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Total steps back from investing in Iran

Date : 09.07.2008

Source : Financial Times (Carola Hoyos & Daniel Dombey)

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/26088244-4ded-11dd-820e-000077b07658.html?nclink_check=1

Total, the French energy group, told it was now too risky to invest in Iran, making it highly unlikely that the group will invest in a liquefied natural gas project linked to South Pars gas field in near future.

Mr Christophe de Margerie, chief executive, said: "Today we would be taking too much political risk to invest in Iran because people will say: 'Total will do anything for money'." Together with Malaysia's Petronas, Total was due to develop phase 11 of the South Pars field and had until Wednesday maintained it had not decided to drop its interest in the project. After May's announcement that Royal Dutch Shell and Repsol of Spain would pull out of Phase 13, Total was left exposed.

Total's move is a big blow for Iran, which is now unlikely to be able to significantly raise its gas exports until late in the next decade at the soonest. Samuel Ciszuk, Middle East energy analyst at Global Insight, called Total's decision 'a death blow' for Iran's LNG ambitions, because the country would now be unable to gain the knowhow it needed for such complex projects, even if it teamed up with Russia or China. None of the western oil companies including Total is willing definitively to close the door on Iran's massive hydrocarbon reserves. Shell and Repsol said they could still join later stages of the development of the field.

In a further sign of the increased scrutiny over investments in Iran's energy sector, William Burns, the US state department's top official on Iran, told a US congressional committee on Wednesday that Washington would conduct a 'serious review' to see whether the Norwegian group StatoilHydro had violated US law by carrying out a large investment in Iran.

Washington had been particularly worried about Total, and US officials concede measures affecting the transfer of western investment and knowhow to Iran's energy sector have a much greater impact than do financial sanctions. But Mr de Margerie voiced his anger at the policy, saying: "You take two major countries [Iran and Iraq] out of the system and then you say: 'There is not enough oil and gas.' Oh no, surprise, surprise."



Gaz de France reiterates interest in taking stake in Nabucco

Date : 10.07.2008

Source : Turkish Daily News (AP)

<http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=109420>

Gaz de France is still keen to acquire a stake in the Nabucco pipeline, Jean-Francois Cirelli, the company's chairman said. "A new route for gas is in the interest of Europe. But if GdF Suez is not in the pipeline, we're still a candidate to buy some of the capacity that will pass through it" Cirelli said.

Cirelli said the Nabucco project faces two difficulties – the size of the investment needed, which he estimated at between 5–6 billion euros, and finding gas to fill the pipeline.



Albania asks for gas passing through Turkey

Date : 08.07.2008

Source : Turkish Daily News (AA)

<http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=109266>

Albania has requested that it receive gas via the Shahdeniz pipeline that passes through Turkey, Energy Minister Hilmi Güler said. Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha made the request during a bilateral meeting, Güler said.

Güler is representing Turkey at Croatia Summit 2008, being hosted in Dubrovnik. Azerbaijani gas, originating from the Shahdeniz field, is being transported to Turkey through the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum pipeline. The initial capacity of the pipeline is 8.8 bcm of gas per year and is expected to increase to as much as 20 bcm per by 2012.

Güler added that efforts were underway on a pipeline project to carry Arab gas to Europe and said an agreement for this pipeline, called the Nabucco project, would soon be signed by participating governments. Further, Güler said, Nabucco has a crucial role to play in energy security for both the EU and southeastern Europe.



IEA sees easier oil market for 2009

Date : 11.07.2008

Source : Today's Zaman (Reuters)

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=147244>

Pressure on world oil markets should ease slightly next year as demand growth slows, production rises and the need decreases for crude from OPEC, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Thursday.

But it warned its predictions were more vulnerable than usual to uncertainties as economists debate the length of the US economic slowdown and projects for new oil and refining capacity are prone to delays. The agency said world oil demand growth would grow at a rate of 860,000 bpd in 2009, reaching a total of 87.7 million bpd, down from growth of 890,000 bpd this year.

