Vedat Yorucu Özay Mehmet

The Southern Energy Corridor: Turkey's Role in European Energy Security



Lecture Notes in Energy

Volume 60

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The Southern Energy Corridor: Turkey's Role in European Energy Security



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ISSN 2195-1284 ISSN 2195-1292 (electronic) Lecture Notes in Energy ISBN 978-3-319-63635-1 ISBN 978-3-319-63636-8 (eBook) https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-63636-8

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017953791

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Printed on acid-free paper

This Springer imprint is published by Springer Nature
The registered company is Springer International Publishing AG
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

Preface

As authors of this monograph, we state up front that we are of Turkish Cypriot origin, both academic economists educated in the British and Canadian tradition of free exchange of ideas. Coming as we do from the divided island of Cyprus, we are fully aware of the strong feelings on ethnic conflict. And, arguably nothing can be more controversial than writing on hydrocarbons and energy security. Cyprus problem, Turkey–EU relations, and conflicts in the Middle East, Cold War and East-West tensions these are all part and parcel of what we write.

We hope, indeed pray, that we have been balanced and objective in our presentation of issues and controversies surrounding the theme of the monograph, viz. The Role of Turkey in European Energy Security. If we have erred, it is primarily from our conviction—which lead to the writing of this monograph in the first place—that modern Turkey is grossly under-rated in Europe and the West generally. As the principal successor state to the Ottoman Empire, it is understandable that most European images of anything Turkish are still shaped by the legacies of that Empire. But that is outdated and needs updating.

In our post-Brexit world, with a protectionist US President in the White House, Europe needs new friends and partners. New energy sources are essential to secure its energy future. Turkey itself is an energy-hungry emerging market economy. By geography, it sits on the strategic location linking the Caspian, Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean hydrocarbon fields that provide the vital resource for the Southern Energy Corridor, the principal alternative supply to traditional fossil-fuel supply via the Northern Corridor connecting Russia to European markets via Ukraine.

We believe Turkey and Europe are destined to become energy partners in the near future, with the completion of such pipelines as the TANAP/TAP and the Turkish Stream 2. Turkey is also the logical and rational choice for delivering, at lowest unit cost, Middle East and East Mediterranean hydrocarbons, once wars and conflicts give way to peace. Given peace, energy cooperation regionally as well as between Turkey and European Union will emerge naturally out of market forces, conferring win-win outcomes for producers and consumers as well as for transit countries like Turkey.

vi Preface

This monograph will have been worthwhile if it can promote a better understanding, on the part of potential readers, of the geopolitics and the market forces relating to the development of the Southern Energy Corridor.

Famagusta, Cyprus Ottawa, Canada Vedat Yorucu Özay Mehmet

Acknowledgements

Over the last two decades, the authors have collaborated on numerous research projects, writing and publishing several academic papers in scholarly journals. Almost all of these are cited in the monograph along with other related literature. We want to thank the journals and their academic peers who, anonymously, have facilitated our publications. We are grateful to, and acknowledge the kindness, of several publishers and authors who gave us written permission to use copy-righted material. These are appropriately cited in the text. We wish to thank our many colleagues and friends who, in various ways, have contributed to our research and work.

In particular, we thank Prof. Ercan Uygur, the president of the Turkish Economics Association who, not only took a personal interest in our work, but invited us to several academic conferences where we first tested our hypotheses and presented our findings. When Özay was Dean, Faculty of Business and Economics, at the same University, he received much help from Eralp Bektaş, Caner Barın, Bilge Öney, Yılmaz Çolak, Ahmet Yörükoğlu and Serhan Çiftçioğlu. In Canada, he wishes to express his thanks to his academic friends, in particular Dane Rowland, Martin Rudner and Tareq Ismael. Both the authors wish to thank their friends Radar Resat, Ergün Olgun and Rafet Akgünay for their encouragement throughout this project.

Vedat would like to give special thanks to former ambassador of Turkey in Nicosia, Mr. Halil İbrahim Akça for his support to arrange meetings in İstanbul at IGDAŞ (İstanbul Natural Gas Public Company) to precede the research about onshore prefeasibility study of Natural Gas network and distribution systems. The Ph.D. research assistant Mrs. Hatice Imamoğlu at Eastern Mediterranean University also deserves special thanks for conducting such an important and valuable research at IGDAS both for South and the North of Cyprus. The former CEO of IGDAS, Mr Veysel Türkel was very generous with his assistance and technical expertise. The former Rector of College of Europe (Europa College—Brugge Campus) Prof. Dr. Paul Demaret kindly provided hospitality and help in research conducted at the Europa College in 2013 and 2014. Also, it is a pleasure to thank the Coordinator

viii Acknowledgements

of the Europa College Prof. Dr. Eric De Souza and the Chair of Department of Economics Prof. Dr. Phedon Nicolaides for all the help and support they provided during the visit with the EU Scholarship programme. Noel Van de Cappelle, the father in law of Vedat, also deserves special thanks for all the technical support he provided with his patience and courage. Much gratitude also goes to the administration of Eastern Mediterranean University which provided support during the preparation of the book.

A word of thanks is in order for our editors at Springer, in particular Amudha for all the editing and technical work. Last but not least, it is our pleasure to thank our loved ones. Our dear wives, (Karen and Saskia) and all our children (Sean, Erin, Aidan, Stefaan, Suzanne), for their moral support and patience in allowing us to devote unlimited research time, at the expense of family time. Without their understanding, this work would never have been completed.

Needless to say, all errors belong to us as authors.

Vedat Yorucu Özay Mehmet

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Abbreviations

bcm Billion cubic metre

BP British Petroleum Company EEZ Exclusive Economic Zone

KRG Kurdistan Regional Government
KRI Kurdistan Regional Administration
MBTU Millions of British Thermal Unit

mcm Millions of cubic metre
SEC Southern Energy Corridor
TANAP Trans Anatolian Pipeline
TAP Trans Adriatic Pipeline
tcm Trillions of cubic metre

UNCLOS UN Convention on the Law of the Sea—1982

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