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PETFORM

Turkey's energy to gain if included in U.S., EU deal

Anadolu Agency, *09.09.2014*

Turkey's inclusion in an EU-U.S. free trade agreement would give the country easier access to energy infrastructure equipment, but it will take some years before it can be included in the agreement. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership is a proposed free trade agreement intended to increase cooperation between, and spur economic growth in, the U.S. and the EU.

The visit to Turkey last week by a senior U.S. State Department official, Undersecretary Catherine Novelli, signaled Turkey's possible inclusion in the agreement after it is finalized.

Turkey's inclusion would strengthen its energy infrastructure for renewables and exploration activities, a Turkish economy expert said. "The country would have access to bigger markets, too, said Erdal Tanas Karagol, economy director at the Ankara-based SETA Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research. Turkey is dependent on Europe for the import of electrical units and wind turbines for renewables, Karagol said. Turkey is a non-EU country that has had a customs union agreement with Europe since 1995. But it wants to be included in the trade agreement to counter the results of unfair competition. Being included could help Turkey for expedite its oil and gas explorations as well. Major U.S. energy companies – ExxonMobil, Chevron, ConoccoPhillips – may come to Turkey to explore natural gas, oil, and shale gas, Karagol said. "They have the power to invest and to meet the costs of the explorations," Karagol said.

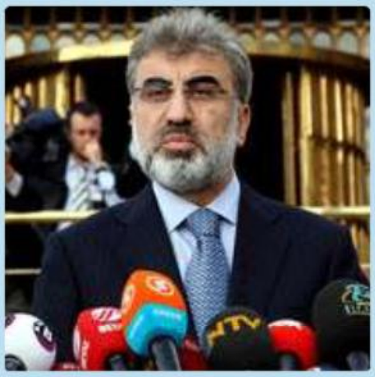
Although energy is not yet included in the talks, the trade agreement may decrease the EU's dependence on Russian energy as tensions grow over Ukraine. And the U.S. may export its shale gas to sustain Europe's economy and use it as a strategic tool against Russia. "Turkey's biggest part in the agreement would be its contribution to energy security of Europe, by delivering the energy sources from Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Iran, eastern Mediterranean and northern Iraq," said Karagol. Turkey receives 6.6 billion cubic meters of natural gas from Azerbaijan, 10 billion cubic meters from Iran, and 20 billion cubic meters from Russia per year via gas pipelines. Turkey is also projected to complete the Trans-Anatolian gas pipeline in 2018, which will run from Azerbaijan to Turkey and is expected to have a capacity of 16 billion cubic meters per year.

Its capacity will increase to 23 billion cubic meters by 2023, and to 31 billion cubic meters by 2026. The Trans-Anatolian pipeline is planned to be connected to Trans-Adriatic pipeline, which will run through Greece to the Adriatic Sea via Albania before reaching Italy. If the Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline project between Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan is built, it would transport 30 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year from Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan to Europe via Turkey, circumventing both Russia and Iran. The EU is eager for the completion of the pipeline projects so it can diversify its sources of energy and reduce its dependence on Russia, Karagol said.

Officials hope the trade negotiations will be concluded by 2015. But that estimate may be optimistic, and Turkey's inclusion in the deal may not happen for a while. "There are a lot of topics to be discussed and agreed between the U.S. and Europe" in the trade talks, said Mehmet Yegin, of the Ankara-based International Strategic Research Organization.

Peace required for energy projects with Israel

Anadolu Agency, *09.09.2014*



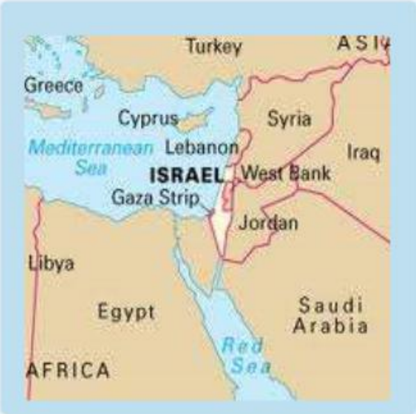
Turkey will not pursue any energy projects with Israel until permanent peace is established in the region, Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yildiz has said.

"We try to use energy projects as requirements of peace. We never talk about the economic feasibility of a project without political feasibility. Our national policy is based on this understanding," Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said, ahead of the "Mediterranean Energy Perspectives - Turkey Report" introduction meeting in Ankara. He also denied claims that Turkey was used as a transit country for Israeli natural gas.

"Without a permanent ceasefire that would satisfy all sides, we cannot think of any energy projects with Israel," he added. "People tend to forget the inhumane situation in Gaza. Just because we have not seen it in the news for the past few days doesn't mean we should forget what has been happening in the region," Yildiz added. The energy minister also fielded questions about allegations that Turkey has been exporting jet fuel to Israel. "Turkey is a country grounded in law. I have said many times that Turkey has not exported jet fuel to Israel. All calculations are out in the open, we do not hide anything. There have not been any exports," Yildiz said, adding that jets taking on new fuel should not be shown as exports from Turkey. "These allegations are speculation carried out by ill-minded people. If they spent as much time searching for local energy resources as they do on speculations, they would be more productive citizens for the country," he said.

Turkey not affected by Israel-Jordan energy deal

Anadolu Agency, *08.09.2014*



A 15-year, $15-billion deal by Israel to become Jordan's main supplier of natural gas will not diminish the possibility of Israeli gas reaching Turkey in the future. Israel signed an agreement with Jordan last week that foresees the supply of 45 billion cubic meters of gas to Jordan over 15 years.

The Leviathan gas field off the coast of Israel is a major gas hub in the region, and holds nearly 600 billion cubic meters of gas. "The Israeli government is trying to diversify its gas-exporting routes by making agreements with its neighboring countries," Sohbet Karbuz, director of hydrocarbons at the Mediterranean Observatory for Energy, said.

"Karbuz said the deal with Jordan will require a minimum amount of investment, as Israel will only need to make small additions to its current pipeline system to make the gas flow to Jordan. "I do not expect this agreement to have any effect on the potential export of Israeli gas to Turkey in the future," Karbuz said. Karen Ayat, an energy analyst and associate partner at Natural Gas Europe said Israel may start by exporting to immediate neighbors, such as Jordan. "In fact, Israel has expressed its intention to export to Egypt and use its unused export terminals to reach export markets," Ayat said, referring to a deal reached in August by Noble and Delek, the two energy companies with operating rights in Leviathan. The two companies signed a preliminary agreement with British oil and gas company BG to export 7 billion cubic meters of gas to BG's gas facility in Egypt for 15 years.

"But Israel is likely to opt for the diversification of its export routes, and such a strategy may include Turkey in the future," Ayat added. Amit Mor, chief executive of Eco Energy, a Tel Aviv-based financial and strategic consulting firm specializing in Middle East energy, said negotiations for the agreement has been going on for three years, with Noble and partners and Jordan. "This agreement has been fully supported from left to right in Israel," Mor said. Mor said the dynamics of the Middle East are changing quickly and Israel is aligning itself with moderate parties in the region -- primarily Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and smaller countries in the Persian Gulf.

EU focuses on Turkey as 'energy hub'

Anadolu Agency, *06.09.2014*

The EU is focused on Turkey's transit of natural gas to Europe, says deputy head of European Union delegation toTurkey Bela Szombati on Thursday.

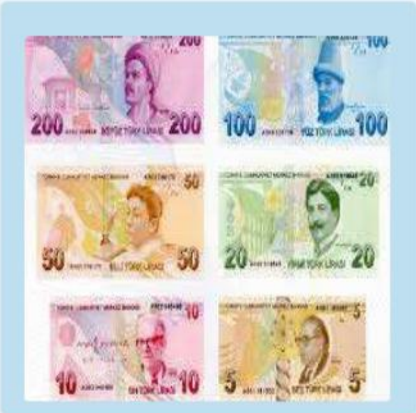
Speaking to Anadolu Agency on the sidelines of "Mapping the Future of Energy" conference organized in Istanbul, Szombati underlined the importance of Trans Anatolian Pipeline Project (TANAP), a scheme to carry Azerbaijani gas to Europe via Greece, Albania and Italy. He emphasized that further gas deliveries such as Caspian, Middle Eastern and Eastern Mediterranean gas via Turkey is also an expected possibility.

TANAP has been a focal point of recent discussions about Europe decreasing its dependency on Russian gas. Szombati also touched upon the accession negotiations between Turkey and the EU, which includes an energy chapter, and said: "While waiting to open 15th energy chapter, we continue our cooperation and dialogue via meetings called 'positive agenda'." He said closer Turkish legal framework to the one of EU, better chances for EU businessmen to invest in Turkish energy sector.

It is debated that EU's bid to diversify its energy sources and guarantee supply security could bring about the opening of the fifteenth "chapter" or EU's accession policy area on energy, currently being blocked by the Greek Cypriots. Turkey has to successfully conclude negotiations in 35 policy "chapters," which require reforms and the adoption of European standards, for its EU membership. Since 2005 Turkey has been in negotiations on 13 of these policy areas and back in November 2013, following three years of deadlock, negotiations began on chapter 22 covering regional policy after Germany lifted its block following a positive progress report in October 2013.

Turkey faces rising energy import bill

Anadolu Agency, *11.09.2014*



Turkey's cumulative net energy import bill will be between $1-1.4 trillion by 2030 according to a soon-to-be-released report from the Paris-based Mediterranean Observatory for Energy. Turkey's energy import bill is to more than double between 2013 and 2030 compared to the period between 1970 and 2012, according to 'MediterraneanEnergy Perspectives – Turkey' report seen by Anadolu Agency.

Rising demand for energy is costing Turkey billions of dollars per year, with major consequences for the country's economy. Over 60 percent of Turkey's 2013 total foreign deficit was due to net energy imports.

Turkey will also need to invest around $260 billion in its energy sector by 2030. The electricity sector will account for 65 percent of this total, followed by oil with 25 percent. The report also estimates that Turkey's oil production will decline to 32,000 barrels per day from the current production level of 45,000 barrels per day. "These levels are far from meeting domestic oil demand, which has increased tremendously over the last four decades," the report claims. Turkey currently consumes around 700,000 barrels of oil per day. The report also revealed that Turkey's annual natural gas consumption will reach 80 billion cubic meters (bcm) by 2030, which is currently 45bcm. "An important factor contributing to the attractiveness of the Turkish gas market is that Turkey has, to a large extent, harmonized its legal framework of the domestic gas market with the EU," the report said, adding that: "There is still room for improvement."

