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БАТЫШ АЗИЯ, ТҮНДҮК АФРИКА ЖАНА ЕВРОПАДАГЫ ЭНЕРГЕТИКАЛЫК КООПСУЗДУК

**ЭНЕРГЕТИЧЕСКАЯ БЕЗОПАСНОСТЬ В ЗАПАДНОЙ АЗИИ, СЕВЕРНОЙ АФРИКЕ
И ЕВРОПЕ**

ENERGY SECURITY IN WEST ASIA AND NORTH AFRICA AND EUROPE

Кыскача мүнөздөмө: Дүйнөлүк энергетикалык системалар негизги өзгөрүүлөргө дуушар болуп жатканда, Батыш Азия жана Түндүк Африка (БАТА) региону менен Европа өлкөлөрүнүн ортосундагы энергетикалык коопсуздук өз ара көз карандылык стратегиялык мүмкүнчүлүктөрдү жана критикалык алсыздыктарды бирдей көрсөтүүдө. Көмүрөктүү суутекке бай БАТА региону Европанын энергетикалык муктаждыктарын канааттандырууда маанилүү ролду ойной берүүдө, бирок геосаясий кайра түзүлүүлөр жана климаттык талаптар салттуу өнөктөштүк моделдерин өзгөртүүдө. Региондук кагылышуулардын жана жеткирүү чынжырларынын бузулуусу Европанын белгилүү энергетикалык коридорлорго ашыкча көз карандылыгынын системдик коркунучтарын ачып койду, ал эми кайра жаралуучу энергетикалык технологиялардагы ийгиликтер бекемделген рынок динамикасына сынак болуп жатат. БАТА региону көптөн бери дүйнөлүк энергетикалык жабдуунун маанилүү түрүк тиреги болуп келген. Бирок, акыркы жылдарда региондо геосаясий туруксуздук энергия жеткирүүнүн туруктуулугуна жана ишенимдүүлүгүнө коркунуч туудурду. Ошол эле учурда, Россия-Украина кагылышуусунун күчөшү менен Европанын БАТА регионунун энергиясына көз карандылыгы артып, энергия жеткирүүнүн бир түрдүүлүгү Европаны энергетикалык коопсуздук жагынан чоң коркунучтарга дуушар кылууда. Мындан тышкары, дүйнөлүк климаттын өзгөрүшүнүн күчөшү жана кайра жаралуучу энергетикалык технологиялардын тез өнүгүшү салттуу энергетикалык рынокторго таасирин тийгизип жатат. Бул макалада энергетикалык коопсуздук көз карашынан БАТА региону менен Европанын энергетикалык өнөктөштүгүнө туруштук бере турган сыноолор жана мүмкүнчүлүктөр терең изилденет, ошондой эле өз ара иш-чаралардын стратегиялары жана жолдору изилденет. Эки тараптын ортосундагы байланыштарды жана кызматташтыкты бекемдөө менен, алар энергетикалык коопсуздук тармагындагы сыноолорго биргелешип тоскоолдуктарды жеңип, дүйнөлүк энергетикалык өзгөрүү жана туруктуу өнүгүүнү колдошот. Бул гана эки тарап үчүн эмес, ошондой эле дүйнөлүк энергетикалык коопсуздуктун өнүгүшүнө терең таасирин тийгизет.

Аннотация: В условиях фундаментальной трансформации глобальных энергетических систем взаимозависимость в сфере энергетической безопасности между регионом Западной Азии и Северной Африки (ЗАСА) и европейскими странами создает как стратегические возможности, так и серьезные

