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Turkey to fix BOTAS deficit with Russian gas discount

Anadolu Agency, *15.10.2014*

Turkey's will address the deficit from BOTAS if Turkey gets natural gas discount from Russia, said Turkey's energy minister Taner Yildiz. "We have asked for discount on the sale of natural gas from Russia in a meeting in Moscow", said Yildiz in the Energy Supply Security and Southern Gas Corridor Panel in Ankara.

Turkey highly depends on Russia for its natural gas supply which is operated mostly by BOTAS. "The decrease of prices for crude oil and natural gas are important for our consumers, however, we will primarily fix the Petroleum Pipeline Corporation of Turkey - BOTAS' deficit," he said.

Yildiz said that the 23rd tanker of oil from the Kurdish region in Iraq, exported from the port of Ceyhan, has been loaded and added that a total of 17.3 million barrels of oil have been transported for sales. Yildiz said the current flow speed is 240 thousand barrels per day and the capacity of the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline is 1.5 million barrels of oil daily. "The more oil is pumped from the pipeline, the more Iraq will be stable," he said. The Baghdad and Erbil administrations continue their dispute over the oil pumped from the region. The Kurds in the Erbil administration insist that it is their right to trade oil independently whereas the central government says it is against the constitution of the regional government to sell oil themselves. Ankara maintains that their actions are fully legal and the oil pumped to Turkey belongs to Iraq as a whole.

Gazprom signals fall in gas prices in sales to Turkey

Reuters, *13.10.2014*

Russia's Gazprom is now working on a detailed price package in line with Turkey's demand for a discount on natural gas prices, said Gazprom Vice President Alexander Medvedev at the fourth International Gas Forum.

"We are evaluating our price negotiations under two headings. In the first column, we are working on setting a price for Turkish gas importers for this year and next year, and in the second, we are working on setting a gas price for Turkey's state-run gas pipeline company, BOTAS, for 2015. We are preparing detailed resolution packages for both of them," he told EnergyIQ.

Medvedev did not give any details about these packages. "Gazprom Export CEO Elena Burmistrova will visit Turkey this autumn. She will meet Turkish energy ministry and BOTAS representatives, and private sector players, and present our offers to them. After these meetings, we will reach a clearer point, I believe." Turkey depends on imports for almost all of its energy needs, and Russia is its biggest gas supplier. Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yildiz asked for a discount on the price of gas Turkey buys from Russia during talks with Medvedev last week. Meanwhile, the Turkish government said it will raise both electricity and gas prices by 9 percent this year. "The latest 9 percent raise in gas prices is a positive move for the Turkish market, I believe. The Turkish state is regulating gas prices, and the regulated prices are very low when we have a look at how much Turkey pays to import gas from Iran and other countries.

This shows that free market dynamics are not working properly. With a raise in prices, BOTAS, the Turkish Energy Ministry and the private sector may reach a reasonable price basis. In this vein, I found the latest 9 percent raise a positive move and Turkey should continue to make such moves," Medvedev said. Turkey's $60 billion annual energy bill is the major driver of its currently ballooning current account deficit, the main vulnerability of its economy. To meet rising demand in Turkey, Ankara also wants to increase the capacity of the Blue Stream pipeline, which carries Russian gas to Turkey under the Black Sea, by around 3.5 billion cubic meters annually.

Blue Stream new capacity may open up to Turkish shippers

ICIS, *11.10.2014*

The first additional Russian gas volumes on the Blue Stream pipeline could reach Turkey in March 2015, opening up the possibility for private gas companies to sign import contracts. Turkey announced that the capacity of the pipeline across the Black Sea could be increased from 16 billion cubic metres (bcm)/year to 19bcm/year, although there were doubts regarding the timeline of the project.

Russian and Turkish incumbents Gazprom and BOTAS have agreed to set up a joint economic commission (JEC) in Moscow at the end of November to work, among other subjects, on the capacity increase of Blue Stream.

“If everything is on track, 3-4 billion cubic metres of gas per year of extra capacity will be ready in late winter 2014-2015,” the source said. “(If there is) any kind of delay in the agreement, the Blue Stream capacity increase will be ready for 2015-2016, possibly by October 2015.” ICIS understands that one of the conditions of the agreement is for Gazprom to gain use of the Samsun-Durusu metering station, the pipeline’s entry point in Turkey. This means that Gazprom could be in charge of upgrading the station, although BOTAS will likely continue to monitor the gas inflows. The source said Turkish private companies which have been previously barred from off-taking from Blue Stream may be allowed to conclude contracts with Gazprom for the additional volumes, although this would be subject to approval from BOTAS.

A Russian inside source said the partners in the Blue Stream project, BOTAS, Gazprom and Italy’s Eni were bound by an intergovernmental agreement, which meant that all changes would have to be agreed by the Italian party too. The Russian source also stated that the off-shore part of the pipeline could already carry the additional volumes, but the onshore parts would have to be expanded or even rebuilt. “My feeling is that it is not possible to get the gas by next year. This all needs time. So far the technical and economic feasibility is only starting to be studied,” he said.
BOTAS could not comment by Thursday evening.

Turkish companies to supply 80 pct of TANAP pipes

Hurriyet Daily News, *14.10.2014*

A total of six Turkish companies have won the tender to supply 80 percent of the steel pipe demand of the 1,800 km-long TANAP pipeline that will carry Azerbaijani gas to Europe via Turkey.

Contracts for the supply of pipes for the construction of the TANAP were signed on Monday October 14 with the attendance of Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yildiz, Azerbaijani Energy Minister Natig Aliyev, President of SOCAR Rovnag Abdullayev, as well as representatives from winner companies.

“Turkey and Azerbaijan are complementing each other like the pieces of a puzzle. Some 80 percent of the steel pipes of the TANAP project will be supplied by Turkish companies. This project is not only an energy project, but also a peace project,” Davutoglu said at the signing ceremony. Under the agreements, some 30 percent of the steel pipes will be supplied by the consortiums comprising of Borusan Mannesman, Noksel and Erciyas, 25 percent by Umran and Emek, and 25 percent by Toscelik Profil. The remaining 20 percent of the steel pipe demand will be provided by Chinese Baosteel Europe, based in Germany. “We are proud of the great success of Turkish steel producers, as they were selected from among 18 eligible companies after a highly competitive tender process,” said Yildiz at the signing ceremony.

SOCAR’s Abdullayev noted the great significance of the TANAP in creating the Southern Gas Corridor. “Thanks to this project, Turkey will strengthen its upstream positioning, raise its tax income and enable local steel producers to gain more experience,” he said, adding that more than 15,000 new jobs would be created during the construction of the TANAP. There will be four stages of the Southern Gas Corridor, which are estimated to cost around $45 billion, Yildiz noted. “The first phase is the pipeline from production fields to the Georgian border. The second phase is the pipeline in Georgia. The third is the TANAP, passing through Turkey to the Greek border. The fourth is from Greece to Italy,” he added. The TANAP project envisages gas transportation from the Shah Deniz field in Azerbaijan to Europe through Turkey. The initial capacity is expected to reach 16 billion cubic meters per year. The construction of the 1,850-km-long TANAP is planned to be started in 2015 and completed in 2018 in three stages. The pipeline will then be connected to the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP). The project cost is estimated at $10-11 billion.

Turkey expects new landmark gas-fired plant sale in 2015

ICIS, *11.10.2014*

Turkey's Privatisation Administration (OIB) is expecting to start selling state-owned natural gas–fired generation from 2015 as it is wrapping up the successful tender of nearly 3GW of thermal production, a source at the administration told ICIS on Wednesday.

The first in the line may be the 1350MW Ambarli Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) plant in the north-western Marmara region and currently in the portfolio of the incumbent EUAS. The landmark tender would follow the off-loading of the low-efficiency 1.2GW Hamitabat CCGT also owned by EUAS in 2013.

OIB is yet to announce a tender date for the plant, but said that it was first working to complete the privatisation of three thermal plants before the end of 2014. The 990MW Soma B in the southern Manisa region, the 210MW Orhaneli and the 365MW Tuncbilek plants in the western Bursa and Kutahya provinces are now lined up for sale over the upcoming weeks. Prequalification and bidding deadline for Soma B is set for 1 December while prequalification and bidding deadlines for Orhaneli and Tuncbilek have been set for 24 November. The amount of the bid bond for the latter two thermal plants was set at $20m (€15.8m) and for Soma B at $30m. The OIB concluded in April the sale of the 630MW Kemerkoy and the 420MW Yenikoy coal-fired plants in the southwest Mugla region for $2.671bn (€1.93bn) to construction group IC Ictas while the 300MW Catalgazi plant was off-loaded to mining company Demir Madencilik. The privatization of these plants is part of an ambitious project to offload 45 power plants from the EUAS portfolio of which 27 are hydroelectricity and 18 thermal. Last year, in addition to the 1.2GW Hamitabat CCGT OIB also sold two coal-fired plants - the 600MW Seyitomer and the 457MW Kangal.

Investment needed in Turkish energy to meet demand

Anadolu Agency, *11.10.2014*

With Turkish energy demand is set to double over the next decade, investment in energy infrastructure in the country is imperative, analysts say. "Turkey should continue to make investments in energy for the long term," said Erdal Karagol, economics director of the Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research.

Turkey ranks second in the world after China for the growth of energy demand, according to the International Energy Agency. Turkish energy use will grow at an annual rate of around 4.5 percent between 2015 and 2030, so it will approximately double over the next decade.

"As a result, Turkey does not have the luxury to suspend its energy investments," Karagol says. In the economic program for the years between 2015 and 2017, as announced by Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan on Wednesday, there are investments planned for mining, energy raw material, and for renewable and nuclear energy. According to the program, around $56 billion is expected to be spent on energy imports until the end of this year. The current, relatively low level of exchange for the Turkish lira should not deter energy investments, the analyst added.

