

Vol. 12 (2): 651-656 (2022)

PROBLEMS AND PRIORITY AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TAXATION IN GAS AND OIL COMPLEX IN RUSSIA

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Received January 2022; Accepted February 2022; Published March 2022;

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31407/ijeess12.239>

ABSTRACT

This paper is focused on the problems and priority areas for the development of taxation in gas and oil complex in Russia as it regards high-quality mining, the competitiveness of oil and gas companies, and revenue management of the Russian Federation's budgets. The aim of this paper is to study problems and priority areas for the development of the taxation of gas and oil complex in modern Russia. As for the methodology, this research is based on the general scientific method of dialectic cognition of financial and economic phenomena as well as their interconnection and intersectionality. A systematic approach was used for the study of current issues in the taxation of gas and oil complex in Russia as it regards their forward and backward linkages. The analysis helped define tax indicators of Russian oil and gas companies. The synthesis helped unite trends in the selected and studied tax indicators of Russian oil and gas companies. The comparative method helped determine differences between tax indicators of Russian oil and gas companies. Logical methods were used to determine priority areas in the taxation of gas and oil complex in Russia considering the identified problems and risks in this sphere. Methods of sociological study, particularly interviews with researchers in the sphere of taxation, representatives of oil and gas companies and tax authorities, helped define problems and risk areas in taxation for Russian oil and gas companies. The historical method was used to study the peculiarities in the development of oil and gas companies under the coronavirus pandemic. As a result, all the aforementioned methods helped form a complex understanding of trends, problems, risks, and priority areas for the development of gas and oil complex in Russia. We have come to a conclusion that the problems in the taxation of gas and oil complex in Russia are strongly motivated by the lack of motivation to conduct exploration work, the lack of a universal approach to taxation in new and depleted fields as well as the lack of self-adjusting of a taxation system under changes in oil prices. Overall, the taxation of the Russian oil and gas companies is subjected to high risks. These circumstances justify the necessity to stabilize MET revenues through increasing the base tax rate and decreasing price ratio as well as preserving custom duties on oil (oil products) and using flexible excise policy on oil products. Meanwhile, the priority areas include replacing MET with a tax on financial results, considering the expenditure on exploration work, introducing license fee, and increasing government control over all the consortium members in exploitation.

Keywords: taxation, gas and oil complex, oil and gas companies, State, MET.