Iraq sues Greek shipping firm for transporting Kurdish oil

Reuters, *06.09.2014*

Iraq has said it filed a lawsuit against Greek shipping company Marine Management Services (MMS) for its role in the export of crude from the Kurdish region, which Baghdad says is illegal.

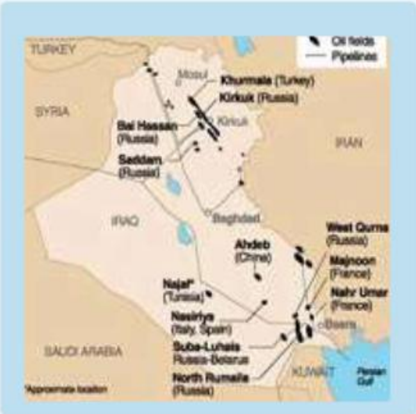
The case is the latest move by Baghdad to deter customers and thwart independent exports of crude from the autonomous Kurdish region. The federal government claims sole authority to manage sales of all the oil in Iraq. The Iraqi oil ministry said on Sept. 4 that MMS operated five vessels that had transported oil on behalf of the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) from a Turkish port.

"MMS has actively facilitated the KRG's illegal export scheme, repeatedly ignoring warnings that the crude oil it was carrying does not belong to the KRG," it said in a statement, which did not specify when and where the case was filed. "MMS is liable for damages of at least $318 million, and possibly significantly more, as a result of its willing and active participation in the KRG's illegal crude oil export scheme." Athens-based ship manager MMS said it was not aware of any suit filed by the Iraqi government and maintained it was simply carrying out its business of transporting goods. "We are not a party to this dispute, and any lawsuit filed against us by the Iraqi government is misdirected and ill-advised and will be robustly defended for lacking any basis and foundation," MMS said in a separate statement on Sept. 4.

"The goods in this case are crude oil, which the KRG claims is rightfully theirs." MMS said if there was a dispute over the ownership of the cargoes, it had to be resolved between the government in Baghdad and the KRG "either through a political or failing that a judicial process." The Kurds began exporting oil in May via an independent pipeline, which links up with an Iraqi pipeline at the Turkish border to terminate at the Mediterranean port of Ceyhan. More than 10 million barrels of oil have been shipped from the port since then, Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said on Sept. 4. The Iraqi oil ministry said MMS had declared false destinations for its tankers, turned off its ships' tracking systems to avoid detection and undertaken ship-to-ship transfers of oil on the high seas at night, a process it described as "dangerous."

Kuwait hits oil in Iraq

Upstream Online, *10.09.2014*



Middle Eastern independent Kuwait Energy has hit oil at an Iraqi oil project in the northern Basra province. The company made its first oil discovery at Block 9 in Iraq, intersecting at its primary target, the Misrif formation in the Faihaa-1 exploration well.

Early testing on the well has indicated a flow rate of about 2000 barrels of oil per day on a choke. The joint venture hopes to have the numbers shored up by the end of the year, with more testing being undertaken on the well. Deeper horizons are set to be explored and more data will be collected to help define the next stage of the project.

Kuwait Energy chief executive Sara Akbar said this was the first well in the planned high-impact exploration campaign on the block. “We continue to believe that Block 9 has strong exploration potential and look forward to facilitating an appraisal plan on Faihaa-1 and continuing to drill other exploration targets,” he said. Kuwait Energy is the operator of the block and holds a 70% interest, while Dragon Oil holds another 30%.

Kirkuk oil production down 90 percent, says governor

Anadolu Agency, *06.09.2014*

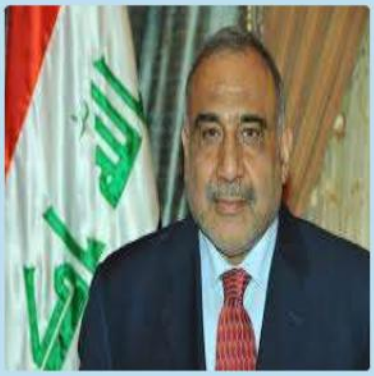
Oil production in Kirkuk has decreased to 30,000 barrels per day since June, down 90 percent from earlier this year, Kirkuk's governor said Thursday.

Najmaldin Karim, Kirkuk's governor, attended the "Mapping the Future of Energy" conference in Istanbul, where he talked about the self-styled militant Islamic State group, or IS, which has seized the oil refineries of the country. "There have been no exports since March and the only production in Kirkuk has been the 30,000 barrels per day from a small refinery and enough gas to get our electrical grid going since June 8," said Karim.

"I don't think there will be exports from Kirkuk to the Ceyhan pipeline any time soon. It has been sabotaged continuously and to get it all back would take at least a year or more." Karim said the oil produced in the refineries since June has been used for domestic consumption and electricity production in the country. "We Kirkuk citizens, we want the oil production to continue and we can help to bring the two sides together," he said, referring to Baghdad and Erbil. There has been continuing opposition from Baghdad to the Kurdish Regional government's exporting of oil through Ceyhan. The Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline has a storage capacity of 1.6 million barrel per day. Karim said that he thinks there should be negotiations with Baghdad regarding oil and gas law. The Iraqi Hydrocarbon Law was submitted in 2007 to the Iraqi Council of Representatives, which governs the management of the oil and gas wealth of the country. Karim invited people to visit Kirkuk and do business in the city.

New Iraq oil minister faces security challenge, Kurdish dispute

Reuters, *09.09.2014*



Iraq's new oil minister is a veteran politician who will deploy all his experience to resolve disputes over Kurdish oil production and allay foreign investor fears about Islamist militia control in northern oil fields. Adel Abdul-Mehdi, a former finance minister and vice president who was given the oil portfolio in a new government approved by parliament on Monday, welcoms foreign investment and business in Iraq.

Some Iraqi Kurdish sources say they also view him as a relatively conciliatory figure who might bring a more positive atmosphere to tense talks between Baghdad and the Kurdish region over rights to oil production.

But he faces a daunting task, taking over when Islamic State militants are in control of swathes of land and a few oilfields in northwestern Iraq, while the Kurds are defying Baghdad by exporting crude directly via the Mediterranean port of Ceyhan. In addition to those grave security and political challenges, he must also overcome foreign concerns over Iraq's entrenched bureaucracy and poor infrastructure -- a legacy of years of sanctions, war and internal conflict. Any policies which Abdul-Mehdi pushes will have to run a gauntlet of sectarian tensions as the OPEC member's new leaders struggle to keep the country united. "The challenges ahead of the new minister are very big and very wide," said Samuel Ciszuk, analyst at the Swedish Energy Agency. Politics Abdul-Mehdi has heavyweight political credentials which could help him.

A member of a family involved in politics since the days of the Iraqi monarchy, he was in the Baath party briefly in the 1960s before Saddam Hussein seized power, then became a prominent Marxist and ultimately an Islamist. A Shi'ite, he is a senior leader in the Supreme Iraqi Islamic Council, one of Iraq's main Shi'ite parties that has traditionally strong ties with the Kurds. The Kurdish connection may go some way to defusing the long-running dispute between Baghdad and the regional Kurdish capital of Arbil over natural resources and territory. The Kurds began exporting oil in May via an independent pipeline. Iraq has asked a U.S. court to seize $100 million worth of Kurdish crude oil on a tanker near Texas, and has threatened to sue potential buyers of the cargo. Abdul-Mehdi "is an old politician who has held many posts.

He is a man of dialogue and trust. I do believe he may be the best bridge between Baghdad and Arbil," said Mithal Alusi, a secular lawmaker. "He was the best choice." A Kurdish source said: "He is a conciliatory figure. He never had any anti-Kurd rhetoric like other Shi'ite politicians, and has frequently visited the Kurdish Regional Government. I think this might be good for the Kurds." Former deputy prime minister for energy affairs Hussain al-Shahristani - seen by the Kurds as leading a hostile policy against independent Kurdish oil development and exports - was not named for any energy-related post in Iraq's new cabinet.

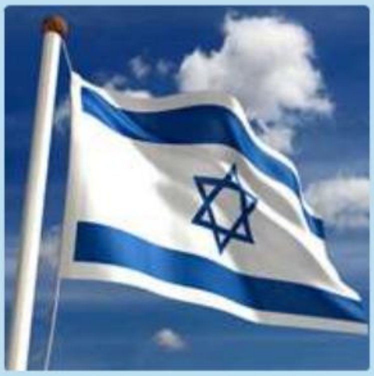
Some observers see this as a goodwill gesture, showing the new government of Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi may be willing to resolve its row with Arbil over oil resources and revenues as a step towards boosting national output. “The main challenge now for Iraq’s oil sector is to achieve a common national policy along with the required supporting legislation to enable the massive investments needed to achieve the country’s production potential,” Majid Jafar, chief executive of the UAE’s Crescent Petroleum, told Reuters. In addition to his domestic political challenge, Abdul-Mehdi will need to deal with the foreign oil firms which Iraq needs to exploit its oil reserves.

“The industry definitely wants somebody who understands contractual negotiations and the technicality of the oil industry,” Ciszuk said. Abdul-Mehdi does not have an oil industry background, but he was finance minister in 2004-2005. His website says he has degrees in political science and political economy from France, and previously worked as an economist. South Iraq originally set an overall oil production capacity target of 12 million barrels per day by 2020, rivalling that of top oil exporter Saudi Arabia, after it signed service contracts in 2009-2010 to develop its giant southern oilfields. Oil majors working in Iraq include BP, ExxonMobil , and Royal Dutch Shell. The southern oilfields remain under Baghdad’s control and untouched by the violence.

But crumbling infrastructure, red tape and a lack of clear oil legislation have stunted investor interest. Iraq failed to reach its targets and Baghdad has now reduced the overall capacity target to 8.5-9 million bpd, after negotiating revised plateau production rates with oil companies. All of Iraq’s oil exports now come from the south, with frequent bomb attacks on the northern Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline halting exports from there since February. Abdul-Mehdi will lead efforts to raise oil exports beyond their current level of 2.4 million bpd, and will work with oil companies on developing Iraq’s southern oilfields to boost output above 3.2 million bpd. “In terms of what the minister has to deal with, it is really a continuation of the past and current challenges -- ensuring that the obligations of the government are met in executing the technical service agreements,” said one oil industry source. That includes ensuring foreign oil companies are protected and that decisions on contracts for service work, such as building new pipelines or drilling wells, are not being held up by administrative issues, the source added.