Energy Trade Association Chairman Cem Asik agreed, saying that energy investments are not made with short-term expectations of one or two years. "Although economic growth will be slow in 2014 and 2015," Asik said, "There is very good growth forecast for 2016 and after 2016." Turkey's energy import bill will total $181.3 billion in the next three years, according to figures in the government's Medium Term Economic Program. Energy imports will cost Turkey approximately $57 billion in 2015, around $60 billion in 2016 and nearly $64 billion in 2017.

Turkey's natural gas distribution growth drive raises tough questions

ICIS, *11.10.2014*

Fast growth in Turkey's gas distribution customer base is forcing the country into a dilemma which can be summarized as: encourage more investment by lifting restrictions, or retain a status quo that looks increasingly unsustainable, market sources said.

As Turkey heads towards a difficult winter, facing the prospect of gas shortages induced by regional political turmoil, companies active in the market are asking how it can ensure a reliable supply of gas given the number of consumers is growing by one million each year while the volume of gas imports has failed to increase accordingly.

Sources interviewed by ICIS said the mismatch between the expansion of distribution gas coverage and limited import volume is raising questions regarding a series of highly sensitive issues ranging from Turkey's need to lift gas import restrictions and its electricity shut-down policies to the very sustainability of investment in the distribution sector. "Distribution companies add new customers, approximately one million, every year and most of them are households. Because of that, peak demand grows by fifteen million cubic metres per day, especially in winter," a source with interests in both the wholesale and distribution sectors said. Turkey's impressive economic growth in recent years has been reflected in its electricity and gas sectors which have expanded at an annual rate of 7% and 2.9% respectively.

In its drive to sustain that growth, the Turkish government has sought to attract ever more investors, offering a vast array of assets from state-owned generation to distribution grids. It has completed the privatisation of its 21 electricity distribution zones and has made progress in expanding the gas coverage throughout the country. In 2003, the number of cities with access to natural gas was six. Ten years later it jumped to 72, according to Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (ISPAT) data. However the volume of gas imports has failed to keep up the pace, as the maximum contracted pipeline and LNG volumes stayed constant at just over 52bcm/year. Meanwhile, the transmission system has come under increasing strain to cope with demand, which was illustrated last year when consumption reached an all-time record of 231mcm/day on 10th December last winter, while the nominal capacity of the system was just under 198mcm/day.

Transmission system operator BOTAS is keen to stress that more upgrade investment is being carried out such as the completion of the Onerler-Kesan loop for the decongestion of the north-western Marmara region by March 2015, as well as the commissioning of critical compression at Dogubayazit, Sivas and Hanak with a combined capacity of 126MW. But while the works are in the pipeline, the facilities are unlikely to be ready by winter to deal with possibly more record-breaking consumption, sources say. In order to reduce consumption during times of critical gas shortage, Turkey's electricity and gas TSOs have in past years instructed power plants to limit or shut down generation. The measure, which saw nearly 12GW of gas-fired generation lopped off the system during a critical supply period in February, was highly unpopular with power generators, but arguably necessary to ensure the flow of gas to households. Concerns are mounting now whether the practice will be used increasingly, given the number of household consumers is growing every year. ICIS understands the government, together with the two TSOs, has finalised a shut-down policy in preparation for this winter and tailored for different scenarios. Nonetheless this document remains confidential.

A distribution sector source said it is logical to assume households would have priority over power plants in case of growing demand and gas shortages, but singled out two issues. Firstly, he said, the level of penetration of gas distribution may have plateaued throughout the more populous regions of the country, reaching for example 94% in the western city of Eskisehir. Last year, the Istanbul region reached peak consumption of 70mcm/day, followed by the Ankara region's 31mcm/day and the Izmir region of 24mcm/day on the 10th December, according to BOTAS figures. In contrast, the eastern Erzurum region saw consumption of just 2.85mcm on that day. "Big cities like Ankara, Eskisehir, and Istanbul are unlikely to see additional consumption," he said. "There may be more potential in new regions like Izmir, Gaziantep, Konya, but, all in all, I disagree with predictions that we may add another 15mcm in daily peak consumption. At most this will be somewhere below 10mcm/day."

Secondly, he said his distribution company had adjusted the annual consumption forecast per subscriber from 1,250 cubic metres to just under 1,000 cubic metres, given the purchasing power of households had decreased in line with the economic slow-down and greater energy efficiency brought about by better insulation. Although Turkey's economic growth has slowed, its population remains on the increase and sources say Turkey will continue its gas distribution expansion programme to cover the entire country. But in the absence of more contracted gas, the sustainability of this investment is in doubt. A source said the issue brings back to the table the problem of existing price caps which prevent the market from reacting in line with demand-supply challenges and a much-debated regulation that requires importers to apply for licences each time they wish to purchase new volumes of gas. The private sector has repeatedly pleaded with the regulator to scrap the rule and introduce an umbrella licence that would cover all imports. No progress has been made so far since the regulator insists on judging the merits of individual applications. But as the number of customers increases annually, there will be an even stronger case for flexibility to allow Turkey to cope with its spiking consumption, the source said.

TANAP is a peace project

Anadolu Agency, *14.10.2014*

The Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline is not only a project for energy, but also one for peace, Turkey's Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has said. Speaking on Tuesday in Ankara during the signing ceremony of a pipeline supply agreement for the Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP), Davutoglu said: "The relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan are vital, as these countries complete against each other both geographically and in terms of energy potential."

He said nearly 80 percent of the project's pipelines will be produced domestically, adding: "This proves the technical capacity of Turkish industry."

TANAP is the Turkish phase of the Southern Gas Corridor project which will carry gas from the Azerbaijan sector of the Caspian Sea to Turkey. The initial capacity of the Southern Gas Corridor is planned to be 16 billion cubic meters of natural gas. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Taner Yildiz said during the ceremony: "There are four stages of the Southern Gas Corridor that are estimated to cost around $45 billion." "The first phase is the pipeline from production fields to the Georgian border. The second phase is the pipeline in Georgia. The third is the TANAP, passing through Turkey to the Greek border. The fourth is from Greece to Italy." He went on: "TANAP is not only about Turkey's energy supply security but, at the same time, this project is a step towards a solution to EU's natural gas supply problems." According to Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, Russia is the EU's main supplier of natural gas. The EU is continuing to seek ways of reducing its dependency on Russian gas.

Turkish energy companies braced for new gas price hike

ICIS, *14.10.2014*

Turkish energy companies are expecting an average 8% gas price increase as early as January to on top of a 9% rise that came into force at the beginning of October. In parallel, energy watchdog EPDK could increase the regulated electricity tariff by an estimated 6% of which 2 percentage points would represent fixed components and 4 percentage points would relate to the actual energy price.

Expectations for a gas price increase varied. Three companies said they did not see the price rise by more than 5%-6% within the upcoming months, while one respondent said the government would introduce a 20% mark-up.

Four companies quoted ranges between 10%-15%. One said he expected an increase, but most likely after parliamentary elections next June. Meanwhile another participant said he was not expecting any hikes within the next two years. Regarding the actual timing of any increase, a number of possible 2015 months were put forward: Three companies said it may likely happen in January, another three opted for July, two said April, while another two argued it may happen either at the beginning of August or from October. One source, who suggested a 6% increase could happen as early as January, noted that another hike could be announced later in the summer once Turkey has wrapped up a long electoral cycle that started back in March of this year when local elections were held.

If the government ushers in another 8% increase as expected in this survey, the regulated gas tariff to eligible consumers would increase to TL844.56/thousand cubic metres (kscm) ($368.5/kscm, €27.532/MWh, $34.778/MWh, $10.192/MMBTu), putting the value €3.23/MWh above the Dutch TTF gas hub price for January as assessed by ICIS on Monday. Nevertheless, companies in the gas market have argued that a gas price increase is sorely needed to capture the record devaluation of the Turkish lira over that last 18 months and to allow both public importer BOTAS as well as Turkish independents to make a profit after footing high import costs. A source explained that only a minimum 30% gas price increase would realistically allow companies to survive in a difficult business climate, but noted the government was reluctant to bring in large increases as Turkey was faced with multiple political and economic challenges.

“The question is does the government feel strong enough to increase the price just as we face a war in Syria and a mini economic crisis at home as inflation is increasing and the lira is depreciating?” he asked. But on the other hand, most companies agree the prospect of another round of elections in June 2015 provides little incentive to the government to introduce unpopular measures. One source said it was highly unlikely the government would announce an increase prior to the polls unless there were “abnormal economic conditions” such as the further depreciation of the currency or a surge in oil prices.

But even so, companies say Turkey’s main gas supplier, Gazprom, would push Turkey to increase the price in order to avoid itself having to grant a fresh discount to tide independents over as it did earlier this year. In February Gazprom agreed to revise the price for private importers down by 10% subject to a similar increase next year. But market sources now say that Gazprom may waive that condition and even accept a review of BOTAS’ own import price. BOTAS has been paying higher prices for its Russian gas imports than the private importers. Unconfirmed reports from sources close to BOTAS suggest its price may be revised from an estimated $420.00/kscm to $380.00/kscm.

Even so, the price would be some $12.50/kscm higher than the regulated price which could increase to TL844.50/kscm ($368.50/kscm) if another 8% increase is announced from January. Nevertheless, another source said the government would rather increase prices for state electricity generators which are included in a separate category than put up the regulated price for eligible consumers to cushion households from shocks. Because Turkey does not have a liberalized gas market yet, operating a cross-subsidy system instead, it regularly needs to revise its regulated prices to respond to currency and oil price fluctuations. This is because its import prices are denominated in US dollars while its domestic tariffs are set in Turkish lira.

