



## OIL



## Ankara frustrated from Iraq oil list

Date : 18.04.2008

Source : Turkish Daily News

<http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=102166>

Iraq's exclusion earlier this week of the Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) and its subsidiary TPIC from a list of 35 companies deemed qualified to explore natural gas and oil in the energy-rich South has left Ankara deeply frustrated.

The long-awaited decision came Monday and sent shockwaves across Turkey, prompting TPAO and officials from the foreign and energy ministries to engage in diplomatic efforts to oppose the critical decision. In an early reaction, Energy Minister Hilmi Güler said yesterday that lists are changeable and that talks are underway to convince the Iraqis to allow Turkish companies to explore for oil and natural gas in Iraq. "I hope we'll be included on the list... The lists are not ultimate. Talks are continuing. There is a list around and we'll be on this list," Güler told reporters.

"Turkey must be in Iraq," said TPAO Director General Mehmet Uysal. "We have applied but failed to be listed." The international companies on the list will be entitled to search for oil and natural gas in energy-rich Iraq. Uysal said Baghdad would announce another tender for oil exploration in the central part of the country where resources are relatively less than in the South, and underlined that TPAO still has a chance. It is not clear yet, however, when the tender will be opened.

From 120 applicants around the world, only 35 companies and consortiums qualified in accordance with the criteria laid down by the Iraqi Oil Ministry: Australia (BHP Billiton, Woodside), Britain (BG International, BP, Premier), Canada (Nexen), China (CNOOC, CNPC, Sinochem, Sinopec), Denmark (Maersk), France (Total), Germany (Wintershall BASF Group), India (ONGC), Indonesia (Pertamina), Italy (Edison, ENI), Japan (Inpex, Japex, Mitsubishi Corporation, Nippon Oil Corporation), Malaysia (Petronas), Netherlands (Shell), Norway (StatoilHydro), Russia (Gazprom, Lukoil), S.Korea (Kogas), Spain (Repsol), United States (Anadarko, Chevron, Conoco Phillips, ExxonMobil, Hess Corporation, Marathon, Occidental Petroleum).

"For me, Turkey's removal from the list is nothing new," energy expert Necdet Pamir told the Turkish Daily News. He said that the TPAO had been working toward getting a share of Iraqi oil since 1994 but failed to do so because of the sanctions imposed on Iraq's toppled leader Saddam Hussein, and likewise following the U.S.-led

occupation in 2003. “The United States occupied Iraq not to open Turkey's path into Iraq,” said Pamir. He also put the blame on the TPAO's not being a full-fledged company eligible to compete with oil firms around the world.

Pamir said the qualified companies on the list of the Iraqi Oil Ministry should not be underestimated. “The TPAO is unfortunately not a strong company. It is a middle-size firm, whereas giant companies are short-listed in major tenders,” he said.

In early January, Iraq's Oil Ministry called on international oil companies to register with the newly set-up contracts and licensing office of the ministry and set Feb. 18 as the final day for receiving registration documents. It said only qualified firms can bid for tenders to develop Iraq's vast oil reserves.

But some news reports revealed Iraq will invite the qualified oil companies to bid for oil and gas service contracts in all regions of Iraq soon. Oil firms that failed to qualify for the first round could still compete for qualification for the second and later rounds, they added.



## Turkey and Qatar advance on bilateral energy deals

Date : 17.04.2008

Source : Today's Zaman (Erdal Sen)

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=139253>

Important steps are being taken in bilateral energy cooperation with Qatar following PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to Doha. Turkey will cooperate on petrochemicals, electric power and energy investments, while TPAO will participate in oil tenders and become involved in oil exploration.

Meanwhile, progress was made on natural gas imports to Turkey. In order to diversify natural gas supplies in a bid to establish supply security after cuts in natural gas shipments from Iran to Turkey over the last two winters, Turkey will purchase Qatari gas. The areas of investment and conditions for cooperation will be shaped in the coming days as Qatari officials plan to visit Turkey for technical negotiations.

