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Turkey gets 36 bcm gas from Azeri Shah Deniz since 2007

AA Energy Terminal, *04.11.2015*

Turkey has received a total of 36 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas since 2007 from Azerbaijan's energy-rich Shah Deniz field, an official of Azerbaijan's Socar said.

Speaking at the annual Caspian Technical Conference and Exhibition of the Society of Petroleum Engineers in Azerbaijan's capital Baku, Khoshbakht Yusifzade, the first vice-president of geology, geophysics and field development of Socar, talked about the amount and sale of natural gas produced from Shah Deniz Phase 1. "From the beginning of 2007 until Nov. 1 this year, total gas production from Shah Deniz Phase 1 was 66 bcm.

Of this amount, 36 bcm was sold to Turkey, and 4.8 bcm was sold to Georgia," he said. Yusifzade said 18 million cubic meters (mcm) of natural gas was sent to Turkey per day, while four mcm was sent to Georgia on average on a daily basis during that period. He added that during the first 10 months of this year, 4.8 bcm of natural gas from was sold to Turkey, and 550 mcm of gas was sent to Georgia, from Shah Deniz field, according to Azerbaijan portal business information ABC.AZ.

Azerbaijan sends around 6.6 bcm of natural gas to Turkey annually. This amount is expected to rise by 16 bcm when $12 billion Trans-Anatolian Pipeline Project (TANAP) will be completed in 2018. Moreover, TANAP's capacity is planned to reach 23 billion cubic meters by 2023 and 31 billion cubic meters by 2026, as the project will become an integral part of the greater Southern Gas Corridor to carry gas from Azerbaijan's Shah Deniz 2 field to Georgia, Turkey and further into Europe.

While gas production from Shah Deniz Phase 2 is expected to begin in late 2018, Yusifzade said production peak from Phase 2 is forecast to be achieved in 2020 to reach 16 bcm annually, according to ABC.AZ. This will be twice the average amount of gas output compared to Phase 1. Yusifzadeh also underlined that total gas reserves of fields being developed in Azerbaijan reached 2.55 trillion cubic meters (tcm), of which 1.2 tcm came from Shah Deniz.

Ministers call for Turkish investment in African energy

AA Energy Terminal, *14.10.2015*

African energy ministers, from Somalia, Sudan and Libya, called for Turkish investors on Wednesday to invest in their countries' energy sectors.

Speaking on the sidelines of the eight International Energy Congress and Expo in Turkey's capital Ankara, Somalia's Minister of Mineral Resources and Petroleum Mohamed Mukhtar Ibrahim talked about challenges his country faces in economy and energy. "Somalia faces challenges for economic development. High electricity cost is a challenge for the domestic industry, and lack of electricity is a challenge for households," he said.

"Most issues revolve around affordable access to electricity. Only 10 percent has access to electricity [in the country] and our people pay the highest tariff in the world with $1.5 dollars per kilowatt," he said. Stating that electricity is currently generated in Somalia from imported diesel fuel, Ibrahim said "We are trying to produce petroleum and natural gas to decrease our dependency on imported oil. In near future, we will offer production sharing agreements and provide exploration licenses."

Despite these challenges, the minister said renewable energy offers unique opportunities for Somalia, and called for foreign investment. "Renewables, like biomass, solar and wind power, offer affordable energy, and provide good opportunities for investment," he said. "Somalia is very appreciative of Turkey's support," Ibrahim told, and added that his country is creating regulations for a healthy business environment.

Sudan was another country that needs Turkish investors to develop its natural resources and energy sector. Mohamed Zayed Awad, Sudan's Minister of Oil, said his country has rich and diverse energy sources, such as hydropower, solar, wind, thermal, oil and natural gas, and added that Sudan has a bright future for renewable energy. "Sudan has put great emphasis on renewable energy resources, particularly solar. During 1970s and 1980s, solar energy was used in rural areas, lighting schools and hospitals. Unfortunately, since 1990s, all donors stopped funding the projects for some political reasons. The American embargo also hindered the development of the energy sector, and we continued with limited resources," he explained.

Stating that Sudan has developed a good infrastructure for the oil sector in the last 20 years, Awad said his country has two refineries, but needs new refining capacity, and has huge natural gas reserves, which could not be utilized yet. "We now have energy in cities, but it is missing in the rural areas. Sudan is seeking donors and investors, especially from Turkey, to develop natural resources and renewable energy. The energy sources are there, in the country. And the environment for business development, all the regulations are in place," he said.

Libya was another African country that called for investment from Turkey for its energy sector. Mashallah Al-Zawie, Libya's Minister of Oil of the National Salvation, said the world faces many economic challenges, and energy is at the center of those challenges. "In Libya, after peaceful resolution of our internal conflict, we are waiting Turkish investors in construction and electricity," he said. "We can coordinate with one another for long-term oil and gas relations with energy producing companies in Turkey," he added.

Energy Minister: Nuclear is a must for Turkey's energy future

AA Energy Terminal, *04.11.2015*

Nuclear energy is indispensable for Turkey's energy future given the country's high dependence on energy resources from abroad, Turkey's acting Energy Minister Alaboyun said.

Speaking at the eight International Energy Congress and Expo in Turkey's capital Ankara, Alaboyun said "We have something very important missing in Turkey's energy mix, and that is nuclear energy. Turkey without nuclear power means Turkey without energy in future." Turkey's first nuclear power plant at Akkuyu will be built in the country's southern province of Mersin on the Mediterranean coast by the Russian Rosatom at a cost of $22 billion.

It will have a life cycle of 60 years to produce about 35 billion kilowatt-hours per year. In addition, Turkey plans to have two more nuclear power plants in future. A French-Japanese consortium will build a nuclear plant in Sinop on the Black Sea coast, while Turkey is planning to build a third nuclear plant at Igneada in the country's northwestern region.

In a statement from Akkuyu Nuclear A.S. made, Alaboyun also commented on his recent visit to Mersin to examine the project. He stated that the Akkuyu project will be a "good model" for Turkey, and said the plant will turn the country's nuclear perception positive, adding that Akkuyu will be one of the safest nuclear plants in the world as Turkey has full confidence in Russia's technology and know-how.

"Our energy resources are limited. We are highly dependent on foreign oil and gas sources. However, nuclear plants can generate clean energy by operating for 24 hours every day, and Akkuyu is significant to secure our energy demand," he said. Alaboyun stated that Turkey lacks oil and natural gas resources, but has great potential for renewables and domestic energy resources. He added that the country aims to double its installed capacity in the next eight years and to achieve this goal, Turkey's renewable domestic energy potential must be maximized. Stressing Turkey's high natural gas usage to produce energy and generate electricity, he said that coal power plants, based on lignite, should become operational to decrease Turkey's dependency on foreign energy such as gas imports. "In the last eight years, our coal resources doubled.

The General Directorate of Mineral Research and Exploration (MTA) has been very active over the last years. If it can further expand its exploration activities, we will acquire larger resources deeper underground," he explained.

Alaboyun stated that Turkey is at a significant geostrategic position for regional energy security, and said "Turkey must use energy in its region as an opportunity for peace. If regional conflicts are resolved, every country in the region could win from energy." With regards to Iran's resources in the post-sanctions era, he said "their [Iran's] natural gas can be integrated into Turkey's infrastructure to be carried to Europe after sanctions on Iran are removed."

Alaboyun also spoke about the importance of wind energy in Turkey during the fourth Wind Energy Congress held in Ankara by Turkish Wind Energy Association (TUREB). He stated that investments will pave the way to explore the country's wind energy potential and low cost renewable energy resources are needed to fill the gap that the gradual reduction of fossil fuels will leave.

"Turkey's 2023 target for wind energy is 20,000 megawatts (MW). To achieve this, $2 billion in investments are needed to meet 950 MW every year," he said. Renewable energy resources will decrease carbon dioxide emissions, help to protect the environment, lower Turkey's dependency on foreign energy resources and increase the employment rate, Alaboyun explained.

"We will increase investment in regions where we can benefit from wind energy. In the first 10 months of this year, 62 percent of power plants were based on renewable energy to produce electricity. During the same period, 3,300 MW of power became operational, while this amount is projected to reach 5,180 MW by the end of this year," he said, emphasizing that 54.9 percent of Turkey's total installed capacity will be based on domestic resources once those renewable energy targets are achieved.

"The 247 licensed wind farm projects in Turkey have a total installed capacity of 10,114 MW, while 113 wind farms which became operational at the end of October have a total installed capacity of 4,297 MW," he said. "According to the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), total installed capacity of wind farms around the world is 370 gigawatts (GW). The International Energy Agency (IEA) data state that 2.6 percent of global electricity production came from wind energy in 2013, while this amount is projected to reach 18 percent by 2050," he added.

The minister noted that 5.7 percent of Turkey's installed capacity is based on wind energy, and 4.3 percent of electricity production in the first 10 months of Turkey came from wind. The share of wind power in the Turkey's energy mix is above the world average.

Experts: Turkey, Russia likely to agree on gas price dispute

AA Energy Terminal, *01.11.2015*

The gas price dispute between Turkey's state-owned pipeline company BOTAS and Russia's Gazprom is likely to be solved without an arbitration, experts said. Turkey has called on the International Arbitration Court to settle a discount dispute between the state-owned companies.

Russia's Gazprom had announced a 6 percent discount on natural gas purchases from Turkey last December but Turkey demanded a further price decrease. Russia then raised the discount rate to 10.25 percent in February this year, but it was never implemented. Turkey thus decided to take the case to the International Arbitration Court after June.

"Both Russia and Turkey will find benefit if the discount issue is to be resolved before the Arbitration court makes a decision," Nigyar Masumova, an expert at the Department of World Economy at Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), told Anadolu Agency.