уязвимости. Богатый углеводородами регион ЗАСА остается ключевым для удовлетворения энергетических потребностей Европы, однако новые геополитические изменения и климатические императивы трансформируют традиционные модели партнерства. Недавние эскалации региональных конфликтов и сбои в цепочках поставок выявили системные риски, связанные с чрезмерной зависимостью Европы от конкретных энергетических коридоров, в то время как технологические прорывы в возобновляемой энергетике бросают вызов устоявшейся рыночной динамике. Регион ЗАСА долгое время являлся важнейшим столпом глобального энергоснабжения. Тем не менее, в последние годы геополитическая нестабильность в регионе создает серьезные угрозы стабильности и надежности поставок энергии. Одновременно с эскалацией конфликта между Россией и Украиной зависимость Европы от энергоресурсов ЗАСА возросла, а монотонность поставок подвергает Европу значительным рискам в сфере энергобезопасности. Кроме того, усиление глобального изменения климата и быстрое развитие технологий возобновляемой энергетики также оказывают влияние на традиционные энергетические рынки. С точки зрения энергетической безопасности, в данной статье глубоко анализируются вызовы и возможности энергетического сотрудничества между регионом ЗАСА и Европой, а также исследуются стратегии и пути для совместной работы. Укрепляя взаимодействие и обмен между сторонами, они смогут совместно преодолевать вызовы в сфере энергобезопасности и способствовать глобальному энергопереходу и устойчивому развитию. Это имеет важное значение не только для обеих сторон, но и оказывает глубокое влияние на эволюцию глобальной энергетической безопасности.

Abstract: As global energy systems undergo fundamental transformation, the energy security interdependence between West Asia and North Africa region and European nations presents both strategic opportunities and critical vulnerabilities. The hydrocarbon-rich West Asia and North Africa region remains essential for meeting Europe's energy demands, yet emerging geopolitical realignments and climate imperatives are reshaping traditional partnership models. Recent escalations in regional conflicts and supply chain disruptions have exposed systemic risks in Europe's overreliance on specific energy corridors, while technological breakthroughs in renewable energy systems challenge established market dynamics. West Asia and North Africa region has long been a significant pillar of global energy supply. Nevertheless, in recent years, geopolitical instability in the region has posed severe threats to the stability and reliability of energy supply. Concurrently, with the escalation of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Europe's dependence on West Asia and North Africa region energy has increased, and the singularity of energy supply exposes Europe to considerable risks in terms of energy security. Furthermore, intensifying global climate change and rapid advancements in renewable energy technologies have also impacted traditional energy markets. From the perspective of energy security, this paper delves into the challenges and opportunities facing West Asia and North Africa region and Europe in their energy cooperation, and explores strategies and pathways for mutual collaboration. By strengthening cooperation and exchanges between the two sides, they will jointly tackle challenges in the field of energy security and promote global energy transition and sustainable development. This not only holds significant importance for both parties but also exerts a profound influence on the evolution of the global energy security landscape.

Негизги сөздөр: Батыш Азия жана Түндүк Африкадагы туруксуздук; Европанын энергетикалык коопсуздугу; нефть коопсуздугу; энергетикалык өтүү

Ключевые слова: Нестабильность в Западной Азии и Северной Африке; энергетическая безопасность Европы; нефтяная безопасность; энергетический переход

Keywords: Instability in West Asia and North Africa; European energy security; Oil security; Energy transition

Impact of West Asia and North Africa's Geopolitical Shifts on Energy Security

The wave of political upheaval that swept across West Asia and North Africa region originated in Tunisia on December 17, 2010, triggering a chain reaction that destabilized Egypt, Libya, Syria, and beyond. While initial events appeared localized, they rapidly escalated into regime collapses and protracted conflicts. Among these, Egypt's 2011 revolution stands as a watershed moment. President Hosni Mubarak's three-decade authoritarian rule ended abruptly after 18 days of mass protests, culminating in his imprisonment. Analysts from Egypt's "Al-Ahram" noted the paradox of Mubarak's legacy: had he stepped down in 1993, he might have been celebrated as a reformer; by 2011, his regime symbolized systemic decay.

Mubarak's ouster catalyzed Egypt's chaotic political transition, oscillating between military rule, interim governments, and the short-lived Muslim Brotherhood administration. This instability exacted profound socioeconomic costs. Parallel trajectories unfolded in Libya, where post-Gaddafi power vacuums birthed warlordism and terrorism, and in Syria, where civil war fragmented the nation into competing spheres of influence.

