

Name of the student:	Anastasiia Pinchuk
Title of the thesis:	Punching Above the Weight: the Baltic States' Energy Security Policy
Reviewer:	Dr Grzegorz Pożarlik

### 1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

Research question itself needs to be acknowledged as highly relevant. Analysing energy security policy in times of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and its implications on the EU member states is highly topical in both scholarly and wider public debates. The thesis under assessment aims at explaining why do small member states of the EU have been determined to 'Europeanise' their energy security policy when confronted with Russian strategy of using energy supply as a tool of geopolitical influencing? State-of-the art provided seems to cover major contributions tackling the problem of small states' security strategy in general and energy policy in particular. It needs to be emphasised that literature review includes a wide spectrum of insights on the nature and constraints of small states influence on agenda setting within international milieu. However, more emphasis could have been given on explaining why the Copenhagen School's concept of 'regional security complexes' (Buzan, Weaver) seems particularly relevant in the case of Baltic states' energy security.

### 2. ANALYSIS

(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

Qualitative content analysis combined with outcome process-tracing seems relevant methodology to explain Baltic states' 'punching above the weight' approach to energy security policy-making at regional and wider European level. Work with sources is appropriate indeed throughout the whole thesis, which is a strong point of this dissertation. Theoretical backing is consistent. However, more emphasis could have been given to a more detailed discussion of liberal intergovernmentalism's (biding nature of consensus) explanatory power regarding Baltic state's approach to energy security decision-making at the EU level.

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

The link between empirical background and conclusions seems clear. Major research objectives had been accomplished. Argumentation provided has been sharp and critical and above all independent.

### 4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

The use of academic English meets requirements of the MA dissertation level. Still, typo and style imperfections occur. Citation style is appropriate. Some inconsistencies in terms of citation format appear, however.

### 5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

Critical and independent discussion of empirical data as well as variety of sources used need to be acknowledged as strong points of the dissertation. Imbalance between explanatory power of empirical case study analysis and relevant theoretical backing seems major limitation of the thesis.

<b>Grade (A-F):</b>	<b>C (Good)</b>
---------------------	-----------------

Date:18 July 2022

Signature: Grzegorz Pożarlik

classification scheme

Percentile	Prague		Krakow		Leiden		Barcelona	
	A (91-100)	91-100 %	8,5%	5	6,7%	8,5-10	5,3%	9-10
B (81-90)	81-90 %	16,3%	4,5	11,7%	7,5-8,4	16,4%	8-8,9	11,0 %
C (71-80)	71-80 %	16,3%	4	20%	6,5-7,4	36,2%	7-7,9	18,4 %
D (61-70)	61-70 %	24%	3,5	28,3%			6-6,9	35,2 %
E (51-60)	51-60 %	34,9%	3	33,4 %	6-6,4	42,1 %	5-5,9	30,1 %

**Assessment criteria:**

Excellent (A): 'Outstanding performance with only minor errors';

Very good (B): 'Above the average standard but with some errors';

Good (C): 'Generally sound work but with a number of notable errors';

Satisfactory (D): 'Fair but with significant shortcomings';

Sufficient (E): 'Performance meets the minimum criteria';

Fail: 'Some/considerable more work required before the credit can be awarded'.