Another expert, Orestis Omran a legal counsel at the international law firm Dentons, points out the good relations between Turkey and Russia. "It is highly likely that we will not see an arbitration in this case and that the parties will settle the dispute after negotiations," Omran said. "Especially given the geopolitical circumstances in the broader region and the generally good relations between Turkey and Russia, especially with regard to the 'Turkish Stream' project."

The Russian-proposed Turkish Stream project plans to carry 32 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas from Russia under the Black Sea to Turkey's Thrace region to reach Greece and further deliver gas to Europe. Turkey has already gone to the International Court of Arbitration, ICC, in 2005 and 2012, to voice concerns about the high price of Iranian gas imports. The court ruled that Iran pay $900 million in compensation and implement a 16 percent discount in 2005 deal, when Turkey had first taken the deal to the court. Both sides disagreed again in February 2012, when Turkey brought its request to the ICC to benefit from a 25 percent discount. The court has yet to give a decision.

Omran stressed that the dispute between Russia and Turkey is a contractual matter and the court would need to assess whether any undocumented commitments made by Gazprom, or the government of the Russian Federation, regarding this discount constitute a binding contract. "In the meantime, the gas flow to Turkey will not cease. Should BOTAS win the case, discounts will apply retroactively," he added. Meanwhile, Ali Yesilirmak, associate professor of Law at Istanbul Sehir University, said these types of arbitration cases usually take two to three years.

BTC pipeline ships 2.3 billion barrels oil since 2006

AA Energy Terminal, *31.10.2015*

Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline delivered around 2.3 billion barrels of oil from the Ceyhan port in Turkey, located in the south of the country, to the international market since 2006, according to BOTAŞ International Limited.

The Ceyhan terminal port, on Turkey's Mediterranean coast, serves as an outlet for oil exports from northern Iraq and for both oil and natural gas exports from Azerbaijan. The 1,776 km long BTC pipeline, built by the BTC Company, became operational in June 2006. The company's main shareholders are BP at 30.1 percent, SOCAR with 25 percent, Chevron with 8.9 percent, Statoil at 8.71 percent and TP with 6.53 percent.

The pipeline has a capacity of 1.2 million barrels per day and delivers Azeri light crude - mainly from the Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli field - through Georgia to Turkey's Mediterranean port of Ceyhan for further export via tankers. Since 2008, Kazakh crude oil has also been shipped through the BTC pipeline and since June 2006, the pipeline has loaded more than 2,700 tankers for global markets, according to the company. From the beginning of its operation until May 2015, the total exports of Azeri oil have climbed up to nearly 276.5 million tons, the company stated.

Ankara seeks more than 10.25 pct discount in Russian gas

Today's Zaman, *04.11.2015*

Turkey is seeking a price discount of more than 10.25 percent for Russian gas at international arbitration, Turkish Energy Minister Ali Rıza Alaboyun told Reuters, but said Ankara may drop the case if Moscow agrees to the discount.

Turkey said in February it struck a deal giving it a 10.25 percent price discount on gas from Gazprom but that accord was not signed and Botas said it had appealed to the International Chamber of Commerce after months of fruitless talks. "An agreement was clinched on the 10.25 percent, therefore we are taking that as our base level, but will seek a higher discount at international arbitration," Alaboyun said.

A spokesman at Gazprom said last week the possibility of an out-of-court settlement remained. Alaboyun did not rule that out either. “If Russia agrees on the 10.25 percent price discount, the problem could be solved without arbitration,” he said. Turkish energy officials have said Russia added conditions for finalizing the gas deal linked to its planned TurkStream gas pipeline, Moscow’s alternative project after the European Union rejected its proposed South Stream pipeline.

But as political relations between Ankara and Moscow soured over the latter’s military involvement in Syria and talks over the project were suspended in July, Gazprom said it was halving the planned capacity of the pipeline to 32 billion cubic meters. Alaboyun said contact with the Russian energy ministry over the pipeline continued and teams would be invited for technical talks. He added that Turkey was planning to ask for the right to re-export gas through TurkStream. Russia is Turkey’s largest gas supplier with sales of 28-30 billion cubic metres annually worth around $6.5 billion.

Ankara was also keen on the idea of a new pipeline from Iran, Turkey’s second-biggest gas supplier, Alaboyun said, but added that Turkey did not wish to act as a transit country. “We would like that gas (coming from Iran) to be integrated in our system, and would like to re-export if there is a surplus,” Alaboyun said.

Who is haunted by Azerbaijan’s energy projects in Turkey?

Trend News Agency, *29.10.2015*

Today, cooperation between Azerbaijan and Turkey makes their strategic tandem a driving force in a large region that extends from Eastern Europe to Central Asia and the Middle East. And, of course, this haunts other players in the region, which are trying to shake this “boat” from outside these two countries, as well as inside Turkey.

Implementation of a coordinated independent policy, major infrastructure projects, financial, energy and human resources of the two countries, and the great prospects that open up for them, irritates all the major world powers. This is obvious, in attitudes towards both Azerbaijan and Turkey.

And despite of the actions to “worsen” relations between Baku and Ankara from outside these two countries have become an everyday reality, the attempts to do the same thing inside Turkey is at least surprising. Recently, Turkish media have begun a peculiar campaign, which has no grounds – for example statements about “inexpediency” of the Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP) for Turkey. Some bad “experts” say that Ankara will be paying for the pumping of Azerbaijan’s gas across the country. This fictional information doesn’t correspond to reality, and it seems to be an outright stupidity. Apparently, those “experts” aren’t quite familiar with such a concept as transit tariffs. That is, Turkey is not going to pay for pumping gas – it is going to get money for that. And the more gas will be supplied, the more Turkey will receive.

It should be stressed that Turkey will additionally receive few bcms of Azerbaijani gas via TANAP. Of course, the fact that the TANAP project is being implemented rapidly bothers a number of countries wishing Turkey to remain energy dependent on them.

Currently, Turkey imports gas from Iran, Russia and Azerbaijan. Moreover, the country has signed agreements with Algeria and Nigeria for supplying 4.4 bcm and 1.2 bcm of liquefied gas per year, respectively. But almost all countries, except Azerbaijan, had serious problems with Turkey regarding the gas prices. Ankara appealed to the International Court of Arbitration regarding the price on Iranian gas supplied to Turkey in March 2012. Turkey appealed to the International Court of Arbitration over the prices of Russian gas supplied to the country.

No matter how the concerned forces try to harm the Azerbaijani energy projects in Turkey, all these attempts are doomed to failure. The reason is that Azerbaijani energy projects in Turkey, as opposed to other projects, are real. They are directed to the development of the region. They are not of political pressure in nature.

Turkey's new government faces tough energy security and pricing questions

Natural Gas Europe, *03.11.2015*

President Erdogan's success in securing a return to single party government in Turkey should make life a lot easier for Azerbaijan's Socar and other current and prospective foreign energy investors - so long as the new government genuinely pursues Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's pledge to work for the good of all Turkey's 78 million people.

The return of a strong single party government will make it much easier for Turkey to pursue major projects such as the Trans-Anatolian Pipeline which will bring gas from Azerbaijan's giant Shah Deniz II project to Turkey in 2019 and to Greece, Italy and the Balkans from 2020 onwards.

It will also strengthen Turkey's hand in tortuous negotiations with Gazprom over the price of Russian gas deliveries to Turkey and the future of the Turkish Stream project for a new pipeline across the Black Sea. Much will depend on the aftermath of an election campaign conducted amidst a deteriorating internal security situation. When the previous election was held on 7 June, Turkey had enjoyed two years of relative calm as a result of the opening of serious peace talks concerning how best to settle the issue of the role of ethnic Kurds with the Turkish state and society in general. But in July, the truce broke down with the government once again resorting to aerial bombing of positions held by militants of the outlawed PKK inside Turkey and of PKK bases in Kurdish regions of northern Iraq.

One consequence of this renewed warfare was a series of PKK assaults on energy infrastructure, notably two attacks on the line carrying gas from Azerbaijan, one on the line carrying gas from Iran and one on the oil pipeline carrying crude from northern Iraq to the Turkish Mediterranean terminal at Ceyhan.

Davutoglu said that in voting the AK party back into power, “Our nation asked for stability and confidence,” adding: “It has openly displayed that it wants a solution to its problems.” He also said: “Let’s work together towards a Turkey where conflict, tension and polarisation are non-existent and everyone salutes each other in peace.” To secure such a goal, Davutoglu has to break the cycle of violence. This is particularly important for Socar and its partners in developing TANAP. The two attacks on the existing Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline, as well as an attack on a train carrying pipe sections for TANAP at the end of July, all took place in the Sarikamis district of Kars in northeast Turkey. And Sarikamis lies right on the planned route for TANAP.

TANAP officials have said that the project is proceeding on schedule and that the line will be ready in time to start delivering some 6 bcm of gas a year to Turkey from 2019 onwards and a further 10 bcm/y of gas to the European Union from the start of 2020. In commercial terms, the most pressing energy problem for the government is the price of gas imports from Russia. Despite several months of negotiations, Turkey has yet to secure a price that it considers to be reasonable. Turkey accepted last February a Russian offer of a 10.25% discount.

But there was no agreement on how the discount should be calculated and on 26 October, Turkey’s state gas company, Botaş, formally told Gazprom that it was seeking arbitration of the price issue at the International Chamber of Commerce. The discount issue is complex. Turkey wants it to be a discount on the original base price; Gazprom wants it to be applied to a lower figure, the current contract price. The situation is further complicated by the fact that there has been no public acknowledgement as to just what constitutes either the original base price or the current contract price.

As of early 2014, the base price was thought to be $435 per thousand cubic metres, but since then the actual contract price, and possibly the base price has well, has certainly come down. In May, Gazprom Deputy CEO Alexander Medvedev was saying that the company anticipated an average 2015 price for gas supplies to the EU and Turkey of between $240 and $245 per 1,000 cubic metres.