1. Structural Drivers of West Asia and North Africa region's Instability

The roots of West Asia and North Africa region's volatility are multifaceted. Political ossification, as observed by Li Shaoxian of the RDIAP, remains endemic: hereditary rule, militarized governance, and absent democratic mechanisms have entrenched autocratic regimes. [9]Economically, overreliance on hydrocarbons has stifled diversification, while cultural stagnation and sectarian tensions—Sunni-Shia divides, Kurdish aspirations, and Islamist-secularist clashes—further destabilize societies. External interference, from great-power competition to transnational terrorism, exacerbates these fissures. The Syrian conflict exemplifies this complexity, morphing from domestic unrest into a proxy war involving regional and global actors [1].

Regime succession crises also loom large. Mubarak's botched attempt to install his son

Gamal exposed fault lines between Egypt's military elite and civilian power structures. Similarly, the unresolved Israeli-Palestinian conflict perpetuates regional antagonisms, undermining collective security frameworks.

Addressing these challenges demands coordinated international engagement to stabilize governance models and mitigate cross-border spillovers.

2. Impact of Unrest in West Asia and North Africa on Global Energy Security

The unrest in West Asia and North Africa region has had a tremendous impact on global energy security. As one of the world's major producers of oil and natural gas and currently holding the largest proven oil reserves, unrest in the region directly affects global energy supply. According to the 2011 World Energy Statistics Report by British Petroleum (BP), West Asia and North Africa region's proven oil reserves account for approximately 60% of the global total. For instance, Saudi Arabia's proven reserves amount to 35.5 billion tons, accounting for about one-quarter of the world's total oil reserves. Furthermore, most of the oil produced in WANA is exported; statistics indicate that 90% of the region's oil is exported, accounting for about three-fifths of the world's total oil exports [2].

Moreover, Fatih Birol, Chief Economist at the International Energy Agency (IEA), even asserted that over 90% of global oil production growth in the next decade will come from West Asia and North Africa region. The region boasts high-quality oil, shallow oil layers, ease of extraction, and the geographical advantage of most oil-producing countries facilitating transportation.

The occurrence of unrest may directly lead to the stagnation of oil production and obstructions in transportation channels, posing a severe threat to oil stability. This supply instability will undoubtedly plunge the global oil market into chaos, and major economies will face enormous energy challenges. The continuation of unrest may further constrain oil supply, triggering drastic fluctuations in global oil prices. When oil supply fails to meet market demand, oil prices soar, imposing a severe burden on the global economy.

It is worth noting that unrest in the region may also threaten the security of oil transportation. West Asia and North Africa region hosts multiple crucial oil transportation channels, such as the Strait of Hormuz and the Suez Canal. The safe and smooth operation of these channels is vital for global energy supply. However, amidst unrest, incidents like piracy and terrorist attacks occur frequently, significantly increasing the risks and costs of energy transportation. Faced with this situation, many countries are striving to diversify their energy sources to reduce dependence on oil from a single region. However, unrest in the region often undermines these efforts. In an unstable environment, it is challenging to open up new energy supply channels, and existing ones may be threatened, making the path to energy diversification more arduous and tortuous.

The monthly report from the OAPEC Economics Department states that Arab countries currently have an estimated 158 billion barrels of unproven oil reserves, approximately 28 trillion cubic meters of unproven natural gas reserves, and 67 billion barrels of condensate. This means that Arab countries have the potential to increase production capacity through various means and new technologies in the future. However, enhancing production capacity requires a stable economic and political environment, as well as a secure and reliable market to attract substantial investments [10].

Europe's Dependence on and Challenges of Energy from West Asia and North Africa

In the global energy consumption landscape, Europe has always played a pivotal role. In recent years, with increasing emphasis on environmental protection and sustainability, Europe's energy structure has undergone significant changes. However, despite notable progress in the field of renewable energy, Europe's dependence on energy from West Asia and North Africa region remains high.