Israel an energy superpower?

The Times of Israel, *07.09.2014*



Israel is becoming an energy superpower," at least according to its Minister of Energy and Water Resources Silvan Shalom. He couldn't help but partake in the enthusiasm when Israel signed a non-binding letter of intent on Wednesday to provide Jordan with 1.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas over 15 years.

Such triumphant declarations could give rise to unrealistic expectations and security risks for the State of Israel. In America we have the same problem. Both our countries have discovered promising new petroleum resources, but achieving true energy security requires a more clear-eyed view of common challenges.

Indeed, these windfalls are unlikely to displace OPEC's power over global oil markets or Russia's prominence in the European natural gas sector. Yet it has suddenly become common parlance among U.S. officials, journalists, and policy analysts to speak of "the American energy superpower." In 2012, President Obama declared America "the Saudi Arabia of natural gas." But abundant natural gas will never set American automobiles free from Persian Gulf energy machinations until Washington adopts a serious national strategy for promoting fuel choice. True, America has surpassed Russia as the world's top total energy producer and displaced Saudi Arabia as the number one producer of oil. But the U.S. will not be challenging Riyadh's status as the most important single arbiter of global prices because unlike the Saudis we put our increased production capacity to use rather than keeping some of it in reserve as a means for manipulating the market.

Meanwhile, high oil costs have become the new normal, with prices up to four times as high as they were just a decade ago. Economists believe this increase in oil prices added about $235 billion to the U.S. deficit, cost the American economy 1.3 million jobs, and reduced real disposable income per household by approximately $2,000. And despite proclamations that the U.S. could handle the Ukraine crisis better by accelerating the licensing of facilities to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Europe, these complex projects are still in their infancy and not yet anywhere near the scale required to displace Russia from being the continent's top source for imported natural gas. Similarly, the Jewish State is not about to become "the next energy superpower".

True, Israel has discovered large deposits of oil in the form of kerogen, and an innovative company has pursued a pilot project to prove the resource's commercial viability. But even they admit that a decade from now Israel could only meet between 20 and 40% of its overall needs, suggesting that producing enough oil for significant exports remains an unproven, distant concept. Just like America, Israel's transportation sector is deeply vulnerable to foreign energy disruptions. During the war with Hezbollah in 2006, Israel faced the prospect of a crippling cut-off of oil imports because the shipping industry considered Israeli waters too risky to insure inbound oil tankers. Israel now faces the exciting prospect of energy independence in its electricity sector.

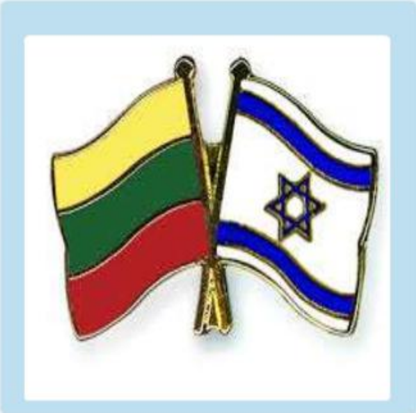
Its deep-sea natural gas fields at Tamar and Leviathan were the biggest new discoveries in the world in 2009 and 2010, but they take much of their significance from their size relative to Israel's population. When it comes to the volume of its gas reserves, Israel is not just no Qatar – it is not even an Egypt. Despite recent claims to the contrary, this gas is not "Putin's horror" because it would not be sufficient to singlehandedly threaten Russia's supreme role in European energy imports. Further, it is not even clear Israel has a viable pipeline route to European markets given the unfriendly nature of Turkey's government.

The gas contained by Tamar and Leviathan are large enough to boost Israel's economy and play a positive role in its relationships with Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians. But in all three cases such deals are still only tentative and face major domestic opposition. Additionally, extracting the gas requires billions of dollars in foreign investment, and domestic pressures at home have forced the government to keep moving goal posts for taxation. This is arguably what convinced Australian firm Woodside Petroleum to opt out of a deal this spring that would have given it a stake in bringing Leviathan online and motivated it to help transform the gas into LNG for export. At this rate, energy expert Gal Luft worries that prematurely proclaiming Israel an energy superpower is "hallucinatory and reckless," warning that Israel faces a real possibility "the gas will be left in the ground".

There is a great deal that the U.S. and Israel can do to partner on energy security, from joint R&D on unconventional energy extraction to advising Israel's Navy how to better protect each of our civilians on Israeli natural gas rigs from terrorist attacks like the rockets allegedly fired at them this summer by Hamas. Indeed, the recent signing ceremony between Israel and Jordan was hosted by America's ambassador to Amman because of the role U.S. energy experts played in facilitating a deal between the two sides. At the very least, this announcement is a reassuring step in the right direction for preventing Luft's nightmare scenario. Yet we continue to face common challenges in the field of energy security. Let's not declare victory prematurely.

Israel, Lithuania may sign gas deal

World Bulletin, *10.09.2014*



A two-day visit by the Israeli foreign minister to Lithuania on Wednesday September 10 could mark the beginning of an agreement by the two countries for Israel to supply gas to the Baltic country.

Lithuania, which currently imports all its natural gas from Russia, is trying to diversify its natural gas suppliers and Israel's gas fields could offer an alternative. Israel has proven natural gas reserves of 10.1 trillion cubic feet, according to U.S. Energy Information Administration. Israel started commercial production of natural gas from its Tamar field, near Haifa, in March last year.

As of next year, almost a quarter of Lithuania's total consumption will be met by Norway thanks to a liquefied natural gas (LNG) deal signed in August with Statoil and Lithuanian gas company Litgas. The deal, valued at $1 billion, will see the Baltic country importing 0.54 billion cubic-meters (bcm) of natural gas per year. Lithuania imported 2.7 billion cubic meters of natural gas from Russia last year and there won't be significant changes in natural gas flows, according to Ambergrid, Lithuanian natural gas transmission system operator. All Lithuania's natural gas supplies are imported from Russia and the country imports them via Belarus and Latvia. Lithuania is building a LNG terminal in Klaipeda, in the west of Lithuania, which will allow the country to transfer gas from Western countries and possibly from Israel.

During his visit, Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman will meet with Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaite, Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevicius and Minister of Foreign Affairs Linas Linkevicius. The possiblity of Israel supplying gas to Lithuania was raised two years ago by Israel's former Energy Minister Uzi Landau, according to Lithuanian President's press officer. Other topics to be discussed will be Lithuanian-Israeli bilateral relations, prospects for their development, as well as relations with the European Union, issues related to the Middle East peace process, cooperation within international organizations, the Ministry said.

South Stream remains important for Bulgaria

Natural Gas Europe, *09.09.2014*

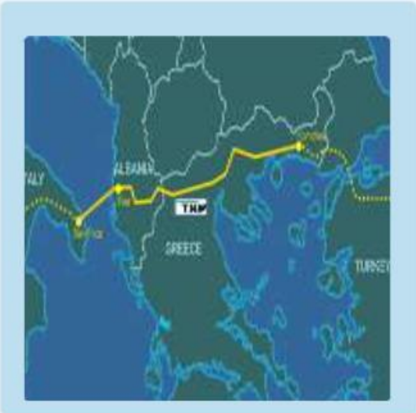
South Stream will be more important for Bulgaria for the gas transit fees that it would bring rather than for the additional gas quantities it would supply to the country, Economy and Energy Minister Vasil Shtonov stated on Tuesday 09 September 2014 in an interview for the Bulgarian National Television.

“From the 63 bcm of gas the South Stream pipeline will pump to Europe per year, just 1 bcm is to be delivered to Bulgaria”, Shtonov said, précising that despite its focus on transit the project has its role for Bulgaria’s course towards supply diversification.

Shtonov and vice-PM Ekaterina Zaharieva have recently re-confirmed for the European Commission Bulgaria’s responsibility to stop all new tenders and contracts for South Stream until it becomes compliant with EU legislation. Last week the Economy and Energy Ministry went on to reveal some of the correspondence related to the South Stream project in Bulgaria. Zaharieva however warned that Bulgaria risks some BGN 400 m (about EUR 200 m) monthly loses, if there are gas supply interruptions in winter due to the kiev-Moscow conflict. Minister Shtonov said that preparations for the winter are underway, with gas quantities being pumped into the country’s only gas storage facility at Chiren. “We have requested additional budget from the Ministry of Finance and we are using any surplus in the [state-owned gas] companies to pump gas in Chiren”, Shtonov said. If needed, Bulgaria will also rely on some 3 million cubic meters per day that could be delivered via an existing pipeline from Greece.

TAP enters procurement stage

Azer News, *08.09.2014*



The Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) has entered the procurement stage. In April 2014, TAP decided to re-launch its procurement process and initiated new pre-qualifications for its goods and services.

The procurement of goods and services for the construction of the pipeline will be carried out in a staged approach, depending on the project's progress and in line with the schedule set by the Shah Deniz 2 upstream development, TAP said in an interview. "TAP's schedule is in full alignment with the upstream developments," TAP continued its statements.

Overall, TAP's procurement will carried out in a two-step process: the selection stage and the contract award stage, a source in TAP told Trend Agency. During the selection stage, TAP will run the so-called 'pre-qualifications' aimed at identifying contractors with the required skills, capacity, experience and capabilities to deliver the goods and services TAP is seeking to procure. TAP is proceeding with implementation of the project, which includes the preparation of tendering for steel pipes, offshore and onshore construction, and other associated services and items. "Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) plans to award large package contracts for onshore and offshore construction of the pipeline and other services and items", the source said.

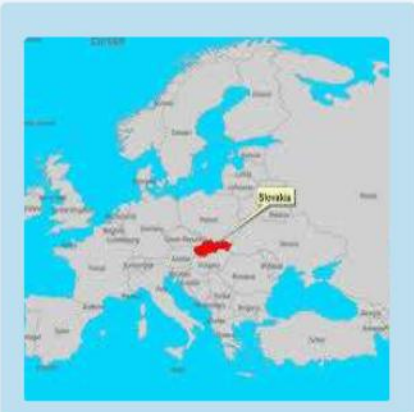
The contracts will fall under one of three categories: Early Works (EW) Contracts, Company Provided Items (CPI) Contracts, and Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) contracts, according to the source. Subsequent contract notices to be issued by TAP in the CPI category will include the pre-qualification of companies supplying line pipes, casing pipes and bends; pre-qualification of companies, providing SCADA systems; pre-qualification of companies supplying fiber optic cable. Forthcoming EPC contracts will include the pre-qualification of companies providing offshore pipeline construction services and construction services for a pipeline receiving terminal. So far, TAP has announced five pre-qualifications. TAP has issued contract notices on construction of Albanian roads and bridges, onshore pipeline construction in Greece and Albania, construction of compressor stations in Greece and Albania, supply and installation of gas turbine compressors in Greece and Albania, and supply of large diameter valves since May.

