MASARYKOVA UNIVERZITA
FAKULTA SOCIÁLNÍCH STUDIÍ
KATEDRA MEZINÁRODNÍCH VZTAHŮ A EVROPSKÝCH STUDIÍ

Opponent's Review of the Master's Thesis

The European Energy Security

Author: **Laurent Steveny**

The master thesis presented by Laurent Steveny deals with up to date and attractive issue. The topic presents great opportunity for interesting policy analysis of important foreign economic policy field.

The author however chose rather descriptive approach, when broadly discussed great number of issues – sometimes very freely connected to the main subject of the thesis. Author also didn't present any clear research hypothesis which would be consequently verified. This is one of the reasons, why the presented work is more a narrative story than rigorous scientific text. Most of the (working) definitions are vague and majority of discussed concepts are rather poorly explained. It is difficult to understand, why it was necessary to go through the very basic concepts of state, nation, simplistic reviews of history of selected countries or trivial remarks about geographic conditions of selected states. Moreover, vast majority of conclusions (especially) in second and third part of thesis are quite misleading and often inaccurate. Especially the chapter which deals with "economy and energy" clearly shows that author have only shallow knowledge of principles of international economy and of main concepts of international political economy. This is, to some extent, also applicable to the "political philosophy" presented in third part (origin and role of states in international politics).

Author of the thesis is also working with only limited number of sources - whole passages of the text seems to be simple intuitive deduction based (to a large extent) on common sense knowledge.

Only the last part of the text is actually dealing with the main subject of the thesis – the EU and energy security. These last app. 17 pages of the text finally prove that author have the capacity to discuss the complex issue which he chose as a topic of his thesis. On this limited space he deals with most of problems related to the issue and presents some relevant conclusions.

Despite the mentioned shortcomings, I recommend the master's thesis of Laurent Steveny for defense.

The proposed grading is "**E**".

In Brno, May 27, 2008

Oldřich Krpec, PhD.