Despite the fact the local currency dropped more than 30% against the US dollar over the last 18 months, the government only enacted a gas price increase of 9% at the beginning of this month, leaving room for speculation on fresh increases. The last gas price increases were made between October 2011 and October 2012 and totaled just over 45%. While changes in the price of natural gas and electricity are the remit of the Turkish government, ICIS has intermittently run surveys since the beginning of 2012. The survey aims to reflect market participants’ expectations for tariff increases, and follows their request for greater transparency in the Turkish electricity and gas markets. The survey targets a minimum of 10 companies and typically runs on a monthly basis for as long as there is an expectation of an increase in the natural gas tariff. It asks standardized questions and collects data on an anonymous basis. The average of the tariff increase expected reflects the arithmetic average of all the percentage figures submitted to ICIS each month. The timing of the anticipated tariff increase reflects the mean of all the percentage figures submitted to ICIS each month.

Israel sees gas as key to transforming Mideast relations

Bloomberg, *14.10.2014*

After the war in Gaza battered Israel's international reputation, its leaders see a new foreign policy tool: natural gas. By the the end of the year, Israel may have binding agreements to sell billions of dollars of gas to Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority.

Preliminary talks are taking place with Turkey, although President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is among Israel's fiercest critics. Gas may even help improve relationships in the Gaza Strip. "There are now extraordinary opportunities for Israel based on energy policy, both economically and diplomatically," said Emmanuel Nachshon.

Nachshon is the Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman. "This is a real game-changer of common interests and benefits for many actors in the region. It could also bring about better relations with Turkey, and with other regional actors with whom Israel is not yet in close contact." Israel's chance to be a regional energy power comes from two mammoth fields under the Mediterranean Sea, holding more gas than the country could consume in decades. In addition to building ties with neighbors that have often been antagonistic since the state was founded in 1948, gas exports will be a fillip for Israel's economy, improving the balance of trade and boosting economic growth by as much as a percentage point. Israel's gas bonanza "is a huge strategic advantage that allows us to enjoy both political and economic fruits," Israeli Energy Minister Silvan Shalom said in an interview. "We are much more accepted in the world as a result of us finding natural gas."

The Tamar gas field was discovered off Israel's Mediterranean coast in 2009 and the Leviathan field a year later. Together, they hold an estimated 29 trillion cubic feet. Selling the gas to other markets may be more of a challenge than extracting it. Israel's relations with its Arab and Islamic neighbors range from cool acceptance to virtual states of war, and getting the fuel to international markets will require the country to navigate a minefield of geopolitical hazards. Partners in the Leviathan field, including Houston-based Noble Energy Inc. (NBL), the Israeli units of Delek Group Ltd. and Ratio Oil Exploration 1992 LP signed a preliminary deal Sept. 3 to sell about $15 billion of gas to Jordan's National Electric Power Co. over 15 years. That followed supply deals earlier this year with Jordan's Arab Potash Co. and the West Bank-based Palestine Power Generation Co.

Some analysts caution against excessive Israeli optimism that energy resources may help ease regional tensions heightened by its policy toward Palestinians, and other contentious issues. In the Middle East, "you don't see countries change their fundamental strategic orientation because of economic issues," said David Wurmser, director of Delphi Global Analysis Group in Rockville, Maryland. That said, diplomatic considerations and economic interests will both play a key role in pending decisions by Egypt and Turkey on whether to form energy ties with Israel that will enable it to export gas beyond its immediate neighbors and into the global market.

“When you have something other people need, then people are prepared to talk to you. And when you talk, ice is broken in other areas,” Yaniv Pagot, chief strategist at Israel-based Ayalon Group Ltd., said in a phone interview. “Talk about economics could be a base for political communication.” The prospect of gas exports has become even more alluring given Israel’s economic slowdown. The Bank of Israel cut its 2014 growth forecast for the country on Sept. 22, to 2.3 percent, from 2.9 percent at the end of June. The 2015 forecast is 3 percent, still below the nation’s 3.2 percent growth last year. Exports account for about a third of Israel’s $270 billion economy, with the country’s main trading partners being the U.S. and China, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

The Tamar and Leviathan partners signed preliminary agreements this year to deliver as much as 6.25 trillion cubic feet to two liquefied natural gas terminals operated in Egypt. Noble and Delek’s Avner Oil Exploration LP and Delek Drilling-LP units are planning to send the gas to Egypt through pipelines under the Mediterranean Sea. They expect binding agreements to be finalized by year end, pending Egyptian government approval. That would be a significant reversal. Egypt exported gas to Israel until 2012 through a pipeline across the Sinai. Egypt canceled the contract after multiple attacks by militants on the conduit. “We are talking about perhaps an initial $60 to $70 billion of gas sales to Egypt and Jordan over 15 years,” Pagot said. “This could translate into $2.5 to $3 billion dollars in exports a year, which would represent 1 percent of Israel’s GDP.” Selling gas may help warm trade relations with Egypt and Jordan, which now are closer to lukewarm, totaling around $170 million and $365 million respectively last year. Importing the fuel would help Jordan and Egypt ensure much-needed energy security, said Michael Leigh, senior adviser to the German Marshall Fund of the United States, a Washington-based public policy institute.

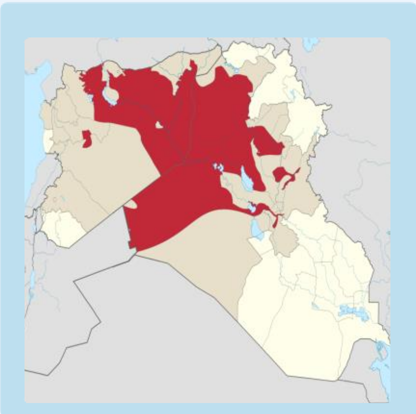
“Jordan is under tremendous pressure as a result of the violent conflicts in Iraq and Syria. Israel is making a contribution to the political stability of Jordan by strengthening the country’s energy security,” Leigh said. “Egypt is in a tight squeeze, with a drop in domestic gas production. The opportunity to import gas from Israel is an attractive way to satisfy domestic demand.” Noble and its Israeli partners are also targeting Turkey, Delek Chief Executive Officer Asaf Bartfeld said in September. Turkey’s Zorlu Enerji Elektrik Uretim AS (ZOREN) said last year it is in preliminary talks with Noble and Delek for a 15-year gas deal, and Turcas Petrol AS has said it’s considering building a pipeline from Leviathan at a cost of about $2 billion to import gas. They may face opposition from the government. Turkey’s president Erdogan is a fierce critic of Israel’s policy toward Palestinians and Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said in August his country won’t participate in any gas projects with Israel unless the country changes its Gaza policies.

Business probably won’t trump politics in Turkey, said Delphi Global’s Wurmser. “The ideological proclivities of Erdogan will ultimate sabotage any deal with Israel.” Israeli energy diplomacy may get another boost from a gas field discovered in 2000 by BG Group Plc about 30 kilometers off the coast of the Gaza Strip in waters under the legal authority of the Palestinian Authority, which controls parts of the West Bank. Development of BG’s Gaza Marine license has stalled due to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, and the internal divide between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’s Fatah faction and the Hamas Islamic movement that rules Gaza and is classified as a terrorist group by Israel, the U.S. and European Union. The Palestinian Authority’s energy and resources minister Omar Kitaneh has said that while developing the Gaza field and other joint energy projects may help ease Israel’s entry into the Middle East market, further steps are dependent on advancing the peace process.

That prospect was set back in recent months by the collapse of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in April, and the Israeli military operation against Hamas in Gaza over the summer. Further down the road, Israeli policy makers are looking at potential links with the fuel-rich Sunni Arab nations of the Persian Gulf, with regional economies connected by gas. “The European Union began as a coal-and-steel union in the 1950s, and theoretically, natural gas can serve the role for this region that coal served for the EU,” said the Foreign Ministry’s Nachshon.

Kobane and Turkey’s energy ambitions

Hurriyet Daily News, *16.10.2014*



A bloody war raged in Syria for the past three years. However, neither the more than 200,000 dead nor the use of chemical weapons have so far led to the outcry that has emerged around the fight between Syrian Kurdish fighters and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Kobane.

It seems that everyone (with the exception of Turkey) is ringing the alarm bells on the possible consequences of Kobane falling into the hands of ISIL. There are calls from all over the world for Turkey to help the Syrian Kurds fight ISIL. The issue even came up at a panel organized by Turkish Policy Quarterly and devoted to Turkey’s energy policies.

Energy expert John Roberts elaborated on the additional sources of energy to supply the southern corridor, apart from Azerbaijan. Before referring to what he said about Kobane, let me first recount what he said about Turkmenistan as a potential new supplier to the southern corridor, which is envisaged to provide an alternative to Russia by transporting non–Russian gas to Europe via Turkey. For some, the fact that I used the word “new” for Turkmenistan as a potential supplier might come as a surprise. After all, as long as Turkmenistan produces gas it is a potential supplier of non–Russian gas. However, for a long time Turkmenistan was considered a hopeless case as an alternative to Russian gas because the Turkmenistan administration shied away from projects that could appear anti–Russian, fearing retaliation from Moscow. It therefore kept selling its gas to Russia, but the Russians recently told the Turkmens that they will no longer buy Turkmen gas, Roberts said. With sales to Europe shrinking, what’s the point of Russians importing gas? He asked, adding that Turkmenistan had started to show an interest in selling its gas to the West.