GAS



## Istanbul mayor mulls selling IGDAS

Date : 15.04.2008

Source : Today's Zaman

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=139036>

Istanbul Mayor Kadir Topbas said the administration was preparing to sell Metropolitan Municipality subsidiaries Istanbul Gas Distribution Inc. (IGDAS) and Istanbul Seabuses and Fast Ferries Inc. (IDO), projected to bring \$10 billion in revenue.

Topbas said preliminary studies for the IGDAS sale were under way and that planning for the sale of IDO was going on parallel to that. He added they would privatize other municipal companies through public offerings but that the amount of stake to be sold had not yet been decided and alternatives were still being weighed. "But I expect a minimum amount of \$10 billion [from the IDO and IGDAS sales]," he said, adding that the money would be used to add an additional 100-150 kilometers to the city's metro line.

OIL



## Pipeline scavengers cost BOTAS \$17 mln

Date : 16.04.2008

Source : Today's Zaman

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=139175>

The cost of theft and sabotage of crude oil pipelines between 2000 and 2006 has been estimated at \$17.5 million by the Turkish Pipeline Corporation (BOTAS). BOTAS has decided to post gendarmes along the BTC pipeline to prevent any further theft.

BOTAS 2006 Report shows that 276 cases of theft and seven cases of sabotage took place on crude oil pipelines between Batman and Dörtyol, Iraq and Turkey and Ceyhan and Kirikkale. While the cost of the theft was found to be \$6,058,000, the sabotage inflicted \$4,897,000 worth of damage. With the cost of repairs included, the total damages amounted to \$17,552,000. While 122 of the thefts took place on the Batman-Dörtyol line, 101 of them targeted the Iraq-Turkey line and 53 hit the Ceyhan-Kirikkale line. All seven of the sabotage incidents occurred on the Iraq-Turkey line. The report also noted that the oil stolen from the pipeline is mixed with used oil, fuel oil and gas and then sold to industrial facilities as fuel for boiler systems.



## Turkish hit slugs Stratic numbers

Date : 17.04.2008

Source : Upstream Online

<http://www.upstreamonline.com/live/article152538.ece>

Stratic Energy saw its full-year net loss widened to \$47.3 million, mainly due to a \$29.4 million impairment charge over its Turkey properties. The loss, which deepened from the \$11.2 million net loss it booked in 2006, came despite a rise in revenues to about \$3.3 million from \$676,000.

Stratic said it expects capital expenditures of about \$100 million this year for investing activities on its oil and gas properties, which will be financed through debt facilities, the proceeds of convertible notes, operating cash flow and existing cash resources. The company said the pretax value of proved, probable reserves was \$568.8 million at the end of the year.



## Turkmenistan to supply 10 bcm of gas to EU from next year

Date : 15.04.2008

Source : Turkish Daily News (Agence France-Presse)

<http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=101793>

Turkmenistan will supply 10 billion cubic meters of gas annually to the European Union from next year, EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner confirmed in an interview published yesterday.

Ferrero-Waldner said the offer required increased European investment in pipeline infrastructure and exploration in the region. "The president [Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov] gave us assurances that 10 billion cubic meters will be set aside for Europe in addition to possibilities in new fields to be tendered," she told the business daily. She said it was 'a very important first step,' but noted it was not a 'vast quantity.'

Ferrero-Waldner noted, however, that to overcome technical difficulties in transferring the gas to Europe, the bloc would have to either build a small pipeline between off-shore installations in Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, build a link connecting the two countries through Kazakhstan, or compress the gas into liquid form and transfer it via tankers.



## Maliki: Iraq wants expanded EU energy cooperation

Date : 17.04.2008

Source : Turkish Daily News

<http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=102059>

On his first visit to Brussels, Iraqi PM Nouri Al-Maliki says his country wants develop energy cooperation with the EU. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso also tells EU is close to signing a preliminary agreement with Iraq.