The Shah Deniz field, one of the world's largest gas-condensate fields, was discovered in 1999. Its reserves are estimated at 1.2 trillion cubic meters of gas. Overall, the field has proven to be a secure and reliable supplier of gas to Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, and Europe. The gas which will be produced at the second stage of Azerbaijan's Shah Deniz field development will be the main source of the Southern Gas Corridor, which envisages the transportation of the Caspian gas to European markets. The Shah Deniz consortium announced the selection of TAP as the main route for transporting its gas to Europe in late June. Another pipeline which was vying for Azerbaijan's gas transportation to Europe was Nabucco West.

Azerbaijan agreed to sell over 10 billion cubic meters of natural gas a year from the second phase of its Shah Deniz development to nine companies in the European Union in September 2013. The contracts were signed for 25 years between SOCAR and the European utilities, including Axpo Trading AG, Bulgargaz EAD, Depa, Gas Natural Fenosa, Hera Trading Srl, Shell Energy Europe, Enel SpA, E.ON SE, and GDF Suez SA. The initial capacity of TAP will amount to 10 billion cubic meters per annum with the possibility of expanding to 20 billion cubic meters per annum. The TAP's construction project is planned to start in 2015.

Slovak natural gas supplier reports 10% drop in supply from Gazprom

ICIS, *11.09.2014*



Russia's Gazprom reduced natural gas supplies to Slovakia by approximately 10% on Wednesday and Thursday, a spokesman from Slovak supplier SPP confirmed on Thursday. A source close to other shippers in the Slovak market also told ICIS he understands Gazprom has curtailed deliveries to other local trading companies by 10% over the past two days.

When asked by ICIS about the supply reduction, a spokesman from Gazprom said it had some flexibility as a supplier and was flowing gas to Slovakia in a normal way, "as on previous days".

The spokesman would not elaborate further, but it appears that some of its supply contracts may allow flexibility regarding the meeting of daily volume nominations. Thus a 10% reduction of supply volume against nominated supply could be within the provisions of its contract. The SPP spokesman refused to comment on its contractual arrangements with Gazprom. Gas enters into Slovakia from Russia via Ukraine at the Velke Kapusany point. Near this entry point, gas is now able to be exported into Ukraine at the Budince connection point. There has not been any notable drops in nominations or actual flow from Slovakia into Ukraine this week, with average flows into Ukraine averaging the pipeline's maximum capacity of 26 million cubic metres (mcm)/day.

Gas supplied to Poland's incumbent PGNiG from Russian Gazprom have also been reduced since Tuesday, which has caused Polish exports into Ukraine to be stopped until 08:00 on Friday (see ESGM 10 September). Poland's PGNiG received only 55% of its ordered natural gas supply from Gazprom on Wednesay, the incumbent said on Thursday. The company had reported cuts of up to 24% earlier in the week. A spokesman from Gazprom on Wednesday said the reductions in supplies to Poland were lower because it needed gas to inject into Russian storage. Deliveries of natural gas from Gazprom Export enter Poland at its border points with Belarus and Ukraine (where gas is supplied to Poland from Russia).

Gazprom first-quarter profit falls 41% on Ukrainian gas debt

ICIS, *11.09.2014*

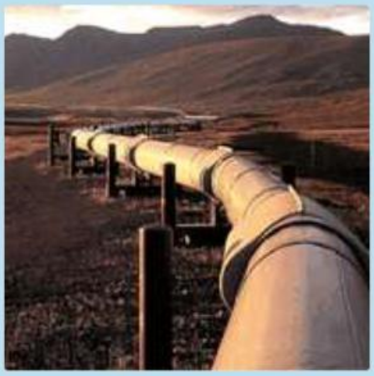
OAO Gazprom, Russia's biggest company, said its first-quarter profit slumped 41 percent on a foreign currency loss and Ukraine's debt for natural gas supplies. Net income dropped to 223 billion rubles ($6 billion) from 381 billion rubles a year earlier, the Moscow-based exporter said.

Gazprom, which provides 30 percent of the European Union's gas, halted supplies to Ukraine in June over unpaid bills, including $1.45 billion from 2013. The Russian producer now estimates it's owed $5.3 billion after raising the price for Ukraine in April to a level higher than it charges Germany, which the government in Kiev has rejected as unfair.

The quarter marks the "start of not an easy year," Gazprombank energy analysts wrote in an e-mailed note before the report. While a weaker ruble is compensating for a decrease in Gazprom's export prices, the biggest negative factor is the dispute with Ukraine, the bank said. Gazprom had a 172 billion-ruble loss on depreciation of the Russian currency as well as a 71.3 billion-ruble provision for "doubtful trade accounts" mainly related to Ukrainian gas debt, according to the statement. In August, Gazprom said its first-half net under Russian accounting standards, which is used to calculate dividends, fell 38 percent to 155 billion rubles, mainly because of a provision for Ukraine's unpaid dept. Gazprom's deliveries to Europe, its biggest market by earnings, have been falling compared with last year's levels since June. The region has a record volume of gas in underground storage after a mild winter and accelerated pumping earlier this year. First-quarter revenue rose 6.5 percent to 1.56 trillion rubles.

Europe’s dependency on Russian gas may be cut amid energy efficiency focus

The Guardian, *09.09.2014*



Europe’s dependency on Russian gas could be slashed by a third if EU leaders place a higher priority on energy efficiency savings, according to the Institute for Public and Policy Research. Europe imports about a third of its gas from Moscow and half of that flows through Ukraine. While only 15% of the UK’s gas comes from Russia, six of the states closest to the Russian border are completely reliant on it.

On Monday the EU was preparing to impose new sanctions focused on the fundraising capabilities of Russian oil companies Rosneft and Transneft, and the petroleum unit of the gas company Gazprom, diplomatic sources said.

Russia’s prime minister, Dmitry Medvedev, had earlier warned that the country would respond “asymmetrically” to further sanctions, possibly by preventing airlines from flying through Russian airspace. The greater concern in European capitals is that Russia could once again turn off the tap on its gas supplies to Ukraine, as it did in 2006 and 2009. Some analysts say the proportion of European gas demand for heat and power met by Russia has actually risen since then, from 26% of supplies in 2010 to 34% in 2013. “Recent events in Ukraine and the Middle East have served to highlight the vulnerability of our energy supplies and the political straitjacket that results from our over-dependence on fossil fuel imports from these volatile regions,” the UK’s former climate and energy security envoy, Rear Admiral Morisetti, said.

“The quickest and most effective form of energy security is to use less,” he added. “EU leaders are currently discussing whether to mandate energy efficiency improvements of 30% by 2030; studies show that we can go to 40% without incurring economic penalties, and Ukraine shows that we must.” The EU is poised to announce three climate and energy targets for 2030 at a summit next month. Leaked documents suggest that these will include a legally mandated 40% greenhouse gas emissions cut, and two 30% goals for renewable energy market share, and improved energy efficiency. The energy security argument for staunching power wastage has gained ground over climate change concerns in European capitals, as supply instability has increased and the continent’s fossil fuel reserves have fallen.

Earlier this year, the International Energy Agency warned that the EU’s annual fuel bill could reach $615bn by 2035. The agency expects European fossil fuel production to halve between 2010 and 2050, and predicts costly overhauls for ageing and high-polluting energy infrastructure. The situation is particularly acute in Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Slovakia, Latvia and Lithuania which the European commission judges 100% dependent on Russian gas. By contrast, France, Denmark, the Netherlands, Romania and the UK source around 20% or less of their supplies from Gazprom.” The countries that are most dependent on Russian gas are also the least fuel-efficient, and improvements in energy efficiency could vastly reduce the scale of our dependency on Russia”.

Russia stokes tensions with the west by cutting gas exports to Poland

The Guardian, *10.09.2014*

A decision by Russia to cut gas exports to Poland without warning has rekindled fears about Europe's reliance on Siberian gas at a time of increasing tension between Moscow and the west.

The Polish state energy group, PGNiG, said that it was trying to find out why volumes had been slashed by up to 24% when it had been exporting gas itself to Ukraine to make up for Russian shortfalls there. Its counterpart in Kiev, Ukrtransgaz, accused Kremlin-controlled Russian company Gazprom of penalising Poland and undermining onward gas supplies to Kiev.

"Today Russia started limiting gas supplies to Poland in order to disrupt the reverse (flows) from Poland that we receive ... Poland stopped reverse supplies to Ukraine in the range of 4m cubic metres," said Ihor Prokopiv, chief executive of Ukrtransgaz, according to the Russian news agency, RIA. Mutual suspicions are higher than at any point since the collapse of the Soviet Union, following the conflict in Ukraine and western accusations that Russia has augmented the rebellion in the east with its own troops. Moscow denies the claim. Nato last month estimated that more than 1,000 Russian soldiers were operating covertly in Ukraine, as part of a separatist effort to roll back advances by Kiev.

Earlier Ukraine's president, Petro Poroshenko, said most Russian troops had now been withdrawn. "According to the latest information I have received from our intelligence, 70% of Russian troops have been moved back across the border," he said. "This further strengthens our hope that the peace initiatives have good prospects." Poroshenko said parts of east Ukraine would be given special status. But Ukraine would remain a sovereign and united entity, under a peace deal agreed in Minsk last Friday. But Ukrainians are anticipating a difficult winter ahead, reliant as they are on Russian gas to power their economy and heat their homes. Nick Perry, a British energy consultant, said that it was not surprising that Gazprom's actions had prompted a nervous response.

"Since the 1990s, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has been investigating how Europe would survive if they lost some of its biggest sources of gas for six months. People have been looking at this for a long time." But Gazprom sources insisted the shortfall could be attributed to maintenance work that was going on fields and pipelines ahead of the important winter season when demand is at its highest. A statement from the group sidestepped the issue by saying it was pumping gas to all destinations "according to the resources available for exports and for the continuing pumping to storage facilities in the Russian Federation". Jonathan Stern, a gas expert at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies and a member of the EU-Russia Gas Advisory Council, believed there was more likely a technical, not a political problem.