As is the case with so many other things in life, one should never take anything for granted, or as definitive, in the energy world. Ironically, when I attended an energy conference in northern Iraq two years ago, Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) was seen as the new shining star of the energy world. All that everyone was talking about was the potential of northern Iraq and how international companies were rushing there. But today the situation in Kobane puts into question how Kurdish gas will develop, Roberts said. Also, the KRG is in an acute financial difficulties and the development of energy endeavors will be much slower than expected, he added.

Turkey needs strategic clarity, said Mathew Brzya, the U.S. former ambassador to Azerbaijan, who added that Turkey “wants too many things at the same time.” It wants to defeat al–Assad, it wants to fight the PKK, it wants also to reconcile with the Kurds, etc. Bryza said Turkey should allow the international coalition to use its airfields and enable Kurdish fighters to get arms and ammunition, despite the implications this might have as far as the PKK is concerned. But life is about making good decisions out of bad choices. So perhaps Turkey needs to postpone its aim of toppling al–Assad and prioritize the fight against ISIL, which appears to be a choice for the lesser of two evils.If Kobane falls, said Roberts, the whole security situation of Turkey’s southeast will be questioned. “And don’t forget,” he added, “The bulk of investment in northern Iraq is Turkish.” It seems that there are more important issues at stake than the obsession with getting rid of al–Assad.

Kobani, energy transit route both for ISIL, Kurds

Anadolu Agency, *11.10.2014*

Kobani, although not an energy-abundant region, is a vital oil transit route for ISIL and Kurdish groups in conflict. Having taken major oil fields in the north of Syria - Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor and al Omar - ISIL is rumored to be earning millions of dollars and to have created a local market in which they produce between 300-500 barrels of refined petroleum per day.

If they seize Kobani, ISIL will be controlling approximately 100 kilometers from its de facto headquarters in Raqqa - the largest oil field in Syria to Turkish border. Experts drew attention to Kobani’s geographical, economic and logistical position.

They said the region might serve as a vital link for short-term oil trade for ISIL. An Iraqi energy expert Ali Semin from Istanbul based think tank BILGESAM said one of the main aims of ISIL from the beginning is controlling energy resources and routes in Syria. Claiming that ISIL had earned around $90 million monthly in Syria, Semin said “If ISIL seizes Kobani, it will have free place for further progress, it will have a long border with Turkey and its leverage of maneuver will enlarge.” Tugce Varol Sevim, an associate professor at Istanbul’s Uskudar University International Relations Department said, “Kobani doesn’t have energy resources but it is a very important transit route linking Syria’s north with Iraqi Kurdish region.”

She added, “Kobani is such a significant region that when ISIL is cleared out, a potential pipeline carrying Iraqi Kurdish oil might be transferred through Kobani, and sold to international markets over there.” Sevim claimed that when ISIL retreats from Kobani, Iraqi Kurdish authorities will take it over. She said, “ISIL attacked Mosul, which means Iraqi central government. But the U.S. allied with Erbil, instead of Baghdad. U.S.-led coalition continue hitting a dozen ISIL-controlled oil refineries in remote areas of eastern Syria near Al-Mayadin, Al-Hasakah and Abu Kamal.

Iraqi parliament to set up commission for Kurdish oil

Anadolu Agency, *13.10.2014*

Iraqi parliament will set up an "oil commission" to keep track of income from Kurdish Regional Government's (KRG) oil sales. The "oil commission" will gather information from the Kurdish Natural Resources Ministry and report to the Iraqi parliament.

The budgetary commission will later subtract the oil income from the overall budget of the region, said Rebwar Taha, a representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdish Party. The Kurdish Regional Government continues to sell oil to world markets from Ceyhan port of Turkey via the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline.

The central government accuses the Kurdish regional government of violating the constitution which stipulates that oil sales be administered directly from the capital Baghdad whereas the Kurds insist that it is their right to sell oil for their people's needs. Due to the impasse on both sides, the Baghdad government has not made any transactions for the allocation of funds for Erbil in the past nine months. The Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi set conditions for Kurds in being transparent on oil shipments and requested Kurdish ministers to come to Baghdad. Iraq's President of the Assembly Selim Cuburi, however, said that they have taken important steps to resolve the conflict after his visit to Erbil earlier this month.

After the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant's attacks and Maliki's stepping down from the prime ministry, the commission was set up as a means to resolve the conflict between the Erbil and Baghdad administrations. The Kurdish Regional Government is showing willingness to divulge information on oil exports. "The central administration must know the amount of oil sold, it is their right," said Taha, adding "It cannot prepare a general budget if they do not take oil income into account. The regional government has to accept that. The Kurdish region is in deep economic crisis and our national security is under threat, and that is why the commission is important."

The Kurdish parliament's Natural Resources Commission deputy president Dilshad Saban told Anadolu Agency that they have given all information and documentation on oil shipment and sales. "We invited the Baghdad government to follow up all the processes in transportation and sales, but the central administration did not accept it and it turned into a political problem. They see Kurds as secondary citizens," Saban said. She stated they are ready to share any information with Baghdad and declared that 14 oil tankers left Ceyhan so far with 200 thousand barrels of oil having been pumped daily. The income generated so far is one billion 200 thousand dollars, she added.

Declining oil prices benefit Saudi Arabia most

Anadolu Agency, *14.10.2014*

Saudi Arabia, which has the lowest oil production cost, benefits from falling oil prices as it decides to produce more oil for the market share. "Saudi Arabia has signaled to traders and buyers that they are going to defend their market share," said Andrew Holland, an energy expert at the American Security Project.

"Instead of cutting production to keep the prices high, they have decided to produce more and keep their market share," he added. Oil prices have been falling due to a combination of factors, namely the increasing value of the U.S. dollar which has made oil more expensive for most of large consumers.

The slower growth of Asian countries coupled with a weak performance of European markets have contributed towards the price fall. Additionally, the increase in shale oil production in the U.S. curtails its crude oil imports significantly, pushing it to the lowest energy imports in 29 years. OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exchange Countries - the oil cartel influential in determining oil prices in the world, differs in response to declining oil prices among its members. "Members of OPEC - Iran, Venezuela, and others - said they would like to have prices higher so they are going to push for it," Holland said. Ed Hirs, an energy economist at University of Houston, said the response of Saudi Arabia is to lower oil prices, while it can still maintain its purchasing power from oil sales in the face of a continued rise in the value of the dollar.

He added that the Saudis have the lowest cost production in the world, so the Saudis can initiate a price war with all the other producers in the world. Fahad al Turki, the head of research at Riyadh-based Jadwa Investment, on the other hand, says that there is no price war going on. He said low prices are due to market dynamics and the increasing supply on the market, adding that "We expect oil prices to resume a gradual increase in the next months and we see the average price at $100-105 in 2015." On the other hand Holland said, "The Saudis are the ones that will determine where the global prices end up. They have the biggest reserves and the most to gain or lose."

Oil price falls, Saudi-Iranian race speeds up

Anadolu Agency, *14.10.2014*

The fall in oil prices drags Iran into an oil export race with Saudi Arabia, favoring Riyadh and complicating Teheran's bid to recover its sanctions-hit economy. Brent crude price, the benchmark for oil purchases worldwide, has continued to drop since June this year, and is currently around US$88.

Low prices will disappoint Iran's bid to revitalize its economy, as they support their recovery strategy. Therefore, Iran will lag behind Saudi Arabia in their hidden competition for oil prices. "By trying to lower oil prices, the Saudis are trying to strike a blow to Iran's economy," said Javedanfar, an Iranian expert at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel.

He explained the economic interests of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards are heavily involved in Iran's energy sector, adding that "Guards are also militarily involved in places such as Iraq, Syria and Lebanon where they are supporting, arming, training, and in the case of Syria, fighting alongside the enemies of Saudi Arabia: Bashar Al Assad." He noted that Iran is logically worried about Saudi efforts to bring down oil prices and is trying to match them in the market. "However with current sanctions and the high costs which they have incurred, Iran's ability to match Saudi Arabia's efforts in lowering its oil prices are much more limited." Abhishek Deshpande, an oil markets strategist of Iranian origin at Natixis - a French corporate and investment bank said, with lower oil prices from Saudi Arabia, Iran is likely to push its official selling prices down to compete for the market share in the near term. The decision to sell more oil is seen as the only way to make up the loss in revenue due to lower oil prices.

"Low oil prices and lower oil exports, due to competition, would be quite unfavorable for Iran," Deshpande said. London-based Global Resources Corporation President Mehmet Ogutcu said low oil prices will render Iran's comeback to world politics and the strengthening of its economy difficult as oil revenue was its best means to attract fresh capital, technology and management to its sanctions-hit hydrocarbon industries. Ogutcu stated that a deal with the West over Iran's nuclear program seems as yet to be far away. "As a result, Iran is turning from a revisionist to a status quo power seeking peaceful settlement of disputes and guarding what economic and political influence it has in the region," he said. Contrarily, Mohsen Qamsari, director for international affairs at National Iranian Oil Company claims that as Saudi Arabia's official oil price in the world market dropped over the current month, it is natural for the Iranian crude price to decrease proportionally, and maintains that it has nothing to do with competition between Riyadh and Teheran.

South Stream project finance postponed until 2015

Hurriyet Daily News, *10.09.2014*

Fundraising to begin building the subsea stretch of the South Stream gas pipeline from Russia across the Black Sea has been postponed until the first quarter of 2015, Russian news agency Interfax has said. A source at gas exporter Gazprom, which owns half the project, said the schedule had been pushed back from December, Interfax said.

"To raise the project finance by the end of 2014, this is not the case now," the source said. "The shareholders have now agreed on arranging the funding in the first quarter of next year." South Stream Transport B.V., operator of the subsea part of the pipeline, and Gazprom both declined comment.