1. Current Status of Energy Consumption in Europe and Its Dependence on Energy from West Asia and North Africa

In recent years, Europe's energy landscape has exhibited several notable characteristics. Firstly, with the advancement of the energy transition, Europe's consumption of renewable

energy has increased annually. Clean energy sources such as wind and solar energy have gradually increased their share in the energy mix, which not only helps reduce carbon emissions but also provides new guarantees for Europe's energy security. Secondly, Europe's energy structure has become increasingly diversified. Besides traditional fossil fuels like oil, natural gas, and coal, Europe has also vigorously developed diversified energy sources such as nuclear power and biomass energy. This diversified energy structure enhances Europe's resilience in responding to energy supply crises. Nevertheless, despite significant progress in the energy consumption structure, Europe's dependence on external energy sources remains high.

Additionally, since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Europe's dependence on Russian energy has become prominent. Although Russia is not a West Asia and North Africa country, fluctuations in its energy supply have a profound impact on the European energy market. Firstly, regarding natural gas supply, Russia has suspended gas supplies to Poland and Bulgaria, seen as a severe retaliation against Western sanctions. This has led to natural gas shortages in these two countries, especially Bulgaria, which is highly dependent on Russian energy. Secondly, tensions in energy relations between Russia and Europe have been exacerbated, and European unity has once again been tested.

Furthermore, in terms of oil supply, the EU's embargo on Russian energy and its search for alternative energy sources have led to a shift in the EU's oil import supply chain. Currently, the EU primarily imports oil from Saudi Arabia, India, and the United Kingdom. Notably, India, a country with modest oil reserves, has emerged as the second-largest exporter of refined oil to Europe after Saudi Arabia following the Russia-Ukraine conflict. A recent report by the Financial Times pointed out that since the escalation of the Ukraine crisis, large European enterprises have suffered direct losses of at least 100 billion from their operations in Russia. Meanwhile, the United States has reaped substantial political benefits from the situation, further highlighting Europe's dependence on energy from West Asia and North Africa. Algeria [3], the largest exporter of oil and

natural gas in North Africa, has become a sought-after partner for European countries in oil and gas cooperation due to its geographical proximity to Europe and abundant oil and gas resources, amidst the escalating Russia-Ukraine conflict and Europe's intensifying sanctions on Russian energy supplies [4].

On August 27, 2022, French President Emmanuel Macron concluded a three-day visit to Algeria, a North African country. Amidst in French-Algerian relations, European countries' turn to Africa in search of energy supplies, and increasing attention from the United States and Europe on cooperation with Algeria, Macron's visit attracted significant attention. During his visit to Oran, Algeria's second-largest city, Macron encountered protests and demonstrations by local citizens, who chanted slogans such as "Long Live Algeria" and "Get Out of Here" [5]. Despite the controversy surrounding the visit, Macron's trip laid the groundwork for repairing French-Algerian relations to a certain extent. It also demonstrated France's determination to secure energy supplies amidst the energy crisis while exposing France's sensitivities and dilemmas regarding its colonial history.

Impact of Political Unrest in West Asia and North Africa on Europe's Energy Supply

The impact of political unrest in West Asia and North Africa on Europe's energy supply can be primarily categorized into the following aspects. Firstly, it increases the risk of energy supply disruptions. As West Asia and North Africa is a crucial energy supplier for Europe, particularly for oil and natural gas, political unrest in the region directly leads to instability in Europe's energy supply. For instance, after the Libyan civil war, its oil production and exports were affected, exposing Europe's energy supply to the risk of interruption.

Secondly, it exacerbates fluctuations in energy prices. Political unrest often disrupts energy production, thereby affecting the supply-demand balance in the global energy market. During periods of political unrest in West Asia and North Africa, international oil prices tend to soar, placing economic pressure on European energy consumers. For example, during the Libyan civil war in 2011, the price of crude oil in

the international market rapidly increased from below 90 per barrel to over 100 and even peaked above 125 per barrel.