“Things still look tight, but less tight than they were,” said Damien Cox of John Hall Associates. “I don’t think it means a massive fall in prices.” Thursday’s IEA figures are the first assessment of the market balance for 2009 in a monthly report. The monthly snapshot also revised upwards demand for 2008 by around 80,000 bpd compared with its previous report, but the overall context is one of repeated downward revisions to consumption in response to record prices above \$145 a barrel.



Kazakhstan building gas pipeline to China

Date : 10.07.2008

Source : Today's Zaman (Reuters)

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=147132>

Kazakhstan joined construction of a pan-Central Asia pipeline, a major project to link up Caspian Sea gas reserves with China. The pipeline is the first independent gas link connecting the former Soviet region with eastern markets.

Russian gas monopoly Gazprom is currently the main buyer of Central Asian gas. “This project will be implemented in five stages with the final stage scheduled for completion by 2013,” said Sauat Mynbayev, Kazakhstan’s energy minister.



Iran to drill 160 oil wells by March 2009

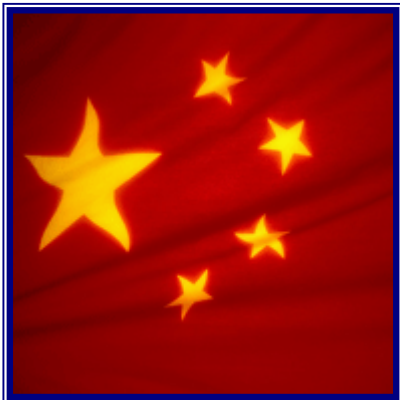
Date : 09.07.2008

Source : Rigzone (Dow Jones)

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=63951

Naser Gholipour, the National Iranian Drilling Company's corporate manager, said 81 delineation and development wells will be drilled to a depth of 288,544 meters, six exploration wells will be drilled to a depth 23,206 meters and 67 work-over wells will be drilled to a depth of 34,461 meters.

The NIDC's drilling level rose to a record high of 110,698 meters during the first quarter of the current Iranian year. The Iranian year ends March 20.



China's crude oil import volume up 11%

Date : 10.07.2008

Source : Rigzone (Xinhua)

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=64000

China, the world's second-largest energy consumer, imported 11 percent more crude oil in the first half of 2008 than in the year-earlier period. Crude imports stood at 90.53 million tons. The growth rate was down 0.2 percentage points from last year.

The imports were valued at 64.98 billion U.S. dollars, up 85.8 percent, as world prices surged. Import prices hit a record high of 849.10 U.S. dollars per ton in June. Angola, Saudi Arabia, and Iran were the top three oil suppliers.

China also imported 21.01 million tons of refined oil products in the first half, up 16.4 percent year-on-year. Meanwhile, the country exported 2.37 million tons of crude and 7.88 million tons of refined products, up 30.6 percent and down 0.3 percent, respectively, from a year earlier.

PETFORM ANNOUNCEMENTS & REPORTS

✚ Tables Forming the Basis of 2009 Tariffs

Source : EMRA
Weblink : <http://www.epdk.org.tr/tarife/dogalgaz/tarifetablolari/index.html>

PETFORM UPCOMING EVENTS

❖ CIPEE 2008

China International Petroleum Equipment & Technology Exhibition

Date : September 12 – 14, 2008
Place : Shandong – China
Website : www.cipee.com.cn
Contact : Beijing CEW Internatioal Fair Co. (+86 10 516 542 22)



❖ IPE 2008

International Pipeline Exposition

Date : September 30 – October 2, 2008
Place : Calgary – Canada
Website : www.petroleumshow.com/intlpipeline/
Contact : Lesley Stevenson (+403 209 3555)



❖ KIOGE 2008

16th Kazakhstan International Oil & Gas Exhibition & Conference

Date : October 7 – 10, 2008
Place : Almaty – Kazakhstan
Website : www.kioge.com
Contact : Siobhan Enright (+44 207 596 5166)



❖ Africa Upstream 2008

15th Annual Africa Upstream 2008

Date : October 8 – 10, 2008
Place : Cape Town – South Africa
Website : petro21.com/events/index.cfm?id=346
Contact : Duncan Clarke (+31 70 324 6154)