The $45 billion pipeline is designed to circumvent Ukraine, with which Gazprom is locked in a dispute over gas pricing which promoted the company to halt deliveries in mid-June. Relations between Ukraine and Russia have deteriorated sharply since the ouster of pro-Moscow Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich in February. Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimea region in March and has been accused of backing pro-Russian separatists in the east of the country, sparking sanctions against Moscow from the European Union and United States. Wintershall, part of German chemicals group , Italy's Eni and France's EDF also have stakes in the pipeline project. The project also passes through Turkey's territorial waters before reaching Bulgaria.

Gazprom said Oct. 1 it has agreed with Turkey to increase the capacity of the Blue Stream underwater gas pipeline to 19 billion cubic meters (bcm), from 16 bcm. The increase came as Turkey, the second-largest consumer of Russian gas after Germany, sided with Gazprom on the South Stream undersea gas pipeline project to Europe. The future of the Project has been cast into doubt due to Russia's role in Ukrainian conflict. Meanwhile, European Energy Commissioner Guenther Oettinger has asked Ukraine and Russia to take part in another round of talks to try to solve a gas pricing row on Oct. 14 in Berlin, a Commission official said. "This date and place is of course subject to agreement by all three sides," the official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters Oct. 9.

Greek Cyprus signals energy cooperation following solution

Daily Sabah, *12.10.2014*

In an interview with Daily Sabah, Greek Cypriot government spokesman Nicos Christodoulides said the Greek Cypriot administration was left with no choice but to suspend its participation in talks.

"Hydrocarbon work did not begin anew on the island. However, this is the first time Turkey has used Navtex [to track Greek Cypriot ships]. So that is where drillings of natural gas exploration has been announced in the area. This was a first for Turkey. Due to this attitude by Turkey, we have suspended negotiations," Christodoulides said during the interview.

Christodoulides echoed Greek Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiadis' sentiments that when this issue is solved, the entire islander will benefit from this project and added that after a solution is found both sides can cooperate on energy field projects. The Greek Cypriot administration announced that it had suspended talks on reunifying the ethnically divided island in response to Turkish plans to search for oil and gas in waters where the Greek Cypriot government has already licensed companies to drill. Underscoring that the Greek side had not finished negotiations, only suspended them, Christodoulides said that during the drilling operations in the southern part of the island, they frequently informed Turkish Cypriots of their decision. Touching on claims by the Greek press that the closure of border crossings is on the agenda, Christodoulides said following the suspension of the process, the Greek side started to work on a number of political, diplomatic and legal measures, but the closure of the border is not on the agenda.

Regarding the British base on Cyprus and the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) threat in the Middle East, Christodoulides clarified Greek Cyprus' stance on the fight against ISIS. He said, "(Greek) Cyprus is committed to fight against ISIS and continues to support the allied [anti-ISIS coalition] countries in their fight." He also said that the base is not to attack, but to share information with the U.K. "We are required to share information. All countries in the region face the ISIS threat. Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Cyprus are faced with this threat," Christodoulides added.

When asked whether he would like to give a message to Turkey following the suspension of negotiations, he said: "We cannot change geography. Turkey and Cyprus will always be good neighbors. We would like to cooperate with Turkey, and we are also ready for it. My message to Turkey is: We can solve this problem. Let's benefit from the beauty of the region. We have much to do." Highlighting that reviving the negotiations is in the hands of Turkey, Christodoulides said that Greek Cyprus wants Turkey to change its attitude to continue the negotiations. "Hopefully, we can live together on this beautiful island."

Statoil sells 15.5% stake in Shah Deniz project to Petronas for $2.25B

Rigzone, *13.10.2014*

Norway's Statoil ASA announced that it sold its 15.5 percent participating interest in the Shah Deniz production sharing agreement in Azerbaijan, 15.5 percent share in the South Caucasus Pipeline Company (SCPC), 15.5 percent share in the SCPC holding company, and 12.4 percent share in the Azerbaijan Gas Supply Company (AGSC) to the Malaysian oil and gas company Petroliam Nasional Berhad (Petronas).

The transaction value is $2.25 billion. "Statoil has created significant value by participating in the development of this asset over the years and we are pleased to announce this deal with Petronas.

The divestment optimizes our portfolio and strengthens our financial flexibility to prioritize industrial development and high-value growth," says Lars Christian Bacher, executive vice president for Development and Production International in Statoil. In recent years Statoil has strengthened its resource base and industrial opportunity set. To prioritize high potential future developments, Statoil has realized substantial value from transactions on the Norwegian continental shelf and internationally. This portfolio optimization continues to increase financial strength and flexibility to deliver on our strategy for high-value growth. Statoil's 2014 second quarter production from the Shah Deniz field was 38,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day.

Following the divestment, Bacher says, "We remain committed to our business in Azerbaijan, which continues to play an important role in Statoil's international portfolio." The effective date is Jan. 1. The transaction is expected to be closed early 2015, subject to approval from the relevant authorities. Shah Deniz The Shah Deniz field was discovered in 1999. It is located on the deep water shelf of the Caspian Sea, 43 miles (70 kilometers) south-east of Baku, in water depths ranging from 164 to 1,640 feet (50 to 500 meters). Shah Deniz Stage 1 began operations in 2006. The Shah Deniz partners are currently producing approximately 26 million cubic meters of gas and 53,000 barrels of condensate per day, approximately equivalent to 225,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day. The Shah Deniz field is operated by BP (28.8 percent) and the other partners are TPAO (19 percent), SOCAR (16.7 percent), Lukoil (10 percent), Nico (10 percent).

Europe could save up to $80 billion in energy imports as prices plunge

Reuters, *15.10.2014*

The European Union (EU) could save up to $80 billion in energy imports if oil prices remain low, providing some relief to households and companies. The price of oil has dropped over a quarter since the summer to below $85 per barrel, a level last seen in June 2010.

Energy imports for oil, natural gas and thermal coal cost the EU around $500 billion in 2013, with three quarters of that to buy oil. This year's figure could fall by $25 billion to $485 billion, and if oil prices average below $90 a barrel next year, the overall import bill could fall to $425 billion, over $80 billion less than paid by EU for imports in 2013.

Falling energy prices reflect a darkening world economic outlook but they could temper any new downturn. While headline inflation rates could be pushed lower, households and energy-intensive industries in countries that rely on oil imports will find their costs reduced, raising at the margin their ability to spend and invest. "Global oil prices have fallen in almost every currency and that should lead to a boost in consumption," Bank of America Merrill Lynch said. Figures from China showed inflation hit a near five-year low of 1.6 percent despite economic growth which is expected to hold above seven percent this year. The British economy looks robust yet inflation has dropped to 1.2 percent and U.S. inflation was last reported at 1.7 percent.

Some analysts expect that vista to force more action from central banks. "The low inflation readings will open the door to further targeted monetary and fiscal easing. There is also less need for a strong currency to offset imported inflation," said Dariusz Kowalczyk, senior economist at Credit Agricole CIB in Hong Kong. But the European Central Bank, for one, faces fierce opposition to printing money, not least from Germany's powerful central bank, and is still waiting to gauge the impact from a raft of measures to boost credit and lending. The euro has dropped nearly 10 percent against the dollar since May. That will partly offset the fall in dollar-denominated oil but will push up inflation. More likely might be a delay to monetary tightening in those countries that are recovering. Federal Reserve policymaker John Williams told Reuters that a U.S. interest rate rise could be delayed if inflation started to drop persistently away from the central bank's 2 percent target.

Analysts initially said the oil price decline was largely due to greater supply from the North American shale boom, the tapping of new offshore reserves worldwide and greater output of coal. But they have also begun pointing to a slowdown in demand, citing China's ebbing thirst for oil and what could be its first drop in demand for coal in over a decade as economic growth slows. "Much of the past year in commodity markets has been spent considering the impact of strong supply growth ... However, demand is becoming an increasing source of concern," Australian bank Macquarie said on Wednesday in a research note. "The pickup in global GDP growth that began at the start of 2012 was becoming a distant memory by mid-2014," it said.

Russia's Gazprom says 2Q net profit up 13%

Oil & Gas Eurasia, *15.10.2014*

Russian gas producer Gazprom said on Tuesday its second quarter net profit was up 13 percent to 227.6 billion roubles ($5.6 billion) boosted by foreign exchange gains but still short of analysts expectations. A Reuters poll of analysts had expected Gazprom to post 234 billion roubles in the second quarter net profit, up from 202 billion roubles the same period of last year.

The company, the world's largest gas producer, added that its revenues were up to 1.32 trillion roubles in the second quarter of this year from 1.11 billion roubles a year ago, beating analysts expectations of 1.29 trillion roubles.

Gazprom - in the spotlight due to a pricing dispute with Ukraine after stopping supplies there in June, citing unpaid debts - said it had to set aside 215.8 billion roubles in the first six months of the year due to Ukraine's gas debt. Andrey Polischuk, an analyst with Raiffeisenbank, said that provisions are "a temporary negative issue". In total, Ukraine owes Gazprom $5.4 billion for gas supplies. "When the debt is returned it will boost their (Gazprom's) results," Polischuk said. Ukraine, Russia and European Union representatives will meet on Oct 21 trying to resolve gas pricing issue. Gazprom added that its net debt fell to 894.55 billion roubles in the first six months of the year from 1.11 trillion roubles as of December-end of 2013. Gazprom group, which also includes its oil wing Gazprom Neft , fell under Western sanctions earlier this year for Moscow's role in the Ukraine crisis. In its report, Gazprom which accounts for a third of Europe's gas needs said it continues to evaluate sanctions' effect but doesn't think they will have "a significant impact" on its financial situation or operations.