Thirdly, it hinders strategies for energy supply diversification. To ensure stable energy supply, Europe has been seeking to diversify its energy sources. However, political unrest in West Asia and North Africa obstructs this strategy because it makes it difficult for Europe to obtain stable energy supplies from the region, necessitating the search for alternative energy sources, which increases the cost and risk of energy supply.

Fourthly, it poses challenges to energy strategies. Faced with the energy supply risks brought about by political unrest in West Asia and North Africa, Europe has to adjust its energy strategies. For example, it has accelerated its efforts to seek alternative energy sources from other regions globally and reached natural gas supply agreements with Qatar, Australia, the United States, and other resource-rich countries. At the same time, Europe has also increased investments in renewable energy and nuclear energy to reduce its dependence on external energy sources. Finally, it highlights energy security issues.

Political unrest in West Asia and North Africa has highlighted energy security issues for Europe. To ensure stable and secure energy supply, Europe needs to strengthen political and economic ties with major energy suppliers, as well as increase investments and protection in energy infrastructure.

Strategies and Measures for Energy Security Risks in West Asia and North Africa and Europe

As significant players in global energy supply and consumption, West Asia and North Africa and Europe both face complex and ever-changing energy security risks. Their strategies and measures vary but share a common goal of ensuring stable and secure energy supply.

1. Energy Security Strategies in West Asia and North Africa

West Asia and North Africa, as a crucial hub for global energy supply, the formulation and implementation of their energy security strategies not only concern the stability and development

within the region but also profoundly impact the global energy market. Faced with complex and ever-changing international energy dynamics and regional security challenges, countries in West Asia and North Africa must adopt a comprehensive set of strategies to safeguard their energy security.

First, strengthen regional energy cooperation and integration. West Asia and North Africa are abundant in oil and gas resources, but the level of development and utilization varies among countries. To enhance overall energy security, countries within the region should strengthen cooperation to promote the integration of energy markets. By establishing unified energy market rules and trading platforms, resources can be optimally allocated and efficiently utilized within the region. Additionally, enhancing the construction of transnational oil and gas pipelines and power grids will achieve interconnectivity in energy supply, reduce dependence on single export channels, and lower transportation risks.

Second, diversify energy export routes. The energy exports of West Asia and North Africa primarily rely on European and Asian markets. This highly concentrated export path makes regional energy security susceptible to external interference. Therefore, countries in the region should actively explore new export markets to diversify energy exports. By strengthening energy cooperation with regions such as Africa and Latin America, new transportation channels and markets can be opened up, reducing dependency on a single market. Furthermore, influenced by the rise of shale gas in the United States, countries worldwide have placed special emphasis on the development and utilization of conventional oil and gas [6], and Arab oil and gas-producing countries are not lagging behind in this regard, having included it in their specific development plans. However, major traditional oil and gas-consuming countries possess abundant shale gas and shale oil resources, which may pose a threat to Arab natural gas exports in the future. To address this issue, Arab oil companies should proactively strengthen cooperation with international oil companies.

Third, reinforce energy infrastructure construction. Energy infrastructure is vital for

safeguarding energy security. West Asia and North Africa should increase investment in energy infrastructure, enhancing the modernization of various aspects such as oil and gas field development, refining and processing, pipeline transportation, and reserve facilities. Simultaneously, maintaining and managing energy infrastructure to ensure its safe and stable operation is crucial. Additionally, attention should be paid to infrastructure construction in the field of new energy, such as power generation facilities and grid access systems for solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources, preparing for future energy transitions.

Fourth, improve energy security early warning and emergency response capabilities. Faced with complex and changing international energy dynamics and regional security challenges, West Asia and North Africa should establish a comprehensive energy security early warning and emergency response mechanism. By strengthening monitoring and analysis of international energy market trends, regional security situations, and geopolitical risks, timely warning information can be issued to provide a scientific basis for government and corporate decision-making. Simultaneously, strengthening energy reserve construction can enhance the ability to respond to emergencies such as energy supply disruptions. When necessary, emergency measures can be taken to ensure stable energy supply in key industries and sectors.