The failure to conclude a price agreement for gas deliveries to its main Turkish customer almost certainly contributed to Russia’s decision in July to halt immediate implementation of its Turkish Stream project and possibly to the subsequent decision to halve the capacity of the project from 63 bcm/y to 31.5 bcm/y. Indeed, whether Turkish Stream actually does get built may turn out to be one of the key issues that the new government will have to tackle in the months ahead. However, with Turkey leaving the door open for an out-of-court settlement on the pricing issue, the new Turkish government may well conclude that the price Turkey should pay for Russian gas imports is more important than ensuring the swift implementation of Turkish Stream.

SGC by 2020: European gas race between Iran and Turkmenistan

CEEP, *24.10.2015*

Iran, together with Turkmenistan, possesses almost 28% of the world's total proven natural gas reserves. When the imminent lifting of Western sanctions takes place, Iran will do everything to re-establish its export of hydrocarbons (oil&gas) to Europe.

In order to spur the nation's sanctions-battered economy's recovery, although this contrasts with Iran's statement they will not sell gas to Europe, to soothe the Russians, who are needed for their political and economic plans. Nevertheless, it is very possible the EU will not need or will not be able to purchase both Iranian and Turkmen gas, beyond 2020.

The Union adopts a neutral stance between the two countries and their race to supply Europe with gas. The Commission will consider all economically and politically viable projects in the near future, to strengthen its energy security and secure diversification of natural gas supply routes. In this situation, also bearing in mind that even if Iran or Turkmenistan do eventually sell gas to Europe, in the short to medium term, the only possible way for it is only through the TANAP. Iran can, therefore, become a major competitor to neighbouring Turkmenistan, holder of the world's 4th largest proven reserves.

Iran joining the European gas race – cardinal change of geopolitical patterns in the Caspian Basin?

Iran's joining the geopolitical energy picture will definitely change the balance of powers in the Caspian Basin, and alter the energy landscape in the region. The Islamic Republic may become not only the strongest player, but also the game-maker. The willingness of Iran to participate in the Southern Gas Corridor pipeline project (SGC), with continuing efforts to reach the European energy market is clear. Natural gas, via the TANAP, to the amount of 10 bcm/year, will reach Europe by 2020, but it has already been fully contracted by the consumers.

In January 2020, the TAP should also come on stream with 10 bcm/year of Azeri natural gas. However, the next phase of expansion of the SGC will only take place in 2026, and until then, only an extra capacity of ca. 10 bcm/year for additional natural gas volumes will be available, due to the limited transmission capacity of both pipelines.

Increasing the exports of natural gas is among the main goals of the Islamic Republic's 6th Economic Development Plan, which is due to start in 2016. Iran hopes to trigger the inflow of new, foreign direct investments in the country's energy sector, which would help it increase its natural gas exports to Europe by up to 20-25 bcm/year.

Iran truly has great potential, but it probably will not be able to play an important role in the international gas markets, earlier than 2020, as it does not possess the necessary technology and infrastructure to implement all the major projects on gas production. Iranian gas is mainly concentrated in the south around the Persian Gulf, and there is not sufficient infrastructure to transport it to the north, so ironically, Iran has to resort to buying gas from Turkmenistan to supply its Northern provinces.

The lack of infrastructure is a major obstacle for Iran, as domestic natural gas consumption is growing tremendously. In the last 12 years, Iran's domestic consumption has more than doubled from 80 bcm in 2002, up to more than 160 bcm in 2014. It is notable that Turkey imports Iranian gas to the amount of about 10 bcm/year, via the Tabriz-Ankara pipeline, with a throughput capacity of a maximum 14 bcm. However, supplying large volumes of gas to Europe must remain a long-term goal for now.

Turkmenistan is in a much better situation – due to the nation's relatively small population and low domestic demand for natural gas; which means that domestic consumption is not a challenge for it, and the net export capacity is still big. In 2013, the production level was 62.3 bcm, but domestic consumption only reached 22.3 bcm. By 2030, it is planned to increase the production of these volumes up to 230 bcm, and use them mostly for exports.

The EU has stressed that it is ready to buy solid amounts of Turkmen gas in the long-run, paying in hard currency. It is also willing to support Turkmenistan's linking up with the SGC. By diversifying its natural gas exports to Europe, Turkmenistan could become the key energy supplier in the region. This perspective is clearly justified as the construction of a powerful gas transmitting system, the East-West, will ensure the efficient transportation of significant natural gas amounts to the country's port city, Türkmenbaşy, which is supposed to be the starting point of the proposed TCP, a 300-kilometer pipeline under the Caspian Sea to Azerbaijan, and the SGC.

The East-West pipeline project will be connected with the TCP, and will play a major role in the export of Turkmen gas to Europe, by going under the Caspian Sea. Technically speaking, the TCP pipeline can be built by 2020. However, to overcome political obstacles standing in the way of Turkmen gas to Europe, more effort will be required. One can see that once the sanctions on Iran are lifted, the breakthrough of Iranian gas exports will likely begin, but, not earlier than 2020, due to the lack of appropriate infrastructure and high domestic consumption.

This places Turkmenistan in a more competitive position, due to the prompt completion of the East-West pipeline, and the country's relatively low domestic consumption. For the delivery of Turkmen gas to the European market, the most economical and feasible option is construction of the TCP to Azerbaijan, where it will link with the TANAP. The TCP is the perfect opportunity for Turkmenistan to diversify export routes, which will not only strengthen the country's energy security, but also increase its strategic importance in the region.

In this context, Turkmenistan should focus on joining the mutually beneficial SGC pipeline project. It would then benefit from diversifying its energy exports, and have the opportunity to increase regional integration with neighbouring countries, such as Azerbaijan and Turkey, whilst participating in competitive, international energy trade. Time will reveal the outcome of the Caspian natural gas race to reach Europe, but Turkmenistan, at this stage, is first 'out-of-the blocks'.

Israel's Netanyahu to fast-track natural gas plan after minister resigns

Reuters, *01.11.2015*

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will take control of the Economy Ministry to fast-track a plan to develop huge offshore natural gas deposits after a minister who had been holding up the plan stepped down.

Economy Minister Aryeh Deri, who had opposed waiving normal antitrust laws to give rapid approval to a framework deal to develop the gas fields off Israel's Mediterranean coast, said he had offered his resignation. His decision allows Netanyahu to take the helm of the Economy Ministry and give final approval to a framework deal he reached in August with Noble Energy and Israel's Delek Group.

The outline plan leaves the partners in control of the country's largest gas field, Leviathan, while forcing them to sell smaller, yet sizable, assets. Deri could have deemed the agreement important enough for national security to exempt it from normal antitrust laws but refused to do so, saying it would set a dangerous precedent. Netanyahu said he had no problem making such a ruling. "Minister Deri informed me of his intent to resign from the Economy Ministry in order to allow for the completion of the proceedings. The ministry will revert to me and I will authorize the outline (agreement)," Netanyahu said in a statement.

The plan was opposed by Israel's anti-monopoly regulator who argued it did not open the market to sufficient competition, and he later resigned in protest. The agreement became the focus of national debate. Critics said Netanyahu was giving Noble and Delek too much power over the country's gas reserves, while Netanyahu said it was more important to get the gas out of the ground quickly.

While the debate raged, Noble and Delek froze investments and Leviathan remains undeveloped. A number of long-term, multi-billion-dollar export deals being negotiated with buyers in Egypt and Jordan were also put on hold. Various alternatives were considered for breaking the logjam. One option would have been for a parliamentary vote to transfer the power to bypass the antitrust authority from Deri to Netanyahu's entire cabinet, but Netanyahu, with just a single-seat majority, failed to muster enough support.

The latest political maneuvering sees Deri shifting jobs to head a ministry in charge of developing and investing in communities in Israel's periphery. Once the gas agreement is approved, Noble and Delek have said they would funnel close to $10 billion into Israel to develop Leviathan and expand a second field, Tamar. They will also put shares in Tamar and two smaller fields up for sale. With news of the pending approval, Leader Capital Markets, one of Israel's top investment banks, said it was resuming stock coverage for energy and exploration companies. The outline will have "a positive impact" on the sector, said Leader analyst Yehonatan Shohat, and "paves the way for the signing of export deals and brings long-term regulatory certainty."

Noble to make investment decision on Israel’s gas fields in 1 year

Trend News Agency, *27.10.2015*

U.S. oil and gas producer Noble Energy Inc said on Monday it would make a final investment decision on two large gas fields in Israel in about a year’s time, a day after the country’s prime minister promised to fast-track the projects.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he would take control of the economy ministry - after a minister who had been holding up the plan stepped down - and give final approval to a framework deal with Noble and Israel’s Delek Group .”Yesterday’s announcement from the PM’s office is a further indication of the commitment to moving forward with gas development,” Noble’s CEO David Stover said.

Shares of Noble, which cut its 2015 capital budget by $100 million and raised its sale volume forecast for the current quarter, rose nearly 8 percent to $38.56 in morning trade. The framework deal reached in August gives control of Israel’s largest gas field, Leviathan, to a consortium led by Noble and Delek. Leviathan, a massive field with reserves of 22 trillion cubic feet (tcf), was initially slated to begin production in 2018 with most of the gas earmarked for exports.

However, development has been delayed due to opposition over waiving antitrust laws to give rapid approval to the framework deal. First production would take about 3-4 years from the final investment decision (FID), Stover said on the call. Noble also owns a large stake in Tamar, another field offshore Israel’s Mediterranean coast that started production in 2013 and has reserves of 10 tcf.

Noble is looking at two separate FIDs for Tamar and Leviathan, Stover said. The company, which also operates in U.S. shale fields and offshore Gulf of Mexico and West Africa, said it now plans to spend less than $3 billion in 2015. Noble, which acquired Rosetta Resources in a $2 billion deal earlier this year, raised its fourth-quarter sales volume forecast to 385,000-405,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day (boepd) from 375,000-400,000 boepd.