"If Gazprom wanted to punish the Poles then it would not do so surely when the weather was warm and in breach of its contractual obligations," said Stern who met the Russians for a gas summit in Vienna this week. "The Russians are acutely aware that any (commercial) moves at this time will be interpreted in the worst possible light (by the west)." But energy has been at the centre of previous conflict. Gazprom cut off gas to Ukraine in June arguing that Kiev had not paid its bills but the move was interpreted in the west as an attempt to destabilise its southerly neighbour.

Similar boycotts by Gazprom against Ukraine – usually in the middle of winter – have been imposed against Ukraine and others in the past decade. The latest upset comes as the European Union has drawn up deeper sanctions against Russia over its support for separatist rebels who have taken over parts of eastern Ukraine. Slovakia, a major hub for Russia gas exports to Europe, said volumes were steady on Wednesday, and operators in Hungary, Bosnia and Serbia said there was no disruption to their supplies.

Igor Gorsky, a spokesman for Gazprom Transgaz Belarus, the Gazprom subsidiary that operates export pipelines via Belarus, said: "There have been no extraordinary situations from our side, or any maintenance work, which could have an impact on supply volumes." Political relations between Warsaw and Moscow are particularly bad. Poland has lobbied the EU hard to impose tougher sanctions on Moscow, and it is to host elements of a new Nato rapid reaction force, created in response to the Russian intevention in Ukrainer. Gazprom supplies a third of Europe's gas and for many EU countries it is the main source of power for homes and industry but the Russian firm is a big revenue earner for the Kremlin and any volume cuts would damage the company and country financially.

EU adopts new sanctions against Russia's top oil companies

Reuters, *09.09.2014*

The EU formally adopted the new package of sanctions against Russia over its involvement in Ukraine on Monday, EU President Herman Van Rompuy said. The EU sanctions would affect Russia's top oil producers and pipeline operators Rosneft, Transneft and Gazprom Neft, which would be put on the list of Russian state-owned firms that will not be allowed to raise capital or borrow on European markets.

The sanctions, however, would not encompass the gas sector and in particular state-owned Gazprom, the world's biggest gas producer which is also the biggest gas supplier to Europe.

Van Rompuy added that the sanctions will enter into force in the next few days. "The entry into force (of the new sanctions) through the publication in the Official Journal will take place in the next few days.

This will leave time for an assessment of the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and the peace plan," Rompuy said in a statement. "Depending on the situation on the ground, the EU stands ready to review the agreed sanctions in whole or in part," he said. Earlier, it was reported the EU governments delayed signing off on the sanctions, because some governments wanted to discuss how to suspend the sanctions if a Ukraine cease-fire holds. EU envoys were due to meet again at 6:00 P.M. (4:00 P.M.) in Brussels to decide whether the sanctions - agreed in principle on Friday - should be first implemented and then suspended if the cease-fire holds or whether they should not be implemented at all at this stage, diplomats said.

While the discussions appear largely procedural, many countries opposed to further punishment of Moscow for sending troops into Ukraine see it as an opportunity to block the package and avoid retaliatory measures from Russia, diplomats said. The EU sanctions would affect Russia's top oil producers and pipeline operators Rosneft, Transneft and Gazprom Neft, which would be put on the list of Russian state-owned firms that will not be allowed to raise capital or borrow on European markets, an EU diplomat said. The sanctions, however, would not encompass the gas sector and in particular state-owned Gazprom, the world's biggest gas producer which is also the biggest gas supplier to Europe.

In general, the EU sanctions on raising money in the European Union for Russian companies will apply to firms that have turnover of more than 1 trillion roubles ($26.95 billion) and half of that is generated from the sale or transport of oil, the diplomat said. The sanctions deal was reached by ambassadors of the 28 EU countries already on Friday night. The sanctions will enter into force after being published in the official journal of the European Union, which could happen at midnight.
Earlier on Monday, Russia signaled it might ban Western airlines from flying over its territory as part of an "asymmetrical" response to the new sanctions. Blaming the West for damaging the Russian economy by triggering "stupid" sanctions, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Moscow would press on with measures to reduce reliance on imports, starting with increasing output of domestic aircraft.

Medvedev suggested Russia should have hit back harder over the action by the United States and European Union to punish Moscow for its role in Ukraine, saying it had been too patient in the worst confrontation with the West since the Cold War. "If there are sanctions related to the energy sector, or further restrictions on Russia's financial sector, we will have to respond asymmetrically," he told Russian daily Vedomosti, adding the airlines of "friendly countries" were allowed to fly over Russia. "If Western carriers have to bypass our airspace, this could drive many struggling airlines into bankruptcy. This is not the way to go. We just hope our partners realize this at some point," he said in the interview published on Monday.

Medvedev, who was once seen as the liberally-minded foil to Putin but now increasingly delivers harsh messages, said leaders in Ukraine should seize on Russian proposals for a peace plan which would leave separatists in control of large areas of territory in eastern Ukraine. "Now comes the delicate work of achieving a durable peace," he said. "I hope that these efforts will succeed." Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko visited the eastern Ukrainian port of Mariupol on Monday in a show of solidarity with its embattled citizens and vowed to defend it from pro-Russian separatists who advanced towards it last week before a ceasefire agreement. "This is our Ukrainian land and we will not give it up to anybody," he wrote on Twitter.

EU can control gas sector manually, if Russian gas stops

ITAR-TASS, *10.09.2014*

The EU may introduce manual control over its energy sector, if Russian gas supplies break, business daily Kommersant reported Wednesday quoting an EU Council energy security draft report.

The EU confirms market measures will not suffice if serious problems occur, and then mechanisms of the best use of gas storages and liquefied natural gas (LNG) regasification terminals must be implemented. EU LNG receiving terminals' capacities amount to about 200 billion cubic meters, but they are only 20% loaded as many companies sell the gas to Asia and Latin America and the sales could be curbed.

The EU also wants to simplify bidding for virtual reverse gas supplies, under which, for instance, Slovakia, buying Russian gas from Germany, can take the gas directly from the major pipeline without waiting for it to come to Germany. It will force Russian gas giant Gazprom to make prices for the countries with access to virtual reverse supplies flat or to impose a 100% take-or-pay condition in its contracts. In general, the union's strategy is to decrease the use of fossil fuels, gas in the first place, by improving the energy efficiency and switching to renewable resources. The EU will also promote forming gas prices on the basis of the spot market instead of linking them to oil.

Rosneft struggles to grow as sanctions hit Russia's oil champion

Reuters, *09.09.2014*

The Kremlin's prized oil firm Rosneft is cutting staff and production and selling stakes in Siberian fields in the strongest evidence to date that Western sanctions are hurting what was the world's fastest growing oil firm in recent years.

The sanctions imposed on Russia by the U.S. and Europe in response to its military action in Ukraine have cut Rosneft's access to Western financing and technology, complicating the servicing of its $55 billion debt and closing the way to cutting-edge industrial science it needs to keep developing its energy resources. Few doubt that Rosneft will be able to withstand the pressure medium-term.

Its earnings amount to $30 billion a year and billions more are still available via Chinese credit lines and Russian state coffers in case of emergency. But the world's biggest listed oil producer – which produces more oil than OPEC members Iraq or Iran – faces unprecedented challenges to its long-term expansion and modernization plans. Last week Rosneft said it would cut staff to reduce costs: Kommersant business daily said Rosneft's Moscow headquarters would see cuts of up to 25 percent from the current 4,000. These would be the first significant job losses at a company that swelled via the acquisition of rivals such as YUKOS, pushed into bankruptcy some ten years ago by the government of President Vladimir Putin. Since then Rosneft's output has risen 10-fold to exceed 4 million barrels per day or four percent of global supply.

But last week it reported a 1.3 percent production drop in August, as production in West Siberia regions declines. The firm, which alongside gas monopoly Gazprom is a top contributor to the Russian budget, needs to invest heavily to bring new east Siberian fields online - a costly endeavour now made more difficult by the sanctions squeeze. In a sign of the challenge such a project now presents, Putin said last week Rosneft would welcome China buying a stake in the prized Siberian Vankor field. It was a major about-turn given the Kremlin's long resistance to allowing its powerful neighbour access to such deposits.

"Rosneft's decision to offer China a stake in the mega Vankor oil field in East Siberia signals that Moscow's bargaining position has been further weakened by sanctions and that it needs the capital infusion," said Emily Stromquist, analyst at Eurasia. "Credit Stopped" Rosneft needs to invest more than $21 billion annually until 2017 to launch new fields and upgrade refineries. It also needs to repay $12 billion by year-end and another $17 billion next year, after it borrowed heavily to buy rival TNK-BP for $55 billion last year – a deal that included BP taking a 20 percent stake in Rosneft. Rosneft should be able to access some of the money it needs from short-term credit lines via Western banks as the United States sanctions only prohibits them from providing loans with maturity longer than 90 days.

But with the European Union expected to impose similar lending bans soon, Rosneft boss Igor Sechin under personal sanctions owing to his closeness to Putin and any resolution to the Ukraine crisis a long way off, all Western lending to Rosneft has in fact stopped, finance and industry insiders say. “The credit has stopped. All conversation has become purely theoretical. People fear everything is following the patterns of the Iranian (sanctions) scenario when credit and then oil flows were getting progressively hurt,” said an executive with a Western trading house and a major buyer of oil from Rosneft. Over the past year, BP and trading houses Vitol, Glencore and Trafigura provided Rosneft with $20 billion worth of loans syndicated by banks and guaranteed by oil exports.

But Rosneft’s attempts to borrow more from them in recent months have stalled or been drastically curtailed because the banks refused to syndicate new deals. Rosneft CEO Sechin was forced to ask for $40 billion in state help from one of Russia’s sovereign wealth funds and Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said the company could get it. “The company needs to maintain its production levels, because Rosneft is a major source of tax revenue,” Medvedev told Vedomosti business daily on Monday. “As such, we should help it maintain its level of investment”.

A Rosneft source told Reuters the company had no plans to borrow for the next 12-18 months and that credit lines offered by China’s state oil firm CNPC meant the company had enough liquidity to see it through. “We are planning to cut debt further without reducing capex. We need to maintain huge investments to launch new East Siberian fields. After 2017 capex will drop,” the source said. Money But No Know-How Though the Russian state and Chinese allies may keep money flowing to Rosneft, they cannot supply vital technology. Rosneft said last week it planned to replace all equipment and technology imports from the West as the U.S. and EU sanctions halted all trade with the firms upon which it usually relies for such essentials. In the meantime however it will struggle to find what it needs to develop shale and deep water Arctic oil because Russia has made little progress in building its own services sector.