Fifth, promote energy transition and sustainable development. Energy transition is the inevitable path to achieving energy security and sustainable development. While continuing to leverage traditional energy advantages, West Asia and North Africa should actively promote the optimization and upgrading of energy structures by increasing investment in clean and renewable energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Currently, national oil companies such as Saudi Aramco are advancing the development and implementation of carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) technologies to extend the lifespan of the oil and gas industry and reduce carbon emissions [11]. At the same time, enhancing energy technology innovation and talent cultivation can improve energy use

efficiency and cleanliness. In promoting energy transitions, attention should be paid to the harmonious unity of economic, social, and environmental benefits, realizing harmonious development between energy and the environment. On March 28, 2021, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced two environmental protection initiatives, namely the "Green Saudi Initiative" and the "Green Middle East Initiative," proposing that by 2030, renewable energy supply will account for 30% of Saudi Arabia's total energy supply [12].

Sixth, strengthen regional security and stability. Regional security and stability are the prerequisites and foundations for ensuring energy security. Countries in West Asia and North Africa should strengthen political mutual trust and security cooperation to jointly address security threats such as terrorism and extremism. By enhancing cooperation and exchanges in military, political, and economic fields, mutual understanding and trust can be fostered, creating a stable external environment for energy cooperation and regional development. Additionally, countries in the region should actively participate in the coordination and cooperation of international and regional affairs to jointly maintain regional peace and stability.

2. Energy Security Strategies in the European Region

In the context of increasing globalization and geopolitical complexity, energy security strategies in the European region are particularly important. In recent years, especially after the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, European countries have put forward higher requirements for the diversity and independence of their energy supplies, aiming to reduce dependence on a single energy source and ensure the security and stability of energy supplies.

Firstly, strengthening diversified energy supplies. Energy security is an integral part of national security and is directly related to the stability and development of the national economy. As one of the largest economies in the world, Europe has a high degree of dependence on external energy supplies, especially traditional fossil fuels such as natural gas and oil. However, in recent years, geopolitical conflicts have

intensified, and the impact of climate change has made traditional energy supply channels increasingly unstable. In the face of uncertainties in Russian energy supplies, European countries have actively sought diversified energy supply channels. Firstly, Europe has increased its imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG), sourcing LNG resources from Norway, Qatar, the United States, and other places to replace some of the pipeline natural gas from Russia. Statistics show that in 2022, EU LNG imports increased by 66.6% year-on-year, becoming the primary means of supplementing natural gas resources in Europe. Renewable energy is a crucial path for the transformation of Europe's energy structure and reducing dependence on fossil fuels. In addition, Europe is also working to expand energy cooperation with countries such as Algeria, Nigeria, and Egypt, further broadening its energy supply channels.

Secondly, safeguarding the security of energy supply sources. Ensuring energy security and expanding economic interests are fundamental strategic goals of the EU [7]. Threats to energy security mainly come from unstable geopolitical situations rather than the depletion of energy resources. This instability includes terrorist activities, regional wars and conflicts, political instability in energy-producing countries, and threats to the security of energy facilities [8]. The impact of the 9/11 event on global politics and security has, to some extent, increased the EU's emphasis on energy security. Although the 9/11 event did not directly prompt the EU to introduce internal energy market policies, in the face of the threat of terrorism and international instability, the EU has become more aware of the importance of energy supply security, thereby further accelerating the pace of energy market integration and diversification. In the following years, the EU adopted a series of measures to strengthen energy market integration and passed a series of laws and regulations to regulate the operation of the energy market, such as the Internal Energy Market Directive, providing legal guarantees for the free flow and fair competition of energy. To ensure energy security, the European Commission published the Energy Policy Green Paper on March 8th, outlining three major goals for

European energy policy: pursuing sustainable energy development, maintaining competitiveness, and ensuring energy security. It emphasizes that solidarity, integration, mutual assistance, sustainability, effectiveness, and innovation are the primary tasks of European energy policy[13].