The company’s net loss was $283 million, or 67 cents per share, in the third quarter ended Sept. 30, compared with a profit of $419 million, or $1.12 per share, a year earlier. The adjusted loss was 21 cents per share, steeper than the average analyst estimate of 18 cents, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. Total revenue fell 37 percent to $801 million, lagging analysts’ estimate of $955.3 million.

Iran voices readiness to sell gas to Europe for political purposes

Azernews, *05.11.2015*

Iran, which ranks second in the world for its natural gas reserves, has voiced its willingness to sell gas to Europe, even if doing so has no economic justification. "This is because we want to use our economic relations to create some political cohesion," Amir Hossein Zamaninia, the Iranian deputy oil minister in international affairs, was quoted as saying by the IRNA newspaper.

The Islamic republic, whose economy was battered by international sanctions imposed over its nuclear energy program, has long been eyeing ways to supply the European Union (EU) with natural gas.

Expecting a speedy removal of sanctions under the recent nuclear deal signed between world powers and Iran, Tehran seems close to achieving its purpose. Zamaninia noted that currently, Japan, China, and the countries south of the Persian Gulf, except for Qatar, are seeking Iranian gas. He added that European countries, too, have always expressed interest in buying gas from Iran.

"This is while, according to our calculations, Europe is importing more gas than it needs; therefore, the price of gas on the continent is lower," Zamaninia said. Europe is eager to engage in close energy cooperation with the Islamic republic, especially since the country's relations with major energy supplier Russia have cooled over the Ukraine crisis. The EU hopes to import gas from Iran, which has some of the world's largest reserves, to reduce its dependence on Russia. High-ranking officials from the EU have recently stepped up visits to Tehran, aiming to look into prospects of energy cooperation with the Islamic republic.

"We want to have relations not only with the southern Persian Gulf littoral countries but also with Western countries. When economic relations grow, political disagreements diminish and that reduces the chances of having sanctions brought back," Zamaninia stated. Iran has the long-term potential to become one of the world's top gas producers, thanks to its 34 trillion cubic meters of natural gas reserves, which is about 18 percent of the world's total reserves.

Iran's current raw gas output stands at 660 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d), but it is planning to increase this figure to 1,100 mcm/d by 2019. The Islamic republic is exploring possible export routes to bring its gas to Europe. Although the country doesn't possess the required infrastructure to realize this plan, it is discussing the possibility of transporting blue fuel to European customers via neighboring countries. Experts believe that Iran needs investments to develop its infrastructure for exporting gas to Europe. Some of them, however, noted that sending gas to Europe does not make commercial sense for Iran.

Matthew Bryza, the director of the Tallinn-based International Center for Defense Studies, earlier said Iran was surrounded by power-hungry countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Kuwait and that supplying blue fuel to these countries would be beneficial for Tehran.

Bryza also noted that it was unlikely that Iran would supply gas to Europe since this proposal did not make much sense from an economic point of view. While experts did not rule out the possibility of gas supplies to Europe, Bryza did say that it would depend on three factors: a rise in demand in Europe, the lifting of sanctions on Tehran, and the production of gas beyond the volume consumed in Iran.

What might a US-Russia showdown mean for the Balkans

Natural Gas Europe, *04.11.2015*

Colliding international interests with respect to the Balkans and the weaknesses of the South Eastern European countries Experts from Bulgaria, Serbia, and Macedonia agreed on Wednesday that there are reasons to worry - not only for the gas markets - as structural problems might increase the impact of the "US-Russia confrontation in the region."

"We are not independent" Nina Dyulgerova, Professor at the Varna Free University Chernorizets Hrabar, said in a conference on Wednesday. The point here is that South East Europe is increasingly the battleground of the showdown between the US and Russia.

Washington, Moscow and Brussels reportedly impose their interests, limiting the countries' leeway to take autonomous decisions. Several panelists said on Wednesday that "external influences" are heaping pressure on governments. Also for this reason, political leaders often fail protecting national interests. All in all, it is clear that the geopolitical arm-wrestling will first hurt weaker countries, with political political rhetoric stealing the show from factual discussions. South East European countries might be part of these weaker countries, and might be left out of the important negotiation tables. "Macedonia is too small to influence any decision making process" Konstantin Dimitrov, Professor at University of Sts Kiril and Metodij, commented.

In May 2015, tens of thousands of protesters swarmed Skopje, angered over alleged frauds. Ethnic tensions, the role of external influences and a heated debate on the role of the European Union (EU) are other factors that ignited controversy. The Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) has been a candidate for accession to the EU, but has not yet entered into accession negotiations. In March, Russia's Stroytransgaz, controlled by Gennady Timchenko, said it would start building a gas pipeline in Macedonia. On October 1, Stroytransgaz wrote it has welded more than half of the gas pipeline in the country.

During the conference organised by the Institute for Balkan and European Studies, several experts in Sofia made the case for limiting interference from the United States, and maintaing strong relations with Russia, at least in the gas industry. “Projects that exclude Russia are unreal and cannot, in the long run, solve the question of energy security of Balkan countries” Dušan Proroković, Executive Director at Serbia’s Center for Strategic Alternatives, commented during the debate.

Russia is one of the major trading partner of the region. Tourism and investments from Russia are important sources of revenues for several countries in South Eastern Europe. Experts said that Bulgaria continues to suffer, with the decrease in the country’s population showing the country’s complexities. The population steadily declined over the next 25 years. According to Bloomberg, Bulgaria is the fourth fastest-shrinking country after Japan, Ukraine and Georgia.

In the energy sector, the European Commission (EC) wrote that “Bulgaria is among the most vulnerable Member States,” adding that Sofia has yet to develop a transparent wholesale and retail market for electricity and natural gas. Brussels stated in its 2014 country report that the delays observed in developing interconnections with neighbouring countries should be resolved. The Interconnector Romania-Bulgaria (Giurgiu-Ruse) was expected by the European Commission to be completed in 2013. The Interconnector between Bulgaria and Greece (IGB) was equally postponed several times.

According to statistics released by DG Energy in June 2015, natural gas accounted for 14% of Bulgaria’s energy mix. Despite this low figure, the country’s gas sector is of strategic importance. Logically, the EU is paying close attention to developments in this part of the continent. The EC promoted in February 2015 the High Level Group on Central and South Eastern Europe Gas Connectivity ‘to ensure that interconnector projects already underway in the region but facing implementation difficulties are finalised quickly.’

In July 2015, European institutions also selected for funding two projects involving Bulgaria - the construction of an electricity internal line representing around 19% of the total €150 million package for the 20 projects across the EU. Brussels also shortlisted the 3D seismic surveys as a part of the Chiren UGS expansion project. Some experts said that these delays have also to do with the meddling of several actors. Experts recalled the negotiations held by the Bulgarian government with several US officials over the last 16 months, ranging from Assistant Secretary Victoria Jane Nuland to Secretary of State John Kerry, passing through Amos Hochstein.

Over the last months, the United States made the case of TAP and IGB projects. At the same time, Russian influence remains strong. “Moscow invests a lot of money here. Without that money, Bulgaria would struggle even more. We are kind of torn between the US, and Russia. We would actually like to work with both and be more active in Europe, but this does not seem possible” an expert told Natural Gas Europe on condition of anonymity.

Current market conditions aggravate the situation even more, as the low oil price environment decreases the likelihood of significant investments of Shell, Total, OMV, and Repsol in Bulgaria’s waters. With regards to gas, despite its marginality in Bulgaria’s energy mix, market conditions add to geopolitics and “normal” internal complexities. For instance, hundreds of Bulgarian policemen, firemen and prison guards protested against cuts to their pensions and benefits.

The fact itself is nothing unusual and dangerous per-se, but it could be easily used for geopolitical reasons especially in case local politics failed understanding and/or protecting the interests of their countries.

Gazprom: Ukraine's prepaid gas enough for five days

AA Energy Terminal, *05.11.2015*

Ukraine has prepaid gas for only five days, said Alexey Miller, Russian energy giant Gazprom's CEO. Miller who spoke to Russian media said that Ukraine decreased its consumption of Russian gas starting from early November due to Ukrainian national natural gas company Naftogaz's debt.

"Ukraine has prepaid gas for only five more days," said Miller. On the other hand, Naftogaz CEO Andriy Kobolev said earlier that Ukraine won't need Russian gas from 2016. Currently, Ukraine imports 110 million cubic meters (mcm) of natural gas from Russia daily, 14.3 mcm from Slovakia, and 0.6 million cubic meters from Hungary and Poland.

Russian LNG and Japan: Striking the right balance

Natural Gas Europe, *02.11.2015*

Alexei Miller, head of Gazprom, hosted a meeting with Ken Kobayashi, President and CEO of Mitsubishi Corporation. According to Gazprom, the parties addressed the possible cooperation within the construction of the third line of the Sakhalin II LNG plant.

The long-awaited expansion of the project was proposed only this year: on June 18, 2015, Gazprom and Shell signed an Agreement of Strategic Cooperation. The so-called Sakhalin III, with 7.4 bcm of additional capacity, is supposed to come into operation in 2021 and provide together with the existing LNG trains some 20.6 bcm.

It is worth mentioning that besides being the only LNG plant in Russia, Sakhalin II is one of the most successful export projects targeting the Asian-Pacific region.

The key to success lies in integration: it is managed and operated by Sakhalin Energy Company and its shareholders: Gazprom (50% and 1 share), Shell (27.5% minus 1 share), Mitsui (12.5%), Mitsubishi (10%). So negotiations with the same partners seemed evident for Gazprom, especially with continued uncertainty in the energy market. However, there is considerable potential in the Japanese market following Fukushima which may stimulate greater Japanese interest in the Sakhalin Energy Company. Furthermore, a partnership with Japan that includes large foreign investments would be a helping hand for Russia as it turns to the East.
Even if the business model of Sakhalin III is appealing to Japan, the energy relations between Russia as a producer and Japan as a consumer have many questions, such as whether Japan's demand matches Russia's expectations.

