

**Security of power supply in Germany – we better walk alone?**

In 2011, a lively debate started as to whether Germany needed additional incentives in order to build and operate flexible backup power plants complementing the growing generation from wind and solar. Currently, the debate focuses on (new) in-country gas fuelled plants and some load management and there seems to be considerable reluctance to discuss transnational approaches as something more than an emergency or a very long-term option. Cross border cooperation could in fact reduce the (costs of) the total capacity needed, since peak load occurs in different countries at different moments. It also seems inconsistent with progressing towards an integrated European market that countries like e.g. Germany or France now start to set up costly and complex national instruments to secure power supply (mostly in the form of strategic reserves or capacity markets). Institutions like pentilateral forum (France, Austria, Benelux and Germany) could serve as a starting point for transnational cooperation. However, cooperation is often understood as a synonym for import dependency and as a proof that the German "Energiewende" doesn't work out. There are also fears that closer cooperation with neighbouring countries causes commitments, endangering the autonomous progress of the German "Energiewende", which is considered as sufficiently contested without foreign actors asking for compromises.

So which impacts on the energy transition process can be expected from transnational approaches to secure power supply? What are the main drivers and obstacles, in terms of technical circumstances, economic and political interests, institutional questions and dominant paradigms?