Russia's Putin warns of repeat of 2008 gas crisis

Reuters, *16.10.2014*

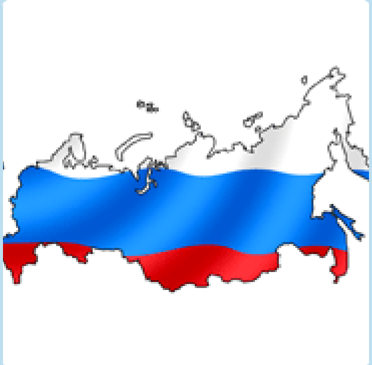
Russia will reduce gas supplies to Europe if Ukraine steals from the transit pipeline to cover its own needs, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday, adding that he was "hopeful" it would not come to that.

Russia cut off supply to Ukraine on June 16 over what gas exporter Gazprom said were billions of euros in unpaid bills. Without Russian flows, there is concern that Ukraine might have to siphon off gas from flows transiting the country en route to Europe this winter. "I can reassure you that there will be no crisis that could be blamed on Russian participants in energy cooperation," Putin said.

But, he said, "there are big transit risks." "If we see that our Ukrainian partners, just like in 2008, begin removing gas without permission from the export pipeline system, we, just like in 2008, will consecutively reduce the stolen volume at the cost of supplies." Russia is Europe's biggest gas supplier, meeting around a third of the region's demand. The European Union gets about half of the Russian gas it uses via Ukraine. The stand-off over pricing is the third in a decade between Moscow and Kiev, though this time tensions are higher in the wake of Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region and fighting in the east of the former Soviet republic between Ukrainian government forces and pro-Russian separatists.

Russia has sufficient reserves to live through falling oil prices

ITAR-TASS, *15.10.2014*



The Russian government has sufficient budget reserves to live through 2015 amid falling oil prices and depreciating national currency, Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said on Wednesday. "We created the Reserve Fund specifically for this purpose and kept accumulating foreign exchange reserves," the minister said.

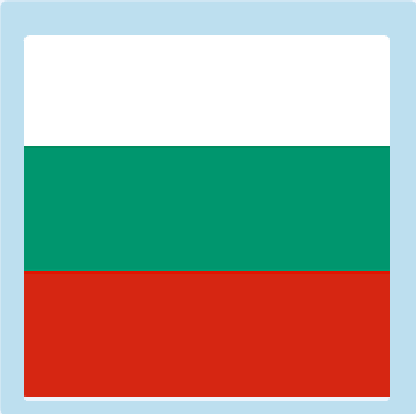
Russia's Reserve Fund was set up to accrue surplus oil revenues and use them to cushion the budget against a plunge in world oil prices. The Russian government intends to use several instruments to meet all its obligations, the minister said.

"First, we'll bring the budget into compliance with new realities. We're working as part of the commission for budget efficiency and optimizing programs to adjust the budget to the economy's real possibilities," Siluanov said. "Second, the budget has a reserve which will be used. Third, we'll use the Reserve Fund," the minister said, adding that Russia would calmly pass through the year 2015. Russia's finance minister said earlier on Wednesday the ministry would start auctions during this month to place foreign currency funds on banks' deposits to mitigate the ruble exchange rate amid failing world oil prices. Russian companies and banks need foreign exchange to repay their foreign liabilities by the end of this year amid US and EU sectoral sanctions barring them from raising medium and long-term financing on western markets.

"We have taken a decision in the Finance Ministry to hold foreign exchange auctions and we'll hold such auctions soon," Siluanov said. "Quite sufficient foreign exchange funds have been accumulated on the Treasury's accounts," the minister said, adding several billion US dollars could be offered to banks at auctions. The Russian finance minister said the country's balance of payments was responding both to changes in the ruble exchange rate and falling oil prices. "A fall in oil prices causes a decrease in revenues while the exchange rate's response (to falling oil prices) gives an increase in revenues," the minister said.

New Bulgarian government seeks energy crisis solution

Anadolu Agency, *11.10.2014*



The recently elected Bulgarian government is struggling to find a solution to the country's energy crisis. The Bulgarian energy sector is already in debt for between $515.3 to $772.9 million and the financial gap is rising rapidly, according to a report from the World Bank.

It is critical for the operators to raise electricity prices Bulgaria has the lowest fees for electricity of all the member countries in the European Union, according to World Bank statistics. But households in Bulgaria depend on electricity for almost all energy requirements, and the poor would be hit hard by a price rise.

The last price hike provoked mass demonstrations across the country in 2013, and ultimately led to the resignation of the prime minister and national elections. Bulgaria just went through the early elections on October, 5 and Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria Party (GERB) is the leading party in a shaky coalition with no outright majority. Bulgarian officials say that political instability is preventing the government from addressing the pressing issues in the energy sector. "Bulgaria needs a national consensus on the major energy sector development priorities," Anton Pavlov, deputy minister for energy policy in the Bulgarian Ministry of Economy and Energy, told.

"That is why the caretaker government created the Energy Board comprising all the stakeholders concerned as well as all Bulgarian energy sector investors," Pavlov explained. The Energy Board, established in early September, is a consultative body in energy issues which is responsible for leading the liberalization of the sector. Some observers believe that a viable consensus is emerging in Bulgarian politics on the energy crisis. "The results of the elections indicate upcoming difficulties on appointing a new Bulgarian government. Nonetheless, one of the views, which all political parties share is that there is a need for consensus on what should be done to stabilize the Bulgarian energy sector," says Slavtcho Neykov, the former director of the Vienna-based international energy policy organization Energy Community.

The president of Bulgarian Energy Forum, Ivan Hinovski, agrees. "Without a national consensus, the unpopular reforms could never be implemented. Otherwise, some of the political parties would oppose the measures just to get votes." "The newly elected members of parliament have stated that one of the first priorities will be the resolution of the current crisis, including changes in energy legislation. There is an accepted understanding about the need for a future increase of electricity prices in Bulgaria in line with the criticism of European Commission," said Hinovski. In a report issued last week, the EU's executive body recommended that electricity prices be hiked to address flaws in financing the power system in Bulgaria.

Neykov also stated there is a need for transparency in the politics aside the national consensus. “Another encouraging element is that all politicians loudly demand more transparency from the energy sector, the discouraging practices in the recent years under the socialist government -- which was forced to resign -- should be completely abolished,” said Neykov. “The lack of transparency and clear incompetence on managerial and regulatory level due to political interference and “friendly” appointments on key positions caused the rapid increase of the financial disintegration of the system,” Neykov insisted.

Ukraine must repay debt before buying gas

Anadolu Agency, *13.10.2014*

Ukraine must repay part of its $5.3 billion of debt to Russia before it can buy more gas, Russia’s Energy Minister has said. Alexandr Novak said on Monday that a downpayment and some repayments from Kiev were necessary before Ukraine could purchase natural gas that it was requesting.

Novak said: “Ukraine demanded four billion cubic meters of natural gas the provisions for its transportation are a downpayment and the repayment of the debt.” He said that Kiev was seeking to pay its gas debt on March next year, with $1.45 billion in advance and the rest through equal installments.

Russia expects Ukraine to pay $3.1 billion, which it said was agreed with Ukraine and the EU in a meeting on September 26. The agreement stated that Ukraine would pay $2 billion of its debt before any gas flow could begin, and $1.1 billion would be paid by the end of 2014. Novak said Russia would offer some flexibility in payment by allowing Ukraine to repay part its debt by the end of the year. He said earlier this month that Russia was waiting for a written protocol between Ukraine and the EU involving recommendations that had been prepared with the European Commission, which were currently being assessed by the Kiev administration.

Italian major eyes Greek gas market

Natural Gas Europe, *13.10.2014*

The government of Greece, particularly through its Ministry of Energy headed by Ioannis Maniatis, is forging closer ties with Italy's corporate energy market by concentrating on the interest expressed by Edison.

In the sidelines of a high-level meeting of the Council of Ministers for Energy hosted by the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Edison's executives relayed the following to the Greek counterparts: The company already enjoys a presence in Greece through its joint venture named Elpedison with the Greek oil company (ELPE), and own two gas-fired plants with an 820 MW capacity.

Having this strong base for expanding businesses in the country, Edison wishes to partake in the offshore exploration rounds in Greece and has already been awarded a license to conduct research in the West Patras Gulf, which is said to contain around 80 million barrels of oil and gas sources. They will undertake the exploration drills together with ELPE and Petroceltic with a likely commencement of mid-2015. Furthermore the CEO of the Italian company Bruno Lescoeur stated that "our company will take part in the new bid round for offshore hydrocarbon reserves in Greece and also is interested in participating in the interconnector Greece-Bulgaria (IGB) and Interconnector Greece-Italy (IGI)"

He added that "these natural gas infrastructures will provide to Italy, Greece and the Balkans considerable access to the vast reserves of the East Mediterranean and it is a strategic opportunity for all countries involved to open up faster and more competitive the so-called Southern Corridor." Thus, a wider picture emerges where Edison is not just solemnly interested in trading gas across different states in the Balkans having Greece as a hub, but also to become an important force in transportation, having in mind the Greek and Cypriot East Med Pipeline plan, a project which according to the Greek gas company DEPA, is feasible to be able to transfer some 8 bcm of the commodity from offshore Greek Cyprus and Israel to Italy through Greece with a cost of $7.5 billion USD. For the moment no Greek corporation has the necessary funds for such an endeavor and the involvement of Edison assists the explanding prospects of such a technically challenged project.

On the other hand, it is of outmost importance to first fully appraise the exact amounts offshore Greek Cyprus in future explorations projects being conducted by the ENI/KOGAS venture and the one by Total. Israel has already allocated amounts to the Jordanian market without having fully decided to withhold the rest of its reserves for the EU and Balkan regions. That is why Edison has pointed out that it will back up DEPA's plans to assess the viability of the East Med, carefully not allocating any project funds yet in this investment that is a subject of a multitude of political and economic variables, despite being selected as a Project of Common Interest (PCI) by the EU and being supported at least in theory by Greek and neighboring governments.