In April 2014, Japan approved the Strategic Energy Plan. Despite the impact of the Fukushima nuclear disaster of March 11, 2011, the nuclear power is likely coming back to the country: restarts of reactors are going to be one of the key challenges. Currently the Sendai Nuclear Power Plant is the only nuclear power plant that was brought online. If the majority of the nuclear reactors are restarted (30 to 35 of the country's 43 reactors to be activated), Japan's demand will fall for an uncertain period of time.

Return to nuclear power is only a part of the wider plan of the country to meet the "energy mix" by 2030. To enhance energy efficiency, Japan is planning to steadily increase the ratio of renewable energy (solar, wind, hydroelectricity, geothermal, biomass), and bring back but lower the dependency on nuclear power – target ratio is set at 18 to 19% of the mix and reduce the consumption of coal, oil, LPG and natural gas. By 2030 the nation is planning to decrease the use of natural gas from 131bcm in 2015 to 92 bcm. This news would hardly make Gazprom happy: by 2025 it is planning to export 101 bcm of gas to Japan and by 2030 reach 105 bcm of export volumes.

Moreover, there is considerable supply potential in the world that Japan can draw upon. The country is trying to mitigate supply disruption and diversify the sources of supply. The competition for Russia is provided by Australia, Papua New Guinea (became a supplier last year), the USA, and, to lesser extent, Canada and East Africa. Again, the Sakhalin II project provides 10% of Japan's gas consumption, but at the same time is the only Russia's LNG option in the Asian market.

Of course, Russia could revive the plan of pipeline gas supply – this option would be beneficial for Japan considering low oil prices and the distance between Russia and Japan. It would be beneficial for Russia as well as cheaper piped gas would allow Gazprom to outcompete the LNG suppliers. Nevertheless, Gazprom officials made it clear that this option is not being considered. In this case, Russia has a 5 year window to successfully enter the LNG market and capture a significant share given growing global competition from North America, Australia and North Africa, as well as smaller markets such as Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.

Taking into consideration current uncertainty, such as low oil prices sanctions, stagnating European market, high-priced Asian contracts, the challenge for Russia's fledgling LNG industry is great. Despite the hardships facing Russia in the Asian market, Japan in particular, the countries still need each other. Dr. Ken Koyama, Chief Economist and Managing Director, Institute of Energy Economics, Japan, thinks Japan needs energy supply security based on the reality after Fukushima and Russia needs energy demand security based on new reality in the EU and Asia.

Therefore, the cooperation between two countries would be mutually beneficial. The level of this cooperation mostly depends on Russia, which should adjust to the changing Asian market and move towards LNG development instead of numerous high cost pipeline projects.

Nord Stream: "Irrational approach, lack of solidarity"

Natural Gas Europe, *05.11.2015*

In a discussion dedicated to the North-South Energy Corridor at the 25th Economic Forum in Krynica, Poland, a former Deputy Prime Minister of Poland offered pointed criticism of Gazprom's latest natural gas infrastructure plan to circumnavigate Ukraine.

Referring to the Nord Stream projects I & II, former Deputy Prime Minister of Poland Janusz Steinhoff said: "From the point of view of domestic diversification and policy, these projects are extremely irrational, because these are examples of bypassing various regulations to liberalize the gas markets which are in place in the European Union.

In other words, Nord Stream I & II are not subject to regulation that gas pipelines running through the EU are, and this is an evident example of an irrational approach and a lack of solidarity in Europe." According to Mr. Steinhoff, the decision to pursue Nord Stream benefits the gas supplier who has a majority stake in the project – Gazprom – who he said is the de facto operator of the transmission system.

He opined that Poland is now in a completely different situation than it was in 2000-2001, at the time of Jerzy Buzek's government of which Mr. Steinhoff was a part. He recalled, "Mr. Buzek's government strived to build interconnections with Denmark and Norway, to send gas supplies of 5 BCM to northern Poland. "These projects were not accomplished, and now we have a completely different situation as regards gas."

According to him, the price of energy is a function of the number of alternative sources of supply. "In other words, many infrastructural projects of a cross-border nature that put Poland into the European competitive market for electricity and gas are very sound economically, because they bring about more competition and the reduction of prices."

Mr. Steinhoff said cross-border interconnectors are a very important element for building a competitive market for electricity and gas in Europe. He stated that any infrastructure project should be based on the economy and energy security priorities of the European Union. In the same session, Bogdan Janicki, Senior Adviser, Central Europe Energy Partners (CEEP), presented a report entitled "Competing Europe," which he said concentrated on three possibilities: infrastructure in Central Europe regarding gas, electricity, and oil.

“According to the report, Central Europe is slightly behind from the standpoint of GDP in comparison the top EU15, which is more than three times higher, while ours is EUR 11,000 per capita. We would like to catch up with the top 15 in Europe, but so far we are still trying,” he commented.

Taking the year 2013-14 into consideration, Mr. Janicki noted that average GDP grew by EUR 1,500 per capita, while in CEE that number was only EUR 300 (Poland gaining EUR 400). CEEP, he said, sought to identify areas that might bring the region closer to Europe: “One of these areas is cheap energy.” The organization’s report, he said, outlines the issues and projects that don’t require significant outlays, but that can ensure energy security and appropriate links to facilitate energy trade in the North-South direction.

Careful selection of such projects, he explained, could cost EUR 21-25 billion, but boosting infrastructure that would accommodate the EU15 would cost EUR 300-350 billion. “We have taken a very careful approach of what might be effectively supported by the European Union.” Regarding the projects themselves, Mr. Janicki spoke about both electricity and gas. Of the latter, he said: “All of Poland is focusing on the Świnoujście LNG terminal, which will be completed shortly,” he remarked. “There will be piecemeal implementations of different sections so that from the north the connection reaches Slovenia.”

He said it is a very important development considering what is happening on the gas market. “Recently the Russians have proposed $213-14/TCM. I hope the Polish oil and gas company can reach this level. Prices are going down, also due to such investment projects. We should now no longer rely on a single supplier.” For Central Europe, Mr. Janicki said there is an economic and financial aspect, given that the region has markedly cheaper gas than Poland or other countries have. “If we reduce the gas price, many investment programs in Poland become more viable, not to mention the emission reductions.” Still, many countries are seeing a drop in gas consumption, he noted. He asked, “Why should we invest in gas in view of the fact that the potential of LNG is only utilized at a rate of 25%? That’s true for the whole of Europe, but not for Central Europe.”

In contrast, he said, Central Europe is well supplied with oil. And how important is the North-South Corridor for Lithuania? Daivis Virbickas, Chairman of the Management Board and CEO, Litgrid AB, said that to get energy from north to south one needed to talk about Central & Eastern Europe and the Balkans. “To get energy from north to south, you need to cross both of them,” he explained. “Infrastructure for electricity and gas plays a significant role for integration, which is the reason why we’re doing this.”

He recalled that the idea of connecting the Polish and Lithuanian grids had gone back to 1992: “Twenty-three years and we have it. We’ve become integrated politically, becoming part of NATO, the European Union, integrated economically, but infrastructure will bring us the real integration and, speaking of the next step, I’m really convinced that this is only the beginning.” While there is a good list of projects, Mr. Virbickas said full integration needs to be on the table. “We need good will, and we need political and economic support,” he concluded.

EU regulators look to LNG and away from Russian pipelines –document

Reuters, *03.11.2015*

European Union regulators are preparing a strategy to import more LNG while scrutinising Russia's plans to expand its pipeline capacity to Germany, a draft EU document says. The document is part of the EC's efforts to enforce a single energy market, based on regional cooperation and diverse sources of energy shared across the 28-member bloc.

In a progress report, Maros Sefcovic will deliver "a state of the union address". A draft copy says the Commission will early next year announce a strategy for LNG and gas storage to ensure EU can benefit fully from its "diversification potential".

It will stress the importance of the fuel in negotiations with the United States on a trade treaty. At the same time, it referred to a shareholders' agreement between Russian gas giant Gazprom and five European firms to build the Nord Stream II pipeline under the Baltic Sea to Germany, bypassing traditional transit nation Ukraine. The Commission would assess it "rigorously against the European regulatory framework," it said, and the project would have to comply with environment, competition and public procurement rules.

The document also said it was in everyone's interest that Ukraine remained an important transit nation. The Commission has questioned the logic of expanding Nord Stream and said it would give Gazprom a dominant position in the German market.

It says the European Union already has pipeline capacity to spare and the expansion will not be eligible for preferential treatment under its Projects of Common Interest system that offers EU money and accelerated planning for strategic infrastructure. Industry sources say Russian pipeline gas is the cheapest option, but LNG can provide leverage. Lithuania's Klaipeda terminal, which started operating a year ago, curbed the nation's dependency on Russia and allowed it to negotiate cheaper supplies.

Assessing the energy union as a whole, the report will say progress is needed as many governments favour domestic needs over the regional solutions the Commission says improve supply security and reduce consumers' energy costs. Countries that have failed to meet targets for building energy interconnectors with neighbours include Britain, Italy, Poland, Spain and Portugal. Britain, together with the Netherlands and Luxembourg, is also lagging on a target to introduce more renewable energy.

The European Commission does not comment on unpublished documents. Environment campaigners criticised it for focusing too much on gas, while the Commission says it wants to cut reliance on fossil fuel.

SocGen sees European gas sinking through 2020 on supply glut

Bloomberg, *02.11.2015*

European natural gas prices, already at their lowest since 2009, will drop further over the next five years as fuel delivered by tanker from the U.S. will add to record Russian and Norwegian supplies, Societe Generale SA said.