Just last May, Energy Minister Alexander Novak asked Putin to boost funding of domestic equipment producers because a quarter of all equipment used in oil output enhancement was imported. Russia is particularly dependent on the West for catalysts, refining equipment and gas turbine parts, meaning complicated refinery modernisation works are seen almost impossible to achieve without the access to Western know-how. Rosneft plans to launch 10 new fields by 2020 in a bid to increase its combined oil and gas output by a third to 6.4 million barrels of oil equivalent per day. That plan looks set to be severely tested. “Rosneft has a lot of cash. Its problems are long-term and strategic,” said a source at a Western bank that includes Rosneft among its clients. “Its growth model is challenged.”

Russia considering changes to its upstream oil and gas fiscal regime

Oil & Gas Eurasia, *11.09.2014*

Russia's upstream fiscal regime has undergone key changes in 2014, with a revamped Mineral Extraction Tax (MET) for gas fields and significant incentives introduced for offshore developments, and more measures affecting oilfields may follow, according to research and consulting firm GlobalData.

Russia's Ministry of Finance has started to implement a gradual shift of the tax burden from export duty on oil to MET. Current legislation means that export duty will be reduced from 59% to 55% by 2016, and the base rate of the oil MET is set to increase from RUB495 ($13)/tonne to RUB559 ($15)/tonne.

This base rate is multiplied by a number of other coefficients, including a price factor of around 10. However, there have been reports of a more substantial change from 2015, which would reduce the oil export duty to 42% in 2015, 36% in 2016 and 30% in 2017, while at the same time increasing the base rate of the oil MET to RUB775 ($21)/tonne, RUB873 ($24)/tonne and RUB918 ($25)/tonne in each of these years, respectively. Anna Belova, GlobalData's Lead Upstream Analyst for the Former Soviet Union, says: "These changes may improve the profitability of oilfield developments from which the majority of production is exported, given the current price differential to the domestic market. "The shift in tax burden would also increase the effectiveness of some incentives, such as regional MET holidays and reduced MET for depleted fields, heavy viscous crude and unconventional oil."

However, even if these changes are introduced, recent experience with the Russian government's fiscal policy suggests that further amendments could be made, while incentive measures will continue to proliferate, according to the report. Will Scargill, Fiscal Analyst for GlobalData, comments: "The requirement for tax breaks in order to render certain projects profitable might be even more pronounced if the proposed MET increases are put in place. "However, any new targeted incentives are only likely to be available for projects that have strategic importance for the government, either from an economic or political perspective. In particular, special incentives for projects supplying China and other Asian markets may become more common."

Ukrainian gas transportation system law economically feasible

ITAR-TASS, *09.09.2014*

The gas transportation system reform law, although politically motivated, is economically feasible and will attract investment for the modernisation of the gas transit network.

“The idea to bring Europeans into the operation of the Ukrainian gas transportation system first emerged ten years ago, but the talks have produced no results so far. The pipeline and the booster stations were built some 30 years ago and need an overhaul badly. This will cost several billion U.S. dollars, which Ukraine doesn’t have,” Gennady Shmal, the President of the Russian Union of Oil and Gas Industrialists, said.

He said Europeans had repeatedly stated their readiness to provide funding for the gas system modernisation if they had a say in managing it. But before this happens, Ukraine will need to solve a number of legal issues, experts in the Russian Gas Society said. As a member of the European Energy Community, Ukraine has to comply with the European Union’s Third Energy Package, which requires it to separate enterprises that transport gas from enterprises that store it. Experts said that the adoption of the law and its signing by the president were a step towards gas market reform using the European model. The system is currently operated by Kiev. The government-owned company Naftogaz of Ukraine is planning to begin official negotiations with potential bidders shortly.

ITAR-TASS’ sources said interested companies “have many questions, both technical and financial”, and the situation may develop further within a month after the completion of all legal procedures required for enacting a gas transportation law which has yet to be adopted by the Ukrainian parliament. On August 14, the Ukrainian parliament approved amendments to the gas transportation system reform law, under which control over the system will be transferred to an operating company that can be controlled by the European Union, the United States or the European Energy Community. In June, Ukraine asked the European Union and the United States to help to upgrade its gas transportation system and then operate it.

Kiev put the cost of the project at 3-5.3 billion U.S. dollars, which it said would secure gas transit to Europe in the amount of 145 billion cubic metres a year until 2030. But Gazprom experts say that the modernisation of the Ukrainian gas transportation system can eventually cost 16 billion U.S. dollars. Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseny Yatsenyuk also promised to seek the assistance of American and European partners in order to modernise the Ukrainian gas transportation system. He said this would “allow us to invite our European and American partners to operate and modernise the Ukrainian gas transportation system, with the Ukrainian state retaining control over the system”. However some deputies spoke against the transfer of the ownership rights to the gas transportation system to private companies and insisted that it be owned solely by the state.

Energy and Coal Industry Minister Yuri Prodan said that “only the state alone or the state (with no less than 51% of corporate rights) and an enterprise owned and controlled by residents of EU countries, the United States or the European Energy Community can establish and own the entity to act as the operator of underground gas storage facilities”. The throughput capacity of the Ukrainian gas transportation is 288 billion cubic metres system at the entrance and 178.5 billion cubic meters at the exit, including 142.5 billion cubic metres to European countries and 3.5 billion cubic metres to Moldova. Natural gas transit through Ukraine to Europe and CIS countries in 2011 increased by 5.7% from 2010 to 104,197,067,000 cubic metres, including to Western Europe by 5.9% to 101,098,013,000 cubic metres, but decreased by 2.4% to 3,099,054,000 cubic metres to CIS countries. Ukraine’s gas transportation system consists of 72 compressor stations, 110 production facilities and 1,451 gas distribution stations. The overall length of gas pipelines operated by the company is 38,600 kilometres, including 22,200 kilometres of trunk pipelines and 16,400 kilometres of extensions.

Naftogaz prepares to buy and sell gas at Austrian hub

ICIS, *06.09.2014*

Ukrainian oil and gas incumbent Naftogaz will start buying and selling gas on the Austrian hub from October and is planning to register on Germany’s NCG and Gaspool hubs at a later date, a senior advisor at the firm has told ICIS.

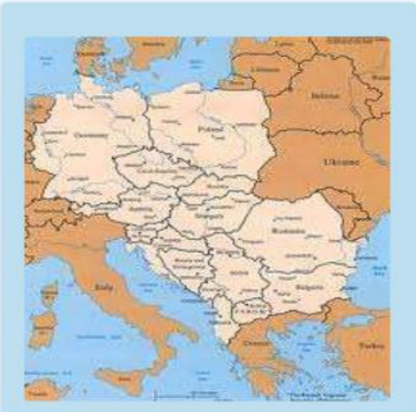
On Friday European trading companies began receiving emails from the trading arm of Naftogaz, Naftogaz-Alliance, in a bid to join a balancing group at the Austrian hub. This is required in order for a new company to register with the Austrian grid operator, Central European Gas Hub (CEGH). The group intends to trade on CEGH Gas Futures Market with a physical delivery to Ukraine.

Naftogaz’s plans to register on European gas hubs is a preparatory move to get ready for when Ukraine’s gas transport system is fully unbundled, said Yuriy Vitrenko, chief advisor to the chairman at Naftogaz. Vitrenko, who is based in Kiev, spoke to ICIS at the Velke Kapusany gas grid at a ceremony to mark the launch of a new reverse flow connection from Slovakia into Ukraine on Tuesday. Currently, the Ukraine transport system is operated by grid operator Ukrtransgaz, a wholly-owned affiliate of Naftogaz. Under a new law approved by the parliament in its second reading in August, 49% of the transport system can now be sold to an investor from the EU or the US (see ESGM 14 August 2014). This is to comply with the EU’s third energy package as well as Ukraine’s membership in the European Energy Community. “Naftogaz is now planning to buy gas directly on EU hubs. With our volumes we will be a significant market player through buying and selling on these hubs from October,” Vitrenko said. “We will be entering the European markets because after the planned unbundling, Naftogaz is supposed to act as a typical trader with both long and short positions in different European markets.

For this purpose we need a direct access to liquid markets," he added. Vitrenko said Naftogaz will also buy and sell gas on the Slovak virtual trading point from October. Naftogaz hopes to buy more gas from European companies and reduce its reliance on Russian gas. Gas can be imported into Ukraine from Hungary, Poland and since Tuesday, Slovakia. Russia stopped providing the transit country with gas supply for domestic use since 16 June, so Naftogaz will hope to buy more volumes from European companies. Austria's Baumgarten hub would be the most appropriate market for Naftogaz to start trading at, as it is geographically closest to Ukraine.

The energy stakes of the Ukrainian crisis

Natural Gas Europe, *08.09.2014*



The Ukraine crisis has put the interdependence between the West, the EU and the Russian federation in the limelight. A further deterioration of the relationship between them could have disastrous results for both.

The first victim is the present-day suspension of the South Stream project, which would be the only way of transporting gas into the EU markets without having to rely on the Ukrainian transmission system. Any disruption of the flow of gas through Ukraine's territory would present a heavy blow for countries such as Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia and also Italy, and Austria.

Needless to say, LNG is not an alternative but an emergency solution since there is no infrastructure capable of absorbing and replacing incoming Russian gas flow, according to official calculations by the aforementioned countries. The Greek Energy Ministry recently relayed that its national company DEPA has approximately 20 days of reserves in case of a cut of the flow of Russian gas and depending on winter weather conditions, additional LNG shipments will be needed that eventually would be paid for by the customers via higher bills at a time when the local industry's competitiveness is already badly hurt by the ongoing economic crisis. It should be noted that Sofia and Moscow recently seem to have reached a modus vivendi under a change in the legal framework and terminology of the Bulgarian onshore South Stream's route that could accommodate EU's third energy package objections. In that sense the Bulgarian portion will be renamed so as to comply at least nominally with EU rules.