US shale oil will hurt if prices fall below $80

Anadolu Agency, *15.10.2014*

The U.S. shale oil production will be severely affected by declining oil prices and increased production from Saudi Arabia if oil prices starts falling below $80 per barrel, say experts. The oil prices has reached a two-year low at a cost of mid-$80s per barrel.

The prices have been affected by the rise of the U.S. dollar that constrains oil buyers, decelerates growth of oil-dependent Asian economies and slows recovery of the European markets. "We may see some corporate failures with prices trading below $80 dollars," said Ed Hirs, an energy economist at the University of Houston.

"The U.S. shale oil producers will not continue to drill if they cannot recover their capital expenses," he added. The shale oil, also known as light or tight oil, is produced from shale rock formations by unconventional methods, such as hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling. "If oil prices start to fall below $80, then we might see some pullback in drilling activities, which may impact production," said Thomas Pugh, a commodities economist at Capital Economics, a London-based independent research company. Pugh said that the companies who were first into the shale oil business would be fine, but those who got in later might find themselves in financial trouble if they are not making a profit while oil prices are falling, since they have loaded themselves up with high debt. The shale boom in 2008 led the U.S. to increase its crude oil production significantly over the years, reaching 7.9 million barrels per day in December 2013, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. "American producers are more sensitive to the price change than the big producers in the Middle East," said Andrew Holland, an energy expert at the Washington-based American Security Project.

Holland stated that Saudi Arabia can turn on and off its oil production with a single decision under its state-owned oil company Saudi Aramco, but the U.S. is different as each individual producer has to make their own decision on prices. "There won't be one decision made. It's going to be a whole range of decisions made by many different companies," he added. Hirs said that while Saudi Arabia has the lowest cost production in the world, shale oil in the U.S. is more expensive to produce. "The U.S. tight oil is the most expensive oil to produce in the world, because horizontal drilling is an expensive technology. Strategically, you don't want to be the high-cost producer," Hirs added. The break-even price, the minimum price level that a producer has to sell its product in order to cover his production costs, becomes an important threshold to determine whether U.S. producers will sink or swim in the face of high oil prices. "The break-even price is around $70 for most of the shale oil producers in the U.S, while for Saudi Arabia it is much much lower," Pugh said.

Falling oil price threatens Petrobras oil output rebound

Reuters, *15.10.2014*

After five years of delays, cost overruns and rampant borrowing, Brazil's state-run oil company Petroleo Brasileiro SA is setting production records again. Any celebrations, though, may be muted.

The 27 percent decline in the price of Brent crude oil since June 2014 promises to erase the gains of an output bonanza that investors and the government were counting on to boost profit, finance expansion, pay debt and fund schools and hospitals. For each 1 dollar drop in the price of Brent, Petrobras stands to forgo more than 900 million dollars of cash from oil sales.

In other words, each $1-dollar drop deprives the company of cash equivalent to the cost of building one of the giant, floating oil-production ships the company depends upon to tap its offshore riches. Petrobras plans to build dozens of such ships, but paying for them looks more difficult now Brent crude is below $84 a barrel, its lowest level in nearly four years. The company's $221 billion five-year investment plan is one of the largest corporate spending programs ever and its $140 billion of debt makes Petrobras the most indebted of any major oil firm."Petrobras' strategy looks awfully aggressive, and I would have also said that six months ago when oil was worth a lot more," said Pave Molchanov, oil and gas analyst with Raymond James in Houston. "Its plan for 2020 will likely have to be toned down." With oil now trading at 16 percent below the $100-a-barrel average world price that Petrobras has projected through 2030 in its strategic plan, the company stands to forgo about $14 billion (34 billion reais) a year in potential cash from oil sales after royalties.

That's more than double its 14.9 billion reais of debt due next year and nearly 17 percent more than its 29 billion reais of maturing debt in 2016. Lower prices could also intensify a widening political debate over the company's future. Already a key issue in the country's Oct. 26 presidential election race due to allegations of corruption and kickbacks, Petrobras' financial difficulties and production delays are now national issues. These problems have managed to partly overshadow Petrobras' success in producing a record 2.78 million barrels of oil and equivalent natural gas per day (boepd) in September. This expanded on the 2.76 million boepd produced in Brazil and abroad in August, at the time Petrobras' best result since December 2010. If cash and debt problems grow, they may pressure future administrations to seek foreign investment and reverse recent moves to boost state and Petrobras control of major oil developments.

And at $84 a barrel, Petrobras cash from oil sales would rise by less than a third by the end of 2018 even if the company meets its goal of boosting total oil and gas output by three-quarters to nearly 5 million barrels a day. The price declines could last for some time. On Tuesday, the International Energy Agency said growth in demand for energy may have stopped rising and that prices will likely have to fall further before major world supply reductions can start.

In response, Brent fell 4.3 percent on Tuesday, its biggest one-day drop in more than three years. It fell 1.9 percent to $83.39 a barrel on Wednesday. Petrobras said it can still profit if prices fall further. Last year it said it could make money from its biggest new ultra-deepwater “subsalt” fields even if Brent tumbled to between $40 and $45 a barrel.

There have been precedents for such collapses. Oil slumped to $36 a barrel at the end of 2008, down from an all time high of nearly $150 a barrel about eight months earlier. It averaged less than $20 a barrel for most of the 1990s. While Petrobras says it can make money at $40 per barrel, it would make a lot less than its planning documents currently forecast. At $45 a barrel, for instance, Petrobras oil and gas revenue in 2018 would be only 15 percent of the amount expected under its strategic plan, according to Reuters calculations. And that assumes Petrobras will be able to meet production targets with lower oil prices. While the company’s prime ultra-deepwater “subsalt” fields are young, high-producing and able to make money at below $80 a barrel, according to the IEA, some of Brazil’s older fields in shallower water may quickly become uneconomic.

Brazil is one of the countries, along with Angola, Norway and Britain, where a significant amount of offshore production ceases to be economic at about $80 a barrel, the IEA added. As a result, lower prices could limit revenue further by forcing Petrobras to shut uneconomic fields. Petrobras officials were not immediately available for comment. The company may, however, get a bit of relief from the lower prices, at least in the short term, Molchanov and other analysts said. This is because lower crude prices also mean lower fuel prices. Brazil’s government has forced Petrobras to subsidize domestic gasoline and diesel by preventing the company from raising prices to world levels. Because Petrobras has been unable to meet all of Brazilian domestic fuel demand, it has had to import gasoline and diesel and sell it in the Brazilian market at a loss.

On Oct. 13 the price of gasoline on the international market fell below that in Brazil for the first time in four years, according to Credit Suisse. This could help Petrobras, which has no plans to cut local prices, make up for the nearly 50 billion reais in refining-unit losses in the last two and a half years. [ID:nL2N0S9281] “This is great for Petrobras in the short term,” said Adriano Pries, head of the Brazilian Infrastructure Institute in Rio de Janeiro and a former board member of the ANP, Brazil’s oil regulator. “In the medium term it’s bad because Petrobras is in the process of making large investments and has a huge debt,” he added.

Lack of political will a major hurdle for energy interconnectors

Natural Gas Europe, *15.10.2014*

Experts expect interconnectors to play a central role in increasing security of supply, leading to cheaper prices and possibly to border reference prices. Nonetheless, the integration of the market remains a question mark when it comes down to politics.

"The integration of markets could contribute… However, Eastern Europe, specifically Romania and Bulgaria remain exposed," TEHD's Aura Sabadus said during a seminar online organised by ICIS. The advantages and opportunities were evident, but experts agreed that the lack of political will across Europe remains the main block for those projects.

They added that it should be cheaper and easier to build than the alternative instruments to increase security of supply like Nabucco and South Stream. On Monday, European Commissioner for Energy Günther Oettinger restated the importance of these projects. According to data released by the European Commission, a completed internal energy market could bring net economic benefits between 16 and 40 billion euros each year. "If energy markets are well connected and common rules are in place there's not much room left to use energy supplies as a political instrument. With proper price signals and sufficient infrastructure, energy is produced where it's cheapest and sent to where it is needed. All this translates into secure energy supplies all over Europe and lower bills for consumers," Oettinger said in Brussels.

Financial instruments to support these projects: enhances loans, project bonds and equity instruments offered and managed by financing institutions like EIB could help in the process. On the other hand, ICIS' analysts said that the lack of a shared vision remains a significant hurdle. They also referred to the political situation in Romania and Bulgaria. Indeed, uncertainties in the two Eastern countries continue. "My personal opinion is that we went too far in encouraging smaller parties in our to desire to stimulate the emergence of new political entities. We achieved this effect, which has as a side effect - the fragmentation of parliament," Bulgaria's Prime Minister Georgi Bliznashki said on Monday as reported by the website of the national Council of Ministers.

In this sense, it comes as no surprise that experts see uncertainties related to the political situation in Eastern Europe. Romania is indeed in a similar situation. It is unlikely that interconnectors are going to be the priority of Sofia and Bucarest any time soon. "Certainly, I understand that last night, Mr. President Basescu continued his attacks not only against mine, against all candidates. I want to say one thing: after 10 years in which I have heard lies, and garbage , and I have seen how Mr. Basescu used state institutions for his personal interests, now, today, there are 33 days left of this tragedy for Romania, which lasted nine years and 11 months," Prime Minister Victor Ponta said on Tuesday.

