

Shockwaves from the Gulf: Iran, Energy Security in the CEE and the Russian War against Ukraine.

31 March 2026

HOTEL VERTE

Recent developments in the Middle East have raised new questions about the resilience of global energy markets and the strategic consequences for Europe's energy security.

The purpose of the event is to provide a space for a **structured discussion on the implications of the recent U.S. operation in Iran** for the energy security of Central and Eastern Europe, including Poland, as well as for the position of Ukraine as it continues to resist Russian aggression.

As far as we are aware, Warsaw has not yet hosted a high-level expert meeting on this topic. It will therefore be particularly valuable to analyse how **developments in the Middle East may affect the current sanctions and tariff regime**, as well as broader efforts aimed at disrupting Russian oil exports, including those carried out through the so-called Russian shadow fleet.

The event will begin with opening remarks and a discussion featuring **Tom O'Donnell**, a Berlin-based American energy analyst, and **Agata Łoskot-Strachota** from the **Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW)**, where she coordinates the Energy in Europe project.

Mr O'Donnell will present the **global perspective on current U.S. foreign policy**, with particular attention to its implications for international energy markets and security. Ms Łoskot-Strachota will focus on the **regional dimension, including the implications for Poland** and the wider Central and Eastern European energy landscape.

The discussion and subsequent exchange with the audience will be moderated by **Zuzanna Nowak** from The Opportunity Institute for Foreign Affairs and **Marek Niedużak** from the European Initiative for Energy Security.

Programme

- 10:00 Welcome and opening remarks
- 10:10 Expert discussion
- 10:50 Q&A and moderated discussion
- 12:00 Closing remarks, networking and lunch

The event is intended for a selected group of participants from the public sector, business, think tanks and the media. Following the initial exchange between the speakers, the discussion will open to participants in a moderated roundtable format.

The event will take place under the Chatham House Rules.