Of course the issue has now reached a political climax, thus the upcoming Bulgarian early parliamentary elections will certainly shed more light of the actual intentions of that country. Strategic investments at stake: The long-term 500 billion USD Rosneft-Exxon-Mobil cooperation framework that deals with a decade's long extraction of oil and gas in the Arctic, Western and Eastern Siberia and the Black Sea. In order to get a grip of the stakes involved, in early August 2014, one of the joint ventures of these companies, named Karmorneftegaz, announced that total recoverable resources of hydrocarbons in the Kara Sea being currently explored could amass to around 85 billion barrels which in today's prices it is translated roughly in 8.5 trillion USD.

Exxon has also agreed to back up the establishment of the Arctic Research Center in Saint Petersburg and collaborate with Roseneft's research and development centers in Krasnodar, Samara, Ufa, and Krasnoyarsk. The total budget for all the above along with the link of those with the ExxonMobil's Upstream Research Center in Houston is reported to cost around 500 million USD. A first sign that the Western sanctions have caused strong resentment by Moscow in terms of the global strategic energy game is the intention of selling out a 50% stake of the Vankor oil-gas field in Siberia to the Chinese CNPC instead of a Western company. The reserve contains 3.8 billion barrels of oil and 100 bcm of gas and is considered to be a part of a wider geological formation with similar findings.

Thus in a total shutdown of West-Russia energy relations the Chinese state companies look like they will fill the gap both in terms of financing, technology and most importantly property of the fields. Norwegian state champion Statoil is also in strategic collaboration with Rosneft in the Barents Sea, which according to recent Oslo energy sources may contain 8 billion barrels of oil equivalent, worth some 800 billion USD in today's nominal prices. Statoil is also eager to contribute to exploring shale and tight oil & gas reserves in Western Siberia that are said to contain at least 85 billion barrels of oil. The Norwegian-owned Seadrill Limited and North Atlantic Drilling have also teamed up with Rosneft as of late August to supply offshore drilling platforms and equipment for the propose of long-term research and explorations in the Barents and Artic seas.

Regarding the prospect of a pan-European natural gas economic shock due to a stop of the flow of Russian gas in Europe, the Institute of Energy Economics of the University of Cologne assessed the following: Finland would be a country first and most harshly affected since 100% of its gas comes from Russia and it does not have substantial storage facilities. An embargo of more than 90 days will strongly impact Poland, Turkey, Germany, Austria, Balkan countries and Baltic states. A nine month stoppage will affect the whole Continent with severe breakdowns of the system, huge amounts of emergency LNG supplies that will skyrocket the prices - and in a global spot market scale. Of course Gazprom would lose its best customer base and the Russian budget will probably suffer a 8-13% decrease in yearly revenues. Nevertheless, should the situation reach that point, it would simply mean a warlike situation in Europe is rooted, thus budgetary considerations will be cast aside by all sides, and history in the region will turn backwards, perhaps one hundred years.

Ukraine crisis accelerates Russia-China energy cooperation

Daily Sabah, *09.09.2014*

Russia aims to boost its economic ties with China, particularly in the energy sector, in the face of Western sanctions over Ukraine, but this could prove a high-risk strategy.

On Monday, far from the fighting in Ukraine and the threat of fresh Western sanctions, President Vladimir Putin launched what is hailed as "the biggest construction project in the world" in Eastern Siberia. The 4,000-kilometer (2,500-mile) "Power of Siberia" pipeline will connect Yakutia's gas fields with the Sea of Japan (East Sea) and also with the Chinese border.

From 2018, the Power of Siberia will for the first time allow Moscow to supply China with natural gas through a pipeline under a contract worth $400 billion (TL 864.2 billion) over 30 years. Ending 10 years of difficult negotiations with Beijing, the signing of the contract in May was a major success for Putin, whose annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula and support for other Ukrainian separatist movements have led to the worst East-West standoff since the Cold War. At loggerheads with the West, Moscow is seeking to refocus its gas and oil exports from Europe -- its main energy market -- towards Asia and is diligently building an energy alliance with Beijing. The shift suits China, which needs additional energy supplies to cover its growing domestic consumption.

Europe, shaken by the recent gas dispute between Moscow and Kiev, has also redoubled its resolve to reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels. Russian gas giant Gazprom's Chinese contract will "provide a launch pad for the company's full-scale diversification into the Asia-Pacific region at a time when it is facing sales pressure in Europe," the Russian branch of Moody's Investors Service noted this week in a report. But Moody's also warned of "challenges" to the eastward turn, "as China's ability to put pressure on prices and the sheer scale of the required investments could weigh on the future profitability of Russia's oil and gas sector." The value of the Russia-China gas contract is being kept confidential, but according to some leaks it was below Gazprom's expectations, while the required investments amount to tens of billions of dollars.

Russia has been more successful in carving out a niche in Asia's oil market -thanks to a mega contract that the Russian state oil company, Rosneft, signed in 2013 with Beijing. In mid-August the Wall Street Journal estimated that a record 30 percent of Russian oil exports had gone to Asia since the beginning of the year. Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said this week that its oil exports to Asia could eventually double, adding that Moscow was in talks with Asian companies willing to invest in liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects in Russia's Far East. The China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) is expanding its Russia presence; it holds 20 percent in an LNG project planned for the Arctic Yamal peninsula by Russia's Novatek Group and France's Total and is working with Rosneft on oil deposits in East Siberia.

This week Putin offered China a stake in the huge Vankor oil field -- considered one of the most valuable in east Siberia. “If concluded, this deal would represent a major change,” the Eurasia Group consulting firm said in a report on Wednesday. “Rosneft’s decision to offer China a stake in the mega Vankor oil field in East Siberia signals that Moscow’s bargaining position has been further weakened by (Western) sanctions and that it needs the capital infusion.” The United States sanctions hit Rosneft hard, forcing the company led by Putin’s close ally Igor Sechin to request a bailout from the state to pay off a debt that exceeds $30 billion, while Brussels restricted Russia’s access to some technology aimed at the energy industry. Russia’s oil production -- with hydrocarbons the main source of state revenues -- is running out of steam at the moment and projects needed to revive it require huge investment. As a result, Moscow has little choice but to boost cooperation with China. But “what Kremlin presents as a strategic partnership is simply a means for China to diversify its supplies,” forcing Russia to accept Beijing’s terms, Russia’s Vedomosti business daily wrote this week.

Polish gas exports to Ukraine cut until Friday

ICIS, *10.09.2014*

Gas imports into Ukraine from Poland were cut at 14:00 on Wednesday afternoon and will not restart until 08:00 on Friday, according to a statement from Ukrainian incumbent Naftogaz.

The interruption was caused by a reduction of gas supply from Russian supplier Gazprom at Poland’s border points with Belarus and Ukraine (where gas is supplied to Poland from Russia), the country’s grid operator and incumbent have said. According to incumbent PGNiG and system operator GAZ-SYSTEM, up to 24% of natural gas deliveries have been reduced in the last two days.

A statement from PGNiG said the company was investigating if the supply cuts in relation to orders from Gazprom Export were of a “technical or commercial” nature. When asked by ICIS why Russian deliveries into Poland had been reduced, a spokesman from Gazprom said the company was “supplying gas into Poland in line with the availability of our resources”. “The discrepancy between the Polish nominations and the volumes delivered are because we are needing gas to inject into Russian storage.” Missing volumes for Polish consumption have been compensated by gas deliveries from other hubs, the two Polish companies said, notably from the capacity available at German and Czech border points. In June, Russian president Vladimir Putin warned that it was ready to cut gas exports to Europe if Ukraine received gas supply from European countries through reverse-flow technology. Currently, reverse flow is used by European companies to supply gas to Ukraine via Poland, Hungary and Slovakia. The Polish pipeline that provides gas to Ukraine has a capacity of 4 million cubic metres per day.

Austria's OMV says its gas storage nearly full

Reuters, *06.09.2014*

Austrian energy group OMV's natural gas storage is nearly full, providing a cushion should Russian gas supplies via Ukraine hit any snags, the head of its gas and power business told Reuters. "OMV's storage capacity is around 97 percent full," Hans-Peter Floren said on the sidelines of an Austria-Russia Friendship Society meeting late on Thursday.

Other companies' storage in Austria was more than 90 percent full, he said. OMV AG Chief Executive Gerhard Roiss said on Aug. 12 its storage was 88 percent full. He had said on Aug. 4 its storage was 84 percent full and it aimed to top it up completely by the end of September.

Russia is Europe's biggest supplier of oil, coal and natural gas and its gas pipelines through Ukraine are the subject of political manoeuvring, given the backdrop of fighting in the country between government forces and pro-Moscow separatists. The European Union is preparing to secure gas supplies this winter if Russia cuts exports over the Ukraine crisis, a draft document seen by Reuters showed. Floren said he did not believe Russian gas deliveries to western Europe through Ukraine were at risk. Russia's state-controlled gas giant Gazprom meets about a third of Europe's gas demand and it sends almost half of those supplies through Ukraine.

"Everyone agrees that you should keep gas out of the field of tensions," Floren told the meeting, adding that both sides saw that one should not trifle with gas and energy supplies. Floren said Russian, Ukrainian and European Commission representatives were taking a commonsense approach at weekly meetings to ensure Russian gas kept flowing smoothly. "My current information is that one has come together strongly after the big differences on price this summer. As far as the price goes, they are actually together," he said. "At issue is the modality of how rebates will be granted from the Russian side." Ukraine was pushing for rebates on the contractual price, rather than a one-off discount on taxes and fees, he said.

Algeria to launch new investment plan appeal

Oil & Gas Eurasia, *28.08.2014*

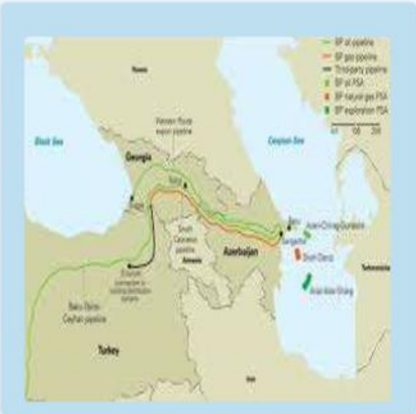
A new five-year investment plan worth $262 billion is being launched by Algeria; the plan is aimed at boosting domestic production and moving the economy away from its reliance on the petroleum sector. Projects to be included in the five-year plan are to be finalized prior to year-end.

The new step is intended to "develop a productive and diversified economy" the statement said, although no details were given. Algeria, a major gas supplier to Europe, depends on oil and gas for about 97% of its export earnings and spends over $50 billion per year on goods imports including food and pharmaceutical products.