Worldwide natural gas capacity grows 5% in 2013

Anadolu Agency, *13.10.2014*

The 2014 worldwide working gas capacity grew annually by five percent with Iran's contribution from the only underground gas storage in the Middle East, according to Cedigaz's statement. The worldwide storage capacity stands at 399 bcm according to the recent data.

The commissioning of the Shourijeh storage in Iran supports Iran's aim to decrease the amount of gas imports from Turkmenistan. The Shourijeh facility, located 25 kilometers southeast of Sarakhs in northwestern Iran which can store up to 4.8 bcm of gas, raised the Iranian capacity to slightly more than 6 bcm.

Asia followed the Middle East with a 15 percent increase with the new facilities coming online in China. China aims to increase gas in a total energy mix from 4 percent to 10 percent by 2020 and to develop a 90 bcm storage capacity. In the more mature markets of North America, Europe and the C.I.S. - the Commonwealth of Independent States, capacity grew from 3 to 4 percent. In terms of working gas capacities by regions, the continent of America ranks as the first, followed by C.I.S, Europe and Asia respectively with the Middle East showing the least working gas capacity in 2013. Fifty percent of the new facilities under construction are in Europe, Italy ranking first followed by Germany and the Netherlands. United Kingdom holds the highest number of planned storage facilities, and Turkey follows behind. Cedigaz is a non-profit International Center for Natural Gas Information established in 1961 near Paris.

IEA revises world oil demand growth sharply lower

Reuters, *14.10.2014*

Ohe world will see much weaker oil demand growth in 2015 than forecast previously, the International Energy Agency said on Tuesday, adding that oil prices may drop further. “Recent price drops appear both supply and demand driven. Further oil price drops would likely be needed for supply to take a hit - or for demand growth to get a lift,” the agency representing industrialised nations said in a monthly report.

Oil prices fell for a third straight month in September, and benchmark Brent prices have reached a four-year low of around $88 per barrel in October on abundant supply, slowing demand growth and a strong U.S. dollar.

Brent has fallen by over 20 percent since June, when turmoil in Iraq lifted prices to $116 per barrel. The IEA said it had cut its estimate for 2014 oil demand growth by 200,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 0.7 million bpd. In 2015, it expects demand to expand by 1.1 million bpd to 93.5 million bpd, up by 1.2 percent but 300,000 bpd less than previously forecast. “Demand growth ... may have touched bottom. While economic forecasts have been trimmed, with the IMF lowering its outlook for the third time this year, the latter is sticking to its view of a continuing economic recovery - albeit a slower and more ‘brittle’ one than anticipated,” the IEA said. Sharply lower oil prices since the second quarter of 2014 should provide some support to global oil demand, but the overall weak economic environment is likely to prove dominant, it added. Meanwhile, global oil supply rose by almost 910,000 bpd in September to 93.8 million bpd, with higher OPEC and non-OPEC output. Compared with a year earlier, total supply stood 2.8 million bpd higher as OPEC supply swung back to growth and amplified robust non-OPEC supply gains of 2.1 million bpd. The IEA added that it expected non-OPEC supply growth to average an impressive 1.3 million bpd in 2015.

“Total U.S. liquids production continues to exceed Russian and Saudi Arabian oil supplies. We estimate that total U.S. total liquids output will be above 12.0 million bpd next month and will remain above that threshold through December 2015,” it said. OPEC crude oil output surged to a 13-month high in September, led by recovery in Libya and higher Iraqi flows. Production rose 415,000 bpd from August to 30.66 million bpd. The IEA said that because of weaker global demand outlook it had cut its estimate for demand for OPEC crude by 200,000 bpd for 2015 to 29.3 million bpd. That is more than 1 million bpd below the current production levels, yet OPEC has yet to signal any plans to trim its production at the next meeting at the end of November. “Kuwait has said a supply cut is unlikely, and top exporter Saudi Arabia is signalling it may be willing to tolerate a period of lower prices,” the IEA said. Supplies from top OPEC producer Saudi Arabia edged up by 50,000 bpd in September to 9.73 million bpd. The IEA said flows might ease in October due to slower seasonal demand for domestic crude burn. “Riyadh appeared determined to defend its market share in the increasingly competitive Asian market, cutting its formula prices for a fourth consecutive month,” the IEA said.

Announcements & Reports

► *Petroleum marketing monthly*

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

► *Short-term energy outlook, market prices and uncertainity report*

Source : EIA
Weblink : http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/steo/pdf/uncertainty.pdf

► *Oil market report*

Source : IEA
Weblink : http://www.opec.org/opec_web/static_files_project/media/downloads/publications/MOMR_October_2014.pdf

► *Africa energy outlook*

Source : IEA
Weblink : http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/WEO2014_AfricaEnergyOutlook.pdf

► *Transparency governance in Iraq's extractive industry at crossroads*

Source : Eppen
Weblink : http://www.eppen.org/en/resim/haber_resim/AhmedMousa.pdf

► *Energy interests of India in Central Asia: Chinese dimension as a motivation*

Source : Eppen
Weblink : http://www.eppen.org/en/resim/haber_resim/EPPEN4AnilKumar.pdf

► *The US tight oil revolution and its impact on the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries: beyond the supply shock*

Source : Oxford Energy
Weblink : http://www.oxfordenergy.org/wpcms/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/WPM-54.pdf

► *A perspective on contingent labor management in refining*

Source : Accenture Global
Weblink : http://www.accenture.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/PDF/Accenture-Perspective-Contingent-Labor-Management-Refining.pdf

Upcoming Events

► *SPE Russian Oil and Gas E&P Technical Conference & Exhibition*

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

► *Canada Europe Roundtable for Business – 2014 Calgary Energy Roundtable*

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

► *SPE Russian Oil and Gas Exploration & Production Technical Conference & Exhibition*

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

► *Energy Hedging, Risk Management & Trading Seminar*

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

► *FT European Gas Summit: New Supplies for Europe: Feast or Famine*

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

► *Society of Petroleum Engineers Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition (ATCE)*

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

► European Autumn Gas Conference

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

► Turkey International Underground Gas Storage Conference

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

► Gas to Liquids

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

► Israel Energy & Business Convention 2014

Date : 03 – 04 November 2014
Place : Tel Aviv – Israel
Website : http://www.energianews.com/energy2014/agenda.htm

► Climate Change: Raising Ambition, Delivering Results

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

► Iran Oil & Gas Summit

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

► Africa Oil Week

Date : 03 – 07 November 2014
Place : Cape Town – South Africa
Website : http://www.woodmac.com/public/events/12318502

► Global Energy Forum

Date : 04 November 2014
Place : Houston – USA
Website : http://www.woodmac.com/public/events/content/12524912

► *The European Utility Week*

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

► *Enabling Amicable Settlement of Investment Disputes: Mediation and Conciliation*

Date : 04 – 07 November 2014
Place : Brussels – Belgium
Website : http://www.encharter.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Knowledge_Centre/2014_November/Leaflet_5-7_Nov_2014.pdf

► *Energy Security in Southeast Europe*

Date : 06 – 08 November 2014
Place : Izmir – Turkey
Website : http://energysummit.org/

► *The 4th China International Offshore Oil & Gas Technology Conference and Exhibition*

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

► *International Petroleum Technology Conference*

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

► *Asset Integrity Management Summit Asia 2014*

Date : 10 – 13 November 2014
Place : Kuala Lumpur – Malaysia
Website : http://www.assetintegritysummit.com/default.aspx?utm_campaign=UpStream&utm_medium=external&utm_source=external&utm_content=home&utm_term=banner&MAC=ISG_UPS_BA

► *Global Energy Forum 2014*

Date : 13 November 2014
Place : London – United Kingdom
Website : http://www.woodmac.com/public/events/content/12525033

► *Middle East Upstream Forum*

Date : 17 November 2014
Place : Abu Dhabi – United Arab Emirates
Website : http://www.woodmac.com/public/events/12524884

► *EU Energy Policy*

Date : 17 November 2014
Place : Brussels - Belgium
Website : http://ec.europa.eu/energy/events/doc/201411_energy_policy_conference.pdf

► *Turkmenistan International Oil & Gas Conference and Exhibition*

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

► *Securing Europe's Competitive Energy Future*

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

► *Shell distinguished lecture series*

Date : 19 November 2014
Place : Houston - USA
Website : http://bakerinstitute.org/events/1675/

► *International Energy Congress and Fair / EIF 2014*

Date : 24 – 25 November 2014
Place : Ankara - Turkey
Website : http://energy-congress.com/2014/

► *Oil & Gas Cyber Security*

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

► *166th (Ordinary) OPEC Meeting*

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

PETFORM

► 8th Transparency Workshop

Date : 11 December 2014
Place : Brussels - Belgium
Website : http://www.entsog.eu/events/entsog-8th-transparency-workshop#welcome

► Kurdish – Iraq Oil & Gas

Date : 16 – 18 December 2014
Place : London – United Kingdom
Website : http://cwc-news.com/S3A-2TCLY-E1BYMVHYA9/cr.aspx?v=0

► Middle East and North Africa Energy

Date : 26 January 2015
Place : London – United Kingdom
Website : http://www.chathamhouse.org/events/Mena-Energy2015

► Middle East and North Africa Energy

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

► 4th Erbil Oil & Gas International Exhibition

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

► Ukrainian Energy Forum

Date : 02 – 05 March 2015
Place : Kyiv – Ukraine
Website : http://www.ukrainianenergy.com/

Supported by PETFORM

► 6th World Forum on Energy Regulation *(in Turkey)*

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

► 6th OPEC International Seminar

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

► *OGA 2015*

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

► *The Energy Event 15*

Date : 15 – 16 September 2015
Place : Birmingham – United Kingdom
Website : http://www.theenergyevent.com/Content/MAIN-SF-W2L-enquiry-form