Thirdly, promoting sustainable energy development. Europe has taken various measures in the aspect of energy sustainability, aiming to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, increase the use of renewable energy, improve energy efficiency, and promote a green and low-carbon economic transformation. The EU has set legally binding renewable energy development targets through legislation. For example, the revised Renewable Energy Directive sets the EU's 2030 renewable energy target at at least 42.5%, higher than the previous target of 32%, which will almost double the EU's current share of renewable energy. In addition, it has introduced several specific regulations, such as the European Green Deal and the Fit for 55 package, which together constitute the policy framework for promoting the development of renewable energy.

Fourthly, strengthening international cooperation. Europe has established cooperation mechanisms with international organizations, energy-producing countries, and energy-consuming countries to jointly address global energy security challenges. These cooperation mechanisms facilitate information sharing, technology exchange, and experience sharing. Furthermore, Europe actively promotes the liberalization and facilitation of energy trade, reducing barriers and costs in energy trade. This helps to promote competition and openness in the energy market, improving the efficiency and reliability of energy supplies.

Conclusion

In exploring the complex interplay between energy security in the West Asia and North Africa region and Europe, it becomes evident that this issue transcends geographical and political boundaries, touching upon the profound dimensions of global economic stability, environmental sustainability, and international cooperation. This paper, through a multidimensional analysis of the current energy

landscape, regional conflicts, technological innovations, and international cooperation, uncovers the challenges and opportunities facing both parties in terms of energy security and attempts to provide insights into the future path of energy security.

Firstly, as a globally significant energy producer, the political stability of the West Asia and North Africa region directly impacts global energy supply security. The persistent geopolitical conflicts, terrorist threats, and uncertainties arising from climate change in this region cast a shadow over Europe's energy security. Therefore, strengthening international cooperation and promoting regional peace and stability have become the primary tasks to ensure energy security for both parties. European countries need to support the peace process in the West Asia and North Africa region through diplomacy and economic aid, while diversifying energy supplies to reduce dependence on a single source.

Secondly, technological innovation is crucial for driving the transition towards energy security. Europe has made significant progress in the field of renewable energy, with rapid developments in wind and solar power providing possibilities for optimizing the energy mix. However, this transformation is not achieved overnight and requires continuous technological innovation, policy support, and financial investment. The West Asia and North Africa region, with its abundant solar energy resources, can strengthen cooperation with Europe in renewable energy technologies, jointly promoting the green transformation of the global energy structure.

Furthermore, the openness and competition in the energy market are also important means to ensure energy security. Europe should continue to promote the liberalization of the energy market, breaking down geographical barriers and promoting the rational allocation of energy resources. At the same time, strengthening energy trade cooperation with the West Asia and North Africa region to establish a more stable and transparent energy supply system will not only help reduce energy costs and improve energy efficiency but also enhance the resilience and risk resistance of energy supplies for both parties.

In addressing energy security challenges, international cooperation is particularly crucial. Europe and the West Asia and North Africa region should strengthen communication and coordination within the framework of international energy governance to jointly respond to energy security threats. Both parties can establish information sharing mechanisms to enhance cooperation in energy security early warning and emergency response. Simultaneously, they should promote the improvement and implementation of international energy rules to ensure the fairness, transparency, and sustainable development of the energy market.

In conclusion, energy security in the West Asia and North Africa region and Europe is interdependent and inseparable. Only through strengthening international cooperation, promoting technological innovation, and improving market mechanisms can we effectively address energy security challenges and ensure the energy supply security and economic sustainable development of both parties. In future cooperation, both parties should continue to uphold the principle of mutual benefit and win-win results, deepening cooperation areas and expanding cooperation space to jointly create a new chapter in energy cooperation.

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