This is not the first five-year plan to be launched by the North African country; over 2005-2009 the government slated $200 billion and for the years between 2010-2014 $286 billion was allotted. While projects were launched with both expenditures the outcome of the plans were disappointing to say the least.

First Shah Deniz gas expected in Europe by 2020

ICIS, *09.09.2014*



First natural gas from the Azerbaijani Shah Deniz II development is expected to reach Europe towards the end of 2019 or the beginning of 2020. Trans Adriatic pipeline (TAP), which starts at the Turkish-Greek border and will transport gas through Greece and Albania into Italy, should start operations on 1 January 2020, according to TAP's website.

"TAP continues to be aligned with Shah Deniz's timetable. First gas is targeted for late 2018, with supplies to Georgia and Turkey; gas deliveries to Europe are expected just over a year after first gas is produced offshore," a TAP spokeswoman said.

Representatives of the Shah Deniz consortium said the project is on track on the production side. "We said some time ago first gas production is scheduled for 2018 and first gas to Europe would be about a year later as it will take a while for the line to fill to deliver gas to Georgia, Turkey and then beyond to Europe," BP, which holds a 28.8% stake in Shah Deniz, said on Monday. Italy last week approved TAP's environmental and social impact assessment but the project still has to be green-lighted by the country's economy ministry.

ICIS understands that the project is facing a strong opposition from the population of the Puglia region where gas will be delivered. In total, Shah Deniz II will deliver 16 billion cubic metres (bcm)/year of gas through Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania and under the Adriatic Sea to Italy. Of this total, 10bcm is destined for European markets and the remaining 6bcm/year to Turkey, according to an agreement with Turkish incumbent supplier BOTAS signed in 2011.

Announcements & Reports

► *Petroleum marketing monthly*

Source : EIA
Weblink : http://www.eia.gov/petroleum/marketing/monthly/pdf/pmmall.pdf

► *Drilling productivity report*

Source : EIA
Weblink : http://www.eia.gov/petroleum/drilling/pdf/dpr-full.pdf

► *Prospects for renewable energy in GCC States: opportunities and the need for reform*

Source : Oxford Energy Institute
Weblink : http://www.oxfordenergy.org/wpcms/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/MEP-10.pdf

► *Spotlight on oil and gas megaprojects*

Source : Ernst & Young
Weblink : http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/EY-spotlight-on-oil-and-gas-megaprojects/$FILE/EY-spotlight-on-oil-and-gas-megaprojects.pdf

► *Mexico's emerging infrastructure opportunity*

Source : Deloitte
Weblink : http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/EY-mexicos-emerging-infrastructure-opportunity/$FILE/EY-mexicos-emerging-infrastructure-opportunity.pdf

► *On the brink of a boom: Africa oil and gas review*

Source : PwC
Weblink : http://www.pwc.co.za/en_ZA/za/assets/pdf/oil-and-gas-review-2014.pdf

► *Changing markets: economic opportunities from lifting the U.S. ban on crude oil exports*

Source : Brookings
Weblink : http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/research/files/reports/2014/09/09%208%20facts%20about%20crude%20oil%20production/crude%20oil%20exports%20web.pdf

Upcoming Events

► *Development & use of natural gas in the Danube region*

Date : 16 September 2014
Place : Budapest – Hungary
Website : http://www.naturalgaseurope.com/danube-region-prospects-opportunities

► *4th annual LNG global changes*

Date : 16 - 19 September 2014
Place : London – United Kingdom
Website : http://www.lnggc.com/?xtssot=0

► *Conference on sustainable development of energy, water and environment*

Date : 20 – 27 September 2014
Place : Venice – Italy to Istanbul – Turkey
Website : http://www.mediterranean2014.sdewes.org/index.php

► *Construction and repair of wells 2014*

Date : 22 – 27 September 2014
Place : Anapa – Russia
Website : http://eng2.oilgasconference.ru/

► *6th World LNG series Asia Pacific Summit*

Date : 23 – 26 September 2014
Place : Singapore
Website : http://asiapacific.cwclng.com/

Supported by PETFORM

► *All Energy Turkey- 2014* ***(in Turkey)***

Date : 24 – 25 September 2014
Place : Istanbul – Turkey
Website : http://www.all-energy-turkey.com/?lang=tr

► 3rd World shale oil and gas Latin America summit

Date : 24 – 26 September 2014
Place : Buenos Aires - Argentina
Website :http://latam.world-shale.com/en/?utm_campaign=media-partner&utm_source=wood-mckenzie&utm_medium=logo

► World national oil companies congress Americas

Date : 25 – 26 September 2014
Place : Cancun - Mexico
Website : http://www.terrapinn.com/conference/world-national-oil-companies-congress-americas/index.stm

► 2nd European shale gas and oil summit 2014

Date : 29 – 30 September 2014
Place : London – United Kingdom
Website : http://www.esgos.eu/

► Midwest energy policy conference

Date : 30 September – 01 October 2014
Place : St Louis – USA
Website : http://www.moenergy.org/mepc

► The 22nd Kioge 2014 Kazakhstan international oil & gas exhibition

Date : 30 September – 03 October 2014
Place : Almathy – Kazakhstan
Website : http://kioge.kz/en/component/content/article/29-exhibition/18-ex

► USEA 7th annual energy supply forum

Date : 02 October 2014
Place : Washington - USA
Website : http://www.usea.org/

► Energy and economic competitiveness

Date : 06 – 07 October 2014
Place : London – United Kingdom
Website : http://www.chathamhouse.org/events?field_event_flags_tid=conference

► 4th St Petersburg International Gas Forum

Date : 07 – 10 October 2014
Place : St Petersburg – Russia
Website : http://www.igu.org/events/4th-st-petersburg-international-gas-forum

► *Securing energy supply: how to better protect energy networks from disruptions*

Date : 10 October 2014
Place : Bratislava – Slovakia
Website : http://www.encharter.org/index.php?id=670&L=0

► *London oil & gas forum 2014*

Date : 10 October 2014
Place : London – United Kingdom
Website : http://www.energystreamcmg.com/conferences/conferences-forums/london-oil-gas-forum-2014.aspx

► *SPE Russian Oil and Gas E&P technical conference & exhibition*

Date : 14 - 16 October 2014
Place : Moscow – Russia
Website : http://www.russianoilgas.ru/en/Home/

► *Canada Europe roundtable for business – 2014 Calgary energy roundtable*

Date : 15 October 2014
Place : London – United Kingdom
Website : http://www.energyroundtable.org/london.php

► *SPE Russian oil and gas exploration & production technical conference & exhibition*

Date : 14 - 16 October 2014
Place : Moscow – Russia
Website : http://www.russianoilgas.ru/en/Home/

► *Energy hedging, risk management & trading seminar*

Date : 15 – 16 October 2014
Place : Houston - USA
Website : http://www.mercatusenergy.com/energy-hedging-trading-risk-management-events/

► *FT European gas summit: new supplies for Europe: feast or famine*

Date : 23 October 2014
Place : London – United Kingdom
Website : http://event.ft-live.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=87259&&reference=twittertweet

► *Society of petroleum engineers annual technical conference and exhibition (ATCE)*

Date : 27 - 29 October 2014
Place : Amsterdam – The Netherlands
Website : http://www.spe.org/atce/2014/

► *European autumn gas conference*

Date : 28 – 30 October 2014
Place : London – United Kingdom
Website : http://www.theeagc.com/

► *Turkey international underground gas storage conference*

Date : 29 – 31 October 2014
Place : Ankara – Turkey
Website : http://tugs2014.org/

► *Gas to liquids*

Date : 29 – 30 October 2014
Place : London – United Kingdom
Website : http://www.smi-online.co.uk/energy/uk/conference/gas-to-liquids

► *Climate change: raising ambition, delivering results*

Date : 03 – 04 November 2014
Place : London – United Kingdom
Website : http://www.chathamhouse.org/ClimateChange14?campaign=ngfe

► *Iran oil & gas summit*

Date : 03 – 05 November 2014
Place : London – United Kingdom
Website : http://www.iranoilgas-summit.com/

► *The European utility week*

Date : 04 – 06 November 2014
Place : Amsterdam – The Netherlands
Website : http://www.european-utility-week.com/

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► *The 4th China international offshore oil & gas technology conference and exhibition*

Date : 09 – 11 November 2014
Place : Beijing – China
Website : http://www.bmc-china.cn/en/OTC/Info.aspx?m=20140623175442410336&nm=20140623140856553113

► *International petroleum technology conference*

Date : 10 – 12 November 2014
Place : Kuala Lumpur – Malaysia
Website : http://www.iptcnet.org/2014/kl/?utm_source=Web+Banner&utm_medium=Web-ADBNR&utm_content=14IPTC-Web-ADBNR-WebUps-13AUG14&utm_campaign=14IPTC+-+Register+Now

► *Turkmenistan international oil & gas conference and exhibition*

Date : 18 - 20 November 2014
Place : Ashgabat - Turkmenistan
Website : http://www.oilgasturkmenistan.com/

► *Securing Europe's competitive energy future*

Date : 19 November 2014
Place : Brussels - Belgium
Website : https://www.entsoe.eu/news-events/events/Pages/Events/entsoe-conference-securing-europes-competitive-energy-future.aspx?EventWorkshopId=154

► *Oil & gas cyber security*

Date : 24 – 25 November 2014
Place : London - United Kingdom
Website : http://www.smi-online.co.uk/energy/uk/conference

► *166th (ordinary) OPEC meeting*

Date : 27 November 2014
Place : Vienna - Austria
Website : http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/311.htm

► *Middle East and North Africa energy*

Date : 18 – 21 Feburary 2015
Place : London – United Kingdom
Website : http://www.chathamhouse.org/node/15232

► 4th Erbil oil & gas international exhibition

Date : 18 – 21 Feburary 2015
Place : Erbil – Iraq
Website : http://www.erbiloilgas.com/

Supported by PETFORM

► 6th world forum on energy regulation *(in Turkey)*

Date : 25 – 28 May 2015
Place : Istanbul – Turkey
Website : http://www.wfer2015.org/

VI.WFER
Istanbul 2015
25-28 May

► 6th OPEC international seminar

Date : 03 – 04 June 2015
Place : Vienna - Austria
Website : http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/press_room/2793.htm

► OGA 2015

Date : 02 – 05 June 2015
Place : Kuala Lumpur - Malaysia
Website : http://www.oilandgas-asia.com/home/index.php