Front-month gas on the National Balancing Point hub in the U.K., Europe's biggest market, will decline more than previously expected every year through 2020, the bank said in an e-mailed report Monday, cutting its forecast for 2016 prices by 9.1 percent. Europe will remain a "dumping" ground for excess liquefied natural gas, while demand will be subdued, it said.

"With Brent still below $50 a barrel, record pipe gas supply coming from Norway and Russia and more to come thanks to LNG, high storage levels, above-seasonal temperatures and little demand growth, we have revised down our forecast," Thierry Bros, European gas and LNG analyst at Societe Generale in Paris, said in the note.

LNG tankers are heading to Europe because the continent's liquid hubs can absorb supply not needed in Asia, the biggest market for the super-chilled fuel. Europe's LNG imports will likely increase in the next five years after a 23 percent jump in the year through October as plants start from Australia to the U.S. to Russia.

The gas contract for next-month delivery will probably trade at 43 pence a therm ($6.7 a million British thermal units) this year, down from a forecast for 44 pence, Societe Generale said. The 2016 outlook was cut to 40 pence from 44 pence, it said. The price is seen at 41 pence through 2019 before edging up to 43 pence in 2020.

Front-month gas fell 1 percent today to 39.05 pence a therm on the ICE Futures Europe exchange, the lowest level for the time of year since 2009. It has lost 29 percent over the past year. LNG supply will start to expand more than 6 percent a year from 2016, Societe Generale said. That'll be possible as production starts in the U.S., where five LNG plants are under construction to produce 54 million metric tons of LNG a year, or about the same as Europe's LNG needs. Decisions on new plants that would boost supply before 2020 are unlikely "any time soon," the bank said.

Reduction in Dutch gas production after earthquakes caused by extraction allowed Russia to pump record volumes to Europe, the bank said. Russia probably won't engage in a price war, keeping the floor of 38 pence a therm, Bros said.

Energy for the Baltics: EU policies and national actions

Baltic Course, *05.11.2015*

The Commission has set out a set of joint goals aimed at coordinating the EU member states steps in their energy policies. These goals include fundamental choices in terms of progressive electricity and gas markets' liberalisation, as well the way the states generate energy. The Baltic States have taken already progressive actions.

The Lisbon Treaty introduced from 2010 a new legal basis in the area of European energy, which no-tably enables the EU institutions to lay out general energy policy goals, to clarify the members' actions and to take steps ensuring smooth functioning of the market, energy supply and se-curity.

As well as to promote energy efficiency and interconnection of the energy networks. Presently, two European Commissioners are responsible for energy issues: Maroš Sefčovič, Vice-President for Energy Union and Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate and Energy Action. Besides, several other commissioners take part in energy-economy "combination" united in the main EU's policy –"Energy union & climate".

According to Commission's accounts, about 50-70% of European citizens support the idea of EU-28 common energy policy with its three main priorities: sustainable, reliable (both externally and internally) and affordable energy for European businesses and citizens. The "task force" set up in mid-2015 by the European Commission and the European Investment Bank's (EIB) has already picked out 2000 eligible projects; about third of which is devoted to energy issues.

All 3 Baltic States have already achieved most of their EU 2020 targets; see, for example:

Baltic States' steps: Latvia

Latvian Energy Efficiency Association (LATEA) presented at the Baltic Energy Forum- 2015 the country's active involvement in the Nord Stream-2 project. The concept of Baltic Energy Alliance (BEA) as a potential center for excellence in energy is being developed by the LATEA. Maris Sproga, an author of BEA's concept and a member of the board in LATEA, mentioned that Nord Stream-2 was a project that would impact Latvia and the Baltics in the context of common EU energy policy. BEA is planning to facilitate the implementation of the energy policy for business within the Baltic States, especially Latvia. Nord Stream-2, as well as the potentials of LNG, energy infrastructure, market and business issues are among the main BEA's priorities. The chairman of LATEA, Raimonds Keirans mentioned that BEA is important to assist the EU to promote and clarify its energy strategies as well as to discuss the energy policy among the Baltic States. It is vital to provide the society with clear and consistent information regarding energy issues and, especially, issues concerning electricity and gas market liberalization.

BEA also can be seen as a real instrument to support the execution of BEMIP (Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan), removing cross-border restrictions to trade in energy, regulated energy tariffs as well as developing LNG facilities, new interconnectors and gas storage issues.

Renewables in Estonia

The total production of renewable energy in 2015 is reaching 300 GWh; the share of renewables in the general energy mix was 16.2%, which exceeds by 2% the same period last year. Wind power accounted for about 40% of the total production of renewable energy and the amount of electricity produced (108 GWh) was around the same as a year ago. Amounts paid for the state support of wind energy grew by 7% reaching € 5.2 million. Renewable energy production from biomass, biogas and waste formed 60% of all renewable energy production. From this source about 167 GWh of electricity was produced; electricity produced from biomass, biogas and waste received € 7.8 million of subsidies.

Hydro-energy production reached 2 GWh and € 58,000 euros in subsidies. The number of recipients of subsidies for producing solar energy has increased twice within a year and exceeded 400. About 648 MWh of solar power was channeled into the national electricity grid and got subsidies in the third quarter, by 2.5 times more than a year ago. Since micro-producers consume the majority of solar energy their produce, the general amount of electricity produced with solar panels is an estimated 4-5 times bigger.

Elering provided renewable energy support for a total of 245 GWh. In monetary terms, the amount of subsidies for renewable energy grew by 3% to €13.1 million. About € 540,000 of efficient cogeneration subsidy provided in 2015, i. e. a bit more than at the same time last year. The amount of electricity reached 17 GWH.

Latvian gas supply company’s restructuring

Latvian economy minister said that Latvia’s largest gas consumer, joint-stock power supply company Latvenergo, has been offered to purchase liquefied natural gas from Lithuania for a lower price than what LG is offering. According to minister, having alternative gas suppliers has two advantages – security and price. From a security point, it is important to have alternative suppliers, so that a similar situation like in Ukraine would not take place, i.e. when one side decides to switch off the gas flow.

Furthermore, competition is an important aspect in gas prices: the more players are in the market, the more competition, leading to lower prices. Russian gas company Gazprom is using its monopoly status in Latvia and the country has been always overpaying for. For example, Valmiera Fiberglass Company pays 28% more for gas than a similar factory in Germany. Latvia’s Parliamentary Economic, Agricultural, Environmental and Regional Policy Committee decided to submit amendments to the Energy Law on the break-up of joint-stock Latvian gas company Latvijas Gaze, which was approved in the first reading. Meanwhile, state joint stock power supply company Latvenergo announced in September 2015 that its intention to purchase a first batch of liquefied natural gas from Lithuania this year.

Latvijas Gaze will be split into two independent companies by April 3, 2017, of which one will be in charge of the gas transmission and storage system, and the other will be responsible for natural gas distribution and sale, according to amendments to the Energy Law that the government approved in September. The agreement was signed by the representatives of the Lithuanian and Polish gas transmission system operators – Amber Grid (Lithuania) and Gaz-System (Poland) – and the Innovations & Networks Executive Agency responsible for financing strategic EU projects.

The signing ceremony was attended by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaite, Polish Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz, Latvian Prime Minister Laimdota Straujuma and Estonian Prime Minister Taavi Roivas.

The GIPL project aims at the integration of the Baltic region gas markets into a single EU gas market, at the diversification of gas supply sources and at the enhancement of the security of gas supplies. GIPL will bring socio-economic benefits to the three Baltic States and Finland (for the latter once the gas interconnector between Finland and Estonia is constructed).

The project is being implemented jointly with the Polish gas transmission system operator – Gaz-System S.A. The preparatory works for the GIPL project started in 2009, a GIPL business environment analysis was prepared in 2013, and a GIPL feasibility study was completed in 2013.

Gas pipeline (700 mm wide) will connect Lithuania's Jauniunai and Poland's Rembelszczyzna compressor stations. The pipeline will be 534 km long, 177 km of which will be laid in Lithuania. The cost of the GIPL's project is € 558 million; of which € 422 million is for Poland and € 136 million for Lithuania. The GIPL's launch is scheduled for the end of 2019.

The GIPL is one of the energy infrastructure projects that benefits "Common European Interest"; such projects are critical for completing of the European internal energy market and for the attainment of the Commission priority to establish an Energy Union to secure, affordable and sustainable energy.

Lithuania's energy sector

The country's prime minister, Butkevicius emphasised that the energy sector was key for guaranteeing Lithuania's economic stability and social security. He noted that after the completion of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal project, the construction of gas connection with the regional gas pipeline and the construction of electricity links with Poland and Sweden the country's energy supply would be secured.

The prime minister said that electricity prices were reduced by around 13% in two years and heating price by nearly 20%. Next year the second stage of heating sector reform will commence – biofuels' cogeneration power plants will be built in Vilnius and Kaunas, which will be the largest energy facilities to be built in the last 20 years. Once they are operational, heating prices for consumers will further decrease. The PM noted that fiscal policy instruments have been included in the 2016 draft budget and will promote economic growth. Apart from European funds the state will allocate €1.23 billion.

Additional measures are foreseen to boost economic viability counterbalancing export decrease or temporary weakening of the economy. The domestic market and internal demand will be strengthened; however, this will not contradict sustainable growth and expenditure restraint applied in the euro area.

In order to reduce tax burden on the lowest earners and create progressive taxation, the maximum monthly tax-exempt income amount will be increased in 2016 by € 34, from € 166 to € 200. Whereas the fixed additional tax-exempt income amount per every child in a family will be doubled from € 60 to € 120. Other measures include larger minimum monthly wage in accordance to economic realities and wage growth in certain sectors.

