge is the one that connects the European and Asian part of Istanbul. It is a space of simultaneous encounter and collision of civilizations and the space of the eastern Mediterranean is the root of significant, old civilizations. The space of conflicts and wars for energy.

On the other hand, Eurasia is in the cultural sense the conglomerate of culture based on the idea of cultural pluralism and respect for identity, and a special geopolitical entity. It should be noted that in addition to the EU, there is also the Euro-Asian Union. Those two need to cooperate!

The world at the beginning of the 21st century has a new polycentric paradigm. In this world there is a need for dialogue and action driven by economic interests which should come before any ideological grouping. In this new polycentric world Croatia needs to find a model of functioning based on the logic of interest, development and survival in the globalized world in the vessel I call the tub of the Adriatic Sea, just as has been successfully done before for centuries by our Republic of Ragusa (Dubrovnik), which has been dancing between two contemporary powers, the Ottomans and Republic of Venice.

I think I said enough! I want this forum to have a long life and prosperous future and I invite you to the third forum in 2019 in Split. I thank all those who helped the realization of this forum, above all the sponsors, among which I highlight INA and as well the forum participants who made this event a joyful occasion. Good luck to us all!

Thank you!

Split, September 27th, 2018.