THE GEOPOLITICS OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

With the end of fossil fuel deliveries from Russia to the EU, the geopolitics of energy has been totally reshaped almost overnight. All European countries, starting with Germany, are looking for alternatives to Russian gas and oil in Norway, North Africa, North America, or the Middle East, among others. On top of this, the geopolitics of energy has also been affected by the war in Ukraine, as the dependence of the world to fossil fuels has been brought to a new light, with skyrocketing fossil fuel prices in Europe but also beyond.

Should we expect the Russian energy supply disruption to eventually contribute positively to the energy transition necessary to tackle climate change, or should we instead assume it will delay the necessary transition effort – particularly jeopardizing certain fragile regions of the world? Do we have an opportunity here to skirt catastrophes related to reaching temperature tipping points that could lead to unmanageable and unstoppable climate change? How will Europe and the rest of the world position strategically in this context? Will the Global South claim funding from the Global North on top of levels agreed to in the 2015 Paris Accords?