“We've come here to pave the way for new relations with the EU based on cooperation and friendship,” Nouri al-Maliki told reporters on his first visit to Brussels. “We do hope this meeting results in new steps of cooperation between Iraq and EU countries, especially regarding contributing to developing our oil and gas sectors.” He said Iraq welcomed EU companies and experts.

After talks with al-Maliki, Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso also said the European Commission is close to signing a preliminary agreement on energy cooperation with Iraq. EU officials said ahead of al-Maliki's visit they hoped to reach an outline agreement with Iraq to import Iraqi gas via a planned pipeline across Turkey. Details of enhanced energy cooperation were to be discussed at an early morning meeting between EU Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs and Iraqi Oil Minister Hussain al-Shahristani, who is accompanying al-Maliki.

“We can very soon establish a memorandum of understanding between Iraq and the European Commission on these very important issues,” Barroso, head of the European Union's executive arm, told a joint news conference with al-Maliki. He said he hoped the signing of the memorandum could be signed in a matter of weeks and that Oil Minister Hussain al-Shahristani had been invited to Brussels next month.

EU officials say connecting fields in western Iraq to a planned Arab Gas Pipeline would enable Baghdad to supply gas to Nabucco, which is due to come on line in 2013. The European Commission said on Monday it secured a guarantee last week of 10 billion cubic meters a year of natural gas from Turkmenistan from 2009 as part of the drive to ensure sufficient supplies to make Nabucco commercially viable.

Al-Maliki told the parliamentary committee Iraq was ‘close to agreeing a final version’ of a long-awaited oil and gas law, delay over which has held back investment in the sector. Iraq's deputy parliament speaker, Khaled al-Attiya, said on Tuesday the government and Kurdish officials would resume talks soon to try to iron out disputes holding the law up.

## OIL



## Iraq's NOC lets contract for Kirkuk-Banias oil line repair

Date : 15.04.2008

Source : Oil & Gas Journal (Eric Watkins)

[http://www.ogj.com/display\\_article/325816/120/ARTCL/none/Trasp/1/Iraq's-NOC-lets-contract-for-Kirkuk-Banias-oil-line-repair/](http://www.ogj.com/display_article/325816/120/ARTCL/none/Trasp/1/Iraq's-NOC-lets-contract-for-Kirkuk-Banias-oil-line-repair/)

Iraq's state-owned North Oil Co. has signed a preliminary agreement with Russia's Stroytransgaz for the repair of the Iraqi section of the 880-km Kirkuk-Banias oil pipeline.

In 2007, Stroytransgaz received a contract to bring the Syrian section of the line back into working condition. The Kirkuk-Banias pipeline had a carrying capacity of 300,000 b/d before the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, but its original capacity when built in the 1950s was 1.4 million b/d.

The pipeline was closed for much of the 1970s and 1980s. In the 1990s, it was reopened so Iraq could bypass the United Nations oil embargo. At the time, reports put Iraq's exports through the line at about 150,000-200,000 b/d.

## GAS



## Iran lifts lid on new gas field

Date : 17.04.2008

Source : Upstream Online

<http://www.upstreamonline.com/live/article152572.ece>

Iran has hit gas near the producing Masjed-e Suleiman field, in Khuzestan, with National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) boss Mahmoud Mohaddes saying the new field has estimated reserves of about 985 billion cubic feet. Mohaddes said the new field's recoverable reserves stood at 739 Bcf.

"We need to (drill) three wells for its development for a daily production of 150 million cubic feet," Reuters quoted the NIOC boss telling an energy conference in Tehran. Mohaddes said gas from the new field had been earmarked for use at a petrochemical unit. He did not give the field's name.

OIL



## Oil hits record near \$115

Date : 17.04.2008

Source : Today's Zaman (Reuters)

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=139250>

Oil hit a record high near \$115 a barrel on Wednesday after a US government supply report showed an unexpected drop in crude inventories in the world's top consumer. Crude stocks in the US, expected to increase, fell 2.3 million barrels last week, the Energy Information Administration said.

