



GAS



Turkey eyes Iraqi gas transport deal

Date : 26.12.2008

Source : Upstream Online

<http://www.upstreamonline.com/incoming/article168758.ece>

Turkey's Energy Minister Hilmi Güler will shortly visit Iraq to sign a deal on natural gas transportation, PM Tayyip Erdogan said. "The Iraqis view the idea of transporting Iraqi natural gas through Turkey positively. Our Energy Minister will go to Baghdad to negotiate the issue and sign a deal," he told.

Last month Turkish state outfit BOTAS and TPAO and global energy company Royal Dutch Shell announced they had formed a natural gas exploration and marketing partnership in Iraq.

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GAZBIR Chairman: Natural gas subscriptions decline amid crisis

Date : 24.12.2008

Source : Today's Zaman

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=162142>

Union of Natural Gas Distribution Companies (GAZBIR) Chairman Mehmet Kazanci has said the number of new subscribers for residential natural gas had declined since the emergence of the ongoing global financial crisis.

"Due to the negative effects of the crisis, people who do not currently use natural gas at home are reluctant to subscribe for the service," he said. Kazanci met yesterday with Energy and Natural Resources Minister Hilmi Güler to exchange views and evaluate developments in the natural gas sector in 2008 along with their targets for the next year. "We are concerned that the number of new subscribers this year is far lower than last year," he said, underlining that they were following developments closely and expected the government to act accordingly.

OIL



Iraq's 2nd oil licensing round to open Dec. 31

Date : 24.12.2008

Source : Today's Zaman (AP)

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=162144>

Iraq's Oil Ministry says it will open its second licensing round for developing oil and gas fields on Dec. 31. A ministry statement says Oil Minister Hussein al-Shahristani will open the bidding round at a conference in Baghdad.

The Tuesday statement didn't divulge the number of fields. Iraq recently opened a first round of bidding for contracts to develop six major oil fields and two gas fields, choosing 34 of 120 companies that applied to participate. These contracts are expected to be signed in mid-2009.

GAS



OMV and RWE start Caspian Gas Pipeline JV

Date : 22.12.2008

Source : Rigzone (Xinhua Financial News)

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=70957

Austria's OMV and Germany's RWE are starting a joint venture to carry out exploration for a gas pipeline across the Caspian Sea that could feed into the Nabucco link to Europe, OMV said on Monday.

The venture, called Caspian Energy Company, will next year review gas transport infrastructure options that could provide Europe with access to natural gas from the eastern side of the Caspian Sea, OMV said.

Based on the study's outcome, the company plans to build and operate gas transport systems across the Caspian Sea which could link to the existing or newly built pipelines towards Turkey and the planned Nabucco gas pipeline, it said.

OMV and RWE are both part of the Nabucco consortium, which plans to build a 7.9 billion euro (\$11.1 billion), 3,300 km (2,051 miles) gas pipeline from Turkey to Austria. The Caspian pipeline project would provide a feed into that pipeline.



Gazprom warns of European gas delivery cut

Date : 22.12.2008

Source : Oil & Gas Journal (Uchenna Izundu)

http://www.ogj.com/display_article/348768/120/ARTCL/none/GenIn/1/Gazprom-warns-of-European-gas-delivery-cut/

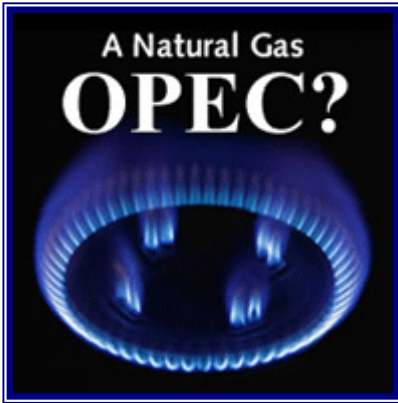
Europe's gas supplies could be disrupted because of Gazprom's dispute with Ukraine over unpaid bills. Gazprom is seeking \$2.4 billion from Ukraine's state gas company Naftogaz and warns that if the dispute is not resolved by Jan. 1, then Gazprom could halt gas supplies.

Russian media reported Chairman Viktor Zubkov, who is also Russia's first deputy prime minister, said: "We cannot rule out that the position of the Ukrainian side and its certain steps, which are linked to gas transit through Ukrainian territory, could lead to a disruption of supply stability to Europe." Andris Piebalgs, EU energy commissioner, is prepared to travel to Moscow for emergency talks with the Russians. "I am very worried," he said.

