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| <b>TITLE</b>    | <b>THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EU EXTERNAL ENERGY POLICY</b>  |
| <b>SUMMARY</b>  | <p>This paper examines the evolution of the EU external energy policy and assesses its impact on the interests of the Russian Federation. Moldova has not been at the heart of the debates on the European energy security and yet may become the first successful example of full integration of a post-Soviet country into a single European energy market. The author outlines two phases in the development of the Brussels’ energy policy towards Moldova. The first phase covered the period of 2005 to 2013 and was dominated by technocratic approaches, aimed at harmonizing the national legislation of Moldova with the European laws and regulations. The ongoing second phase, which began in 2014, has been far more politicized, as manifested, in particular, in a project of the European Energy Union in which the Eastern Partnership countries play a special role. The paper thoroughly analyzes current trends in the development of Moldova’s energy sector with special reference to the Chi in u–Moscow energy dialogue. The conclusion is drawn that in the short term the EU energy policy towards Moldova will be focused on securing energy supplies by encouraging competition between suppliers. Against this background, the author examines projects of additional gas pipelines and power plants, aimed to foster closer integration of Moldova into the EU energy market. For Russia these tendencies have somewhat contradictory implications. On the one hand, Russia–Moldova energy relations will become more transparent and will cease to generate political tensions. On the other hand, Russian state-owned companies ‘Gazprom’ and ‘Inter RAO’ may potentially suffer some economic losses. The author emphasizes that the EU efforts to ensure Moldova’s energy independence with concrete political and technical solutions should not be viewed as a measure aimed at weakening Russia’s presence at the energy market of Moldova, but as one of the most important instruments to consolidate its own ‘structural power’ in this country.</p> |
| <b>KEYWORDS</b> | European Union, Moldova, Russia, gas, electricity, Third Energy Package, energy security, Eastern Partnership.  |