“This is very clearly a bullish report and we've got gasoline and crude leaping higher on the numbers,” said Mike Fitzpatrick, senior vice president at MF Global. Gasoline was the big one. US crude struck a record \$114.95 after the report was released and was trading up 43 cents at \$114.22 as of 1456 GMT. Brent crude hit an all-time peak of \$112.73.

The EIA data also showed gasoline stocks declined by a larger-than-expected 5.5 million barrels. Inventories of distillates, forecast to decline, posted a small increase of 100,000 barrels. London's ICE gas oil futures, the benchmark for heating oil and diesel in Europe, also lent support. Gas oil has remained above \$1,000 a tonne for most of the time since early April.

OIL



## China's oil imports hit record 17.3 million tons

Date : 12.04.2008

Source : Today's Zaman (AP)

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=138829>

China's oil imports surged to a record 17.3 million tons in March, as the country nearly overtook Japan as the world's second-largest buyer of foreign crude oil. The 17.3 million metric tons imported were equivalent to just over 4 million barrels a day.

The United States, which imports about 10 million barrels of oil a day, remains the biggest consumer of imported oil. Japan imported about 4.4 million barrels of oil a day in February. China's oil imports in the first quarter of this year rose 15 percent from a year earlier, to 45.5 million tons, the customs data showed. The value of those imports jumped 91 percent, year-on-year, to \$30 billion, as the price of crude oil surged, the customs office said.

✚ Announcement on Access to LPG Market Information Management System

Source : EMRA

Weblink : <http://www.epdk.org.tr/duyuru/lpg/acil/yonetimsistemeulasim.html>

✚ Announcement on Sivas Natural Gas Distribution Company

Source : EMRA

Weblink : <http://www.epdk.org.tr/lisans/dogalgaz/lisansdatabase/ihale/sivas/CemelGenisleme.doc>

✚ OPEC Monthly Bulletin (March – April 2008)

Source : OPEC

Weblink : [http://www.opec.org/library/OPEC%20Bulletin/2008/pdf/OB03\\_042008.pdf](http://www.opec.org/library/OPEC%20Bulletin/2008/pdf/OB03_042008.pdf)

✚ OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report (April 2008)

Source : OPEC

Weblink : <http://www.opec.org/home/Monthly%20Oil%20Market%20Reports/2008/pdf/MR042008.pdf>



### ❖ Nigeria Gas 2008

1st Nigerian International Gas Conference & Exhibition

Date : May 21 – 23, 2008  
Place : Abuja – Nigeria  
Website : [www.nigeria-gas.com](http://www.nigeria-gas.com)  
Contact : Bryan Pearson (+44 1638 743633)



### ❖ POGEE 2008

6th Pakistan Oil, Gas & Energy Exhibition & Conference

Date : May 21 – 24, 2008  
Place : Karachi – Pakistan  
Website : [www.pogeepakistan.com](http://www.pogeepakistan.com)  
Contact : Pegasus Consultancy (+92 21 11 1734266)



### ❖ Petrotech 2008

6th Middle East Refining & Petrochemicals Conference

Date : May 25 – 28, 2008  
Place : Bahrain – Bahrain  
Website : [www.mepetrotech.com](http://www.mepetrotech.com)  
Contact : Fawzi Al Shehabi (+973 17 55 00 33)



### ❖ MidEast Oil Week 2008

5th Middle East Upstream Conference

Date : May 27 – 28, 2008  
Place : Dubai – UAE  
Website : [petro21.com/events/index.cfm?id=325](http://petro21.com/events/index.cfm?id=325)  
Contact : Duncan Clarke (+31 70 324 6154)



### ❖ Kuwait Oil & Gas

Kuwait Oil & Gas Conference and Exhibition

Date : May 27 – 29, 2008  
Place : Kuwait – Kuwait  
Website : [www.kuwait-oil.com](http://www.kuwait-oil.com)  
Contact : Kuwait Ministry of Energy (+965 4335391)