According to Butkevicius, all three measures have synergic influence: they improve purchasing power which in turn promotes business development. The prime minister said that the minimum monthly wage would grow from € 325 to €350 from the beginning of 2016. Meanwhile, salaries of employees in the arts sector will increase by € 71 on average – € 12 million will be allocated for this. Another € 12 million will be spent to improve remuneration for soldiers.

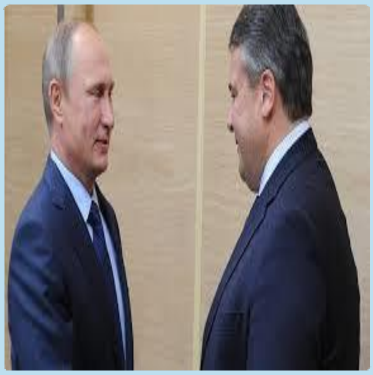
Estonia’s energy projects

Estonian Economy and Infrastructure Minister, Kristen Michal gave approval to three projects to be submitted to the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for the energy applications round including Balticconnector gas pipeline, Karksi compressor station and Paldiski liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal.

The Paldiski LNG terminal application was submitted to the Ministry by OÜ Balti Gaas. The ministry said that building the liquefied natural gas terminal would bring to the region’s gas market a new source of supply, thus increasing competition in the gas market and the security of energy supply. In the terminal project, the money comes for Balticconnector, whose estimated cost is €250 million; Estonia’s share is roughly €130 million. The pipeline’s length is 47 kilometers on the Estonian shore, the underwater part of the pipeline is 81 km long and on the Finnish mainland, 20 kilometers long. The expected building period is 2016-2019; the owner and coordinator of the project is the state-owned Elering Gaas from the Estonian side and Baltic Connector OY from the Finnish side. Estonia asks also for CEF funding support to building the Karksi compressor station, which is necessary to enable gas transit to Latvia.

Germany tests the waters with Russia

Strafor, *04.11.2015*



Germany sent a signal Wednesday that it is rethinking its relationship with Russia, when Vice Chancellor and Economy Minister Gabriel met with Russian President Putin in Moscow.

The visit's official purpose was to discuss bilateral trade, but since trade is linked to EU sanctions on Russia, the meeting suggests that Berlin is looking for ways to modify or even lift the current punitive measures against Moscow. However, such a decision would probably create friction between Germany and most Central and Eastern European countries, which means that Berlin is still not ready for a formal change of direction.

Before Gabriel's visit to Moscow, the German Ministry of Economy issued a news release focusing primarily on bilateral trade. According to the statement, during the first half of 2015, German exports to Russia contracted by 31.5 percent compared with the same period in the previous year. Russia is only Germany's 13th most important exports destination, but at a time when Europe's economic recovery is still fragile and China's growth is slowing, Berlin probably thinks it needs to diversify its exports as much as possible.

The EU sanctions against Moscow make exporting goods to Russia complicated. In addition, Germany and Russia had planned to increase trade before the crisis, with talks for trains, chemical plants and other projects on the table. Gabriel's visit happens only three months before the European Union has to decide whether to extend, expand or lift its economic sanctions against Russia. Germany may think it has reasons to push for a softer stance on Moscow.

In recent months, the situation in Ukraine has become relatively stable, with only sporadic cease-fire violations. There were no major security breaches during Ukraine's regional elections this past weekend (though certain parts of eastern Ukraine did not vote), and the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic recently started the second stage of withdrawing light weaponry.

Germany is also interested in improving its ties with Russia for energy. On Oct. 8, Gabriel met with Gazprom's CEO in Berlin to discuss new infrastructure projects for Russian natural gas, including an expansion of the Nord Stream pipeline. As part of his visit to Moscow, Gabriel will also meet with Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak on Oct. 29. Germany is the largest consumer of Russian natural gas.

This fact forces Berlin to make sure that German and Russian energy companies continue to cooperate. It also forces Berlin to balance between containing Moscow's influence in Central and Eastern Europe and making sure Russia continues to sell natural gas at affordable prices. In addition, Germany sees Russia as a key player in solving the crisis in Syria, which is directly linked to the increased arrival of asylum seekers in Europe. Most of Syria's asylum seekers are heading to Germany, which is putting political stress on Berlin.

Germany has been softer than other Western European countries and the United States when it comes to discussing the future of Syrian President Bashar al Assad’s government and the Syrian conflict.

Russia has reasons of its own to invite Gabriel. In recent months, a combination of falling oil prices and Western sanctions has taken a toll on the Russian economy, which could contract by as much as 4 percent this year. The Kremlin has been actively lobbying many European countries, such as Italy and France, to ease sanctions — though Moscow knows that Germany is the key to unlocking the sanctions. The Kremlin also sees meetings with high-ranking European officials as proof that it is not isolated and as a way to generate friction among EU members.

Putin is probably also thinking long term. Gabriel is the leader of the Social Democratic Party, which traditionally has been sympathetic to Russia. With the popularity of German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Christian Democratic Union party in decline because of the refugee crisis, there is a chance Merkel will not be victorious in the next general election, scheduled for 2017. The Social Democratic Party is also taking a hit because of the refugee crisis, but preserving Russia’s good ties with the German center-left could be useful should the party perform well in two years.

Similarly, Putin has scheduled a meeting with former French President Nicolas Sarkozy. France will hold presidential elections in 2017, and Sarkozy’s conservative party will probably make it to the second round of the vote.

Gabriel’s meeting with Putin will draw the attention of Ukraine and the United States. Berlin and Washington have so far coordinated their reactions to the situation in Ukraine, and both administrations insist that fully implementing the Minsk agreements is key for any changes in the sanctions regime.

The problem is that Germany and the United States may have different interpretations of what compliance with the Minsk agreements means. Lifting sanctions against Russia could damage Germany’s relationship with the United States and also force the White House to increase its economic and military cooperation with former Communist states, from Poland to Romania. This would, in turn, deepen the European Union’s already serious political fragmentation.

The problem for Gabriel and Putin is that it will take more than a trip to Moscow to improve the European Union’s relationship with Russia. Though countries in the West such as Italy and France would welcome an easing of tensions with the Kremlin, most EU members in Central and Eastern Europe continue to push for a hard line on Moscow. In Poland, the nationalist Law and Justice party’s election victory will only toughen Warsaw’s position on sanctions.

These countries already have a tense relationship with Germany over its strategies for dealing with the immigration crisis; Central and Eastern Europe have been particularly critical of German plans to relocate asylum seekers across the European Union, and Berlin is not ready for another confrontation. With the wounds created by the debate over migrant quotas still open, Berlin will probably try to delay the debate over Russian sanctions for as long as possible. Considering that the existing sanctions do not expire until Jan. 31, Germany will probably choose to deal with one crisis at a time. However, Gabriel’s meeting with Putin suggests that Berlin is testing the waters before making a decision on the future of Germany’s relationship with Russia.

Us LNG: Cheaper long-term

Natural Gas Europe, *02.11.2015*

Long term, US LNG, will be cheaper on a cost basis than LNG from most of the rest of the world, according to Kimball Chen, Chairman, Energy Transportation Group.

Mr. Chen, who advises governments and buyers of LNG about strategy and commercial aspects, pledged to look at US LNG in the context of different cost levels of different producers, different levels of irrationality, pricing, revenue pressure for different sellers. He offered: "The basic cost elements of US LNG are the cost of the gas, the cost of getting the gas to a coastal location where there's a liquefaction plant, cost of liquefying, and cost of shipping it."

He noted that the US is one of the only places in the world which has numerous owners of gas reserves, along with quite a large and liquid transportation system. "Most of the other big supply basins are dominated by national companies who use national and government strategy as a primary determinant of their economics," he said. "But in the US, you can buy gas – it's a buyers' market."

For example, Mr. Chen said it is possible to buy proven Marcellus shale reserves for less than $1/mmBtu. "To produce it, treat it and get it to a pipeline that will take it to a coastal liquefaction site is probably $1 – so for less than $2/mmBtu you can get gas into a liquefaction plant."

Depending on the plant location and effectiveness of procurement, he said it costs $2.50-3.50 to liquefy such gas. "To get it from the US Gulf to Northwest Europe is about $1.10-1.20 in shipping depending on the shipping costs, financing and so forth; to get it there from the Northeast US or East coast of Canada is $0.80-0.90, so there's a twenty to thirty cent differential."

He noted that there is a 5-10% advantage by liquefying in the northeast, because of colder ambient temperatures, so liquefaction plants are more efficient in colder temperatures. "So when you look at all these cost elements and you look at the cost of LNG you ask yourself 'what's the lowest price that I, as a European buy entity, could achieve if I had a critical mass of demand that I was willing to put out for a bid for long-term LNG?'"

Mr. Chen opined that a European buyer that wanted to achieve the lowest cost for long-term LNG from the US market would likely want to consider buying reserves, committed pipeline capacity and either working in partnership or taking control of a US liquefaction site that has good permitting prospects, and doing a tough-minded procurement.

"In that case, you could probably achieve a long-term delivered price of $8/mmBtu or less, long-term. If Cheniere were willing to sell to you because they have spare capacity, and all their primary liquefaction is paid for by their baseload customers, they could sell you marginal spare capacity much cheaper.

“They’ve said publicly that they could sell LNG into Europe medium and long-term for $7/mmBtu, but then they of course want to profit maximize long-term, so they might not necessarily sell their marginal capacity at $7.” In light of the cost and competitiveness of the US market, buyers, he said, must decide what risks they they want to take and when they want to take them. “If you want to go into the market now, this is a very good time for all elements: feed gas, pipeline capacity, liquefaction, mobilization and shipping costs are low – there’s excess shipping capacity; financing costs are low.”