Gazprom Chief Executive Officer Alexei Miller told European customers Gazprom has been helping and continues to help its Ukrainian partners as much as possible. "Taking into account the foregoing risks caused by the Ukrainian side's noncompliance with its contractual obligations, I would nevertheless like to assure that Gazprom will fulfill all of its contractual obligations to its European partners in full," he wrote.

Ukraine wants to pay \$100/Mcm for Russian gas in 2009, while Gazprom is demanding international prices of \$250/Mcm to \$300/Mcm. Protracted negotiations continue. Russia's warning of a gas shortage comes 24 hr before it hosts a meeting of the world's major gas suppliers to formalize a production cartel that Western consumers are worried could boost energy prices.

Ukraine is in a financial crisis where its currency has lost 4% of its value since September due to a drop in steel exports, and there has been a major loss of confidence in the banking system. Political infighting has crippled the country, but the International Monetary Fund has given the government a multi-billion loan to bail it out. In January 2006, Gazprom cut supplies briefly to Ukraine, a major transit country to the European Union, following its argument over an increase of gas prices. Several EU countries were affected, and the move prompted European policymakers and politicians to look for alternative gas suppliers as Russia provides 25% of the EU's gas needs.



Qatar to host 'Gas OPEC' headquarters

Date : 25.12.2008

Source : Hürriyet Daily News (AFP)

<http://arama.hurriyet.com.tr/arsivnews.aspx?id=10638667>

Gas exporting states finalized the creation of a new forum aimed at coordinating gas policy. "A new organization has been born today. The charter has been agreed. The headquarters will be in Qatar," Russian Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko said.

Earlier Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin warned at the meeting that the 'era of cheap gas' was over and that consumers would face higher prices in the future. The forum groups Russia, the world's biggest gas producer, with other gas-rich states such as Iran and Qatar and a dozen other gas-exporting countries. The GECF had been dreamt up at a meeting in Tehran in 2001 and ministers have met annually since then. But this was the first time the organization's basic rules have been agreed and a headquarters established.



Turkmenistan and Bulgaria sign energy pact

Date : 20.12.2008

Source : Today's Zaman (AP)

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=161791>

Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov said that Turkmenistan has backed a proposal to provide 2 bcm of natural gas through the existing pipeline network through Russia. The two countries also signed a memorandum of understanding that will ensure coordination on boosting energy security.

"I believe that on the international level, we will begin to speak with one voice when it comes to supporting (energy security)," Parvanov said after a meeting with his Turkmen counterpart, President Gurbanguli Berdimukhamedov. Parvanov has backed a EU-backed Nabucco pipeline that could ease Europe's reliance on Russian energy. The route would run from the Caspian Sea across Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary to Austria. But Parvanov also has signed a deal with Russia to build a pipeline under the Black Sea which Moscow has offered to underline Nabucco.



Armenian venture into Iranian gas in pipeline

Date : 24.12.2008

Source : Hürriyet Daily News (AFP)

<http://arama.hurriyet.com.tr/arsivnews.aspx?id=10632147>

Construction is to begin next year on a pipeline to deliver petrol and diesel from Iran to Armenia, the Armenian Energy Minister Armen Movsisian said Monday. The 300 kilometer pipeline will run from Tabriz to the Armenian city of Eraskh, where a terminal is to be built, Movsisian said.

“Armenia will receive petrol and diesel fuel from the oil refinery located in the Iranian city of Tabriz through the pipeline, construction of which starts next spring,” he said. Movsisian said the pipeline would take two years to complete and each country would pay half the \$200–240 million cost. He said the project was part of efforts by Armenia to diversify its energy supplies, in particular after the war in neighboring Georgia in August disrupted Russian supplies to Armenia.

“In order to guarantee the country’s energy security we are moving toward the diversification of energy supplies,” he said. Armenia and Iran last year inaugurated a 150-kilometer pipeline intended to deliver 36 bcm of gas from Iran to Armenia over 20 years. It has yet to start operations.



❖ Mediterranean Energy Perspectives 2008

Source : Observatoire Méditerranéen de L’Energie

Weblink : <http://www.omenergie.com/mep-2008-12-5-fr-334.pdf>