As an expert, Mr. Chen stated: “I would tell you, this is a good time to go.” He also outlined the strategic and commercial aspects of LNG, noting that many used LNG as providing additional negotiating strength for dealing with traditional suppliers like Gazprom or Statoil, or may use spot LNG to provide peak supply when it is cheap. “So it’s an economic tool and possibly a scheduling tool. It’s harder with pipelines to have volatility in quantities; it’s easy to suddenly drop a lot of LNG into fairly unused terminals.”

In Lithuania, LNG has a role as a price cap, suggested one speaker in the session. Mr. Chen explained: “If there’s a sufficient quantity of LNG potentially available for the European market, the average price of that LNG that is available acts as a cap on what pipeline suppliers will be successfully able to negotiate with European buyers.”

He promised to dissect that concept a bit further, explaining the pricing policy of people who sell LNG. “That pricing policy is partly economic and it’s partly irrational and sometimes politically driven. The basic economics of producing LNG are: find and produce the gas, treat the gas, liquefy it, transport it.

“Who controls those decisions? It’s sellers: sovereign governments in many countries, together with international partners – often international oil corporations. What are their objectives? How do they make pricing decisions?” he queried. They make price decisions on the basis of marginal cost, or on the basis of what they need to do to achieve market share, according to Mr. Chen, who questioned if they might be irrational at certain points to maintain market share. “A buyer has to keep irrationality in mind as well as rationality.”

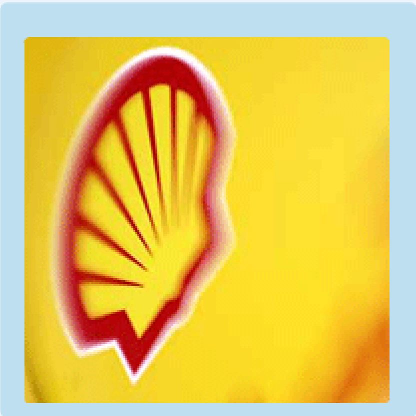
For example, he said that Australian LNG projects will have a lot of LNG coming onstream. “The developers of those projects reached and committed to final investment decisions, the money has been raised, they’ve started building... That volume will be on the market. However, that LNG is very expensive from a cost point of view.”

Many people, he said, speculate that some of the more expensive Australian projects such as Ichthys or Prelude require break-even pricing of above $14/mmBtu. Mr. Chen commented: “If that’s their cost position, and these are being developed by commercial entities, they won’t want to sell below cost unless they have no other way of getting revenue, because LNG is based upon continuous production – you can’t stop and start; they can’t ‘leave it in the ground.’ They still have to amortize their debt.” That means, he said, that even for a commercial entity the decision on how to price quantities is sometimes not based on cost recovery, a similar situation for governments. “Look at Qatar,” he quipped. “Most of its volumes go to the Far East. The traditional long-term contracts that they did with Japan at the beginning of the 1990s are at a certain price level – they’re oil indexed.”

He asked whether Qatar would sell sufficient quantities to other buyers on a basis which yields a substantially lower price than to their Far East customers. “Would it make those customers force a renegotiation? That is a serious marketing issue,” said Kimball Chen.

Shell says BG takeover would work at mid $60s brent prices

Natural Gas Europe, *03.11.2015*



Royal Dutch Shell said it is on track to deliver its $11 billion spending reduction program. The company also said that a $70 billion takeover of BG Group has enabled Shell to identify a $1 billion increase in pre-tax synergies to $3.5 billion. That amount equates to a 40% increase in synergies. Its takeover plans would work also at mid $60s Brent prices, it said in a statement.

“BG rejuvenates Shell’s upstream by adding deep water and integrated gas positions that offer attractive returns and cash flow, with growth potential. These are industries where Shell has significant capabilities and technologies.

With enhanced positions in both of these themes, Shell can focus on the best positions, and deliver a more structured and predictable investment programme,” Shell’s CEO Ben van Beurden said. The expected increase should be related to a doubling of expected operating cost savings from $1 billion to $2 billion.

“The Net Asset Value (NAV) oil price breakeven for the recommended combination is currently estimated to be at mid $60s Brent prices, taking account of the transaction structure, current equity market conditions, reduced operating cost forecasts and capital expenditure over time, together with other factors, including synergies,” the statement said.

Shell also wrote that a complete assessment of the deal will be possible only at its completion, as it is influenced by equity prices and other market factors. The Anglo-Dutch company said it wants to pay a $1.88 per share dividend in 2015, and at least the same dividend in 2016.

Shell also announced the completion of two divestments, one in France and the other in China. “In France, the company has completed the sale of its Butagaz LPG business to DCC Energy for €464 million,” Shell wrote on its website. “The transaction is a share sale and all Butagaz staff, together with the Butagaz brand, have passed to DCC Energy.” Shell reported a significant loss in the third-quarter due to write-offs, currency exchange rate effects and financing items.

Oil & gas contractors face “perfect storm” of oil price crash and tax hit

The Press and Journal, *04.11.2015*

Tax rises and job cuts have “irrevocably changed” the landscape for North Sea oil and gas contractors, leading business figures have predicted. Specialists from Johnston Carmichael, Aberdein Considine, Prodrill and Caunce O’Hara say trading conditions for their clients is becoming increasingly challenging due to a “perfect storm of economic forces and political interference”.

Contractors have borne the brunt of the 5,500 energy job losses following the decline in Brent Crude prices. Weir Group added 400 more jobs cuts and up to 20,000 more positions are expected to go before 2020.

As companies adjust to lower prices and new fields becoming harder to find and commercially exploit. The employment blow has been compounded by a raft of tax increases announced in a targeted attack by George Osborne earlier this year. A special conference – ‘The Changing Face of Oil and Gas Contracting’ – has been arranged by the four businesses to help workers deal with the changes.

The event, being held in Aberdeen on November 17, will bring together experts in jobs, taxation, wealth management and insurance to help contractors plan for the new landscape. “Working conditions for North Sea contractors have changed irrevocably during the course of 2015,” a spokesman for the organisers said.

“Over the past 12 months, most have seen an erosion of employment opportunities. They also have to deal with what appears to be a clear attempt from the Chancellor to force workers out of contracting and into staff jobs. “This perfect storm of economic forces and political interference has been a hammer blow to many in the industry.

“But there are still opportunities. Many of the changes – jobs, IR35, changes to dividend taxation, employment intermediaries legislation, wealth and pensions – will be among the issues discussed at the short conference. “The interactive event – during which delegates can ask anything they want to know about the industry – is free of charge. North Sea operators, including Shell, BP, Chevron and ConocoPhillips, have all announced cuts, a trend has raised concerns about an emerging skills gap.

North Sea oil companies have been particularly hard hit by the near 55% decline in the oil price since June 2014, as they were already facing some of the industry’s highest operating costs in one of the world’s most mature basins. The oil and gas sector employs around 375,000 people and remains an important source of tax revenue, despite those receipts dropping. Nevertheless, contractors also look certain to lose out on thousands of pounds of income due to changes in dividend tax next year.

Self-employed contractors will pay an additional £2,000 in tax for an £80,000 contract under new rules. In his second raid, contractors who are the sole employee of their own limited company will be prevented from claiming the NICs Employment Allowance. At present, contractors can offset the £2,000 allowance against employers’ NIC arising on ordinary salary. In a third blow, he has also decided to proceed with the March 2015 Budget plan to ban tax relief on travel and subsistence expenses.

Announcements & Reports

► *US Shale Oil Dynamics in a Low Price Environment*

Source : OIES
Weblink : http://www.oxfordenergy.org/wpcms/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/WPM-62.pdf

► *Natural Gas Weekly Update*

Source : EIA
Weblink : http://www.eia.gov/naturalgas/weekly/

► *Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report*

Source : EIA
Weblink : http://ir.eia.gov/ngs/ngs.html

► *This Week in Petroleum*

Source : EIA
Weblink : http://www.eia.gov/petroleum/weekly/

Upcoming Events

► *LNG Terminals - Game Changers for Regional Energy Security*

Date : 11 November 2015
Place : Lithuania
Website : http://www.naturalgaseurope.com/interconnecting-europe

Supported by PETFORM

► *Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition & Conference*

Date : 09 - 12 November 2015
Place : Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates
Website : http://www.adipec.com/

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The Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition & Conference

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► *CIS Oil and Gas Transportation Congress* *(in Turkey)*

Date : 11 – 12 November 2015
Place : Istanbul - Turkey
Website : http://www.theenergyexchange.co.uk/event/cis-oil-and-gas-transportation-congress-2014/attend

► *20th Turkmenistan Oil and Gas Conference*

Date : 17 - 19 November 2015
Place : Ashgabat – Turkmenistan
Website : http://www.oilgasturkmenistan.com/

► *Israel's 2nd Annual International Oil & Gas Conference*

Date : 17 - 19 November 2015
Place : Tel Aviv - Israel
Website : http://www.universaloilgas.com/

► *European Autumn Gas Conference*

Date : 17 - 19 November 2015
Place : Geneva - Switzerland
Website : http://www.theeagc.com/

► *Atlantic Council Energy & Economics Summit*

Date : 19 – 20 November 2015
Place : Istanbul - Turkey
Website : http://www.acsummit.org/

► *Project Financing in Oil and Gas Conference*

Date : 23 - 24 November 2015
Place : London - UK
Website : http://www.smi-online.co.uk/

► *The 9th ICIS European Gas Conference*

Date : 08 - 09 December 2015
Place : Amsterdam - The Netherlands
Website : http://www.icisconference.com/europeangas

► *European Gas Conference 2016*

Date : 19 – 20 – 21 January 2016
Place : Vienna, Austria
Website : http://www.europeangas-conference.com/?utm_source=external%20&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=naturalgaseurope

► *Kazakhstan Oil and Gas Summit 2016*

Date : 22 - 23 February 2016
Place : Almaty, Kazakhstan
Website : http://www.kazakhstanogs.com/