IICEC Energy Market Newsletter

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OIL

REMOVAL OF IRANIAN OIL **WAIVERS**

RENEWABLES

DOMESTIC AND RENEWABLE **ENERGY SOURCES** ARE LEADING IN TURKEY

NATURAL GAS

THE SHARE OF TURKEY'S **LNG IMPORT EXCEEDS 40%** IN JANUARY



Monthly Highlights

The Nuclear Energy Future	3
Removal of Iranian oil waivers	4
Global Oil Production Slumped in March 2019	5
EIA revised its estimation for Oil Benchmarks	5
Turkey's total fuel sale continue to decrease	5
LNG trade grows continuously in 2018 at global manner	6
LNG prices are on the rise since last December	6
The share of Turkey's LNG import exceeds 40% in January	6
Increasing power generation led primary energy demand to	grow
The net capacity of U.S. natural gas-fired combined-cycle plant	ants has grown by about 30 GW
Domestic and renewable energy sources are leading in Turk	rey
A new funding for clean energy infrastructure projects by Eu	ropean Commission8
Delek to buy million-dollar Gulf of Mexico shares of Shell	8
Turkey will invest \$11 billion to energy efficiency efforts	8
An immediate and substantial decline in carbon emissions b	y renewable electrification9
BP's Upstream Carbon Fund of \$ 100 million	9
Turkey witnessed a significant increase in greenhouse gas e	emissions 9
Nord Stream 2: A further long delay or not	
Eastern Mediterranean efforts of Turkey would be a game cl	nanger10

Viewpoint



THE NUCLEAR ENERGY FUTURE

Prof. Carmine Difiglio

Nuclear power is the most controversial energy technology. New power plants are prohibited in a few European countries and, everywhere else, it remains a topic of public debate. There are strong differences of opinion about whether nuclear power plants are safe, how to store nuclear waste and whether nuclear power is a necessary technology to fight global climate change.

Mostly for economic reasons, fewer new nuclear power plants are planned for the developed economies while many more will be built in Asia, Eastern Europe and the Middle East, including countries that are new to nuclear power. It will be important that the "newcomer" countries operate these new plants with a "culture of safety." While the power plants being built today are safer than past reactors, plant operators must be highly trained and independent regulatory authorities must maintain due diligence over their licensing and operation.

New nuclear power projects are doing poorly in many of the countries that pioneered nuclear power. Construction delays and cost overruns are common. For example, in the United States, after spending \$9 billion, South Carolina E&G and Santee Cooper stopped building two Westinghouse reactors. As it stands now, in competitive power markets that depend on private-sector investment, new nuclear power plants are too risky. This explains why large nuclear power plants are mainly being pursued in Asia, Eastern Europe and the Middle East where private financing is less of a concern.

New reactor vendors are also emerging. The historic leaders, General Electric, Areva and Westinghouse have either expired or face uncertain futures. For example, while Rosatom has a long experience in building nuclear power reactors, its emergence as a major technology exporter is relatively new. Their VVER-1200 reactor possesses the latest advanced safety features and is now a tested design. Likewise, China, who is gaining experience building their own nuclear reactor fleet, is entering the export

market. These new vendors are also experimenting with ways to reduce the financial risk to their customers. For example, the "build, own and operate model", being employed at Turkey's Akkuyu nuclear power plant project, shifts the construction risk to Rosatom. Turkey's financial obligation is limited to fulfilling a power purchase contract. Rosatom is also responsible for the "fuel cycle" (refueling the reactor and returning spent fuel to Russia). This is significant since a publicly acceptable plan for the long-term storage of nuclear waste has yet to be found in many countries. For example, the U.S. government has failed to build a civilian nuclear waste repository. As a result, despite six decades of nuclear power plant operation, all spent fuel rods remain in "temporary" onsite storage.

The International Energy Agency expects that nuclear power will remain at about 15% of global electricity supply through 2040. Prospects for increased use of nuclear power will require a new generation of reactors that are both more economically attractive and have a greater likelihood of public acceptance than current designs. There are numerous projects worldwide to develop this potentially gamechanging technology: the small modular reactor (SMR). Instead of undertaking a time-consuming on-site reactor build, the SMR would be produced in a factory and delivered to a power customer, vastly reducing their financial risk. A variety of SMR designs are being explored. Many designs promise inherent safety. For example, in some designs, the physics of the reactor makes core overheating impossible. SMRs could also have less frequent refueling and better options for waste disposal. The private sector, with government support to enable licensing and testing, is accepting the financial risk to produce this new generation of nuclear power technologies. Even without any new government policies, we should see in a few years whether or not the SMR can overcome its economic and public acceptance challenges and grow the role of nuclear power in future decades.

REMOVAL OF IRANIAN OIL WAIVERS

In recent years, the global oil market has been experiencing the negative impact of global instability deriving from political risks and geopolitical tensions such as the returning of US sanctions on Iranian oil exports. Along with the unilateral withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, the U.S. administration has started to implement new sanctions on Iran as of November 2018, aiming to decrease Tehran's oil revenues. Eight economies, including China, India, Japan and Turkey, were granted waivers for six months, which is anticipated to end in the beginning of May. While those economies have been expecting to receive a renewed waiver, the White House announced recently that waivers allowing countries to import Iranian oil will end to drive Tehran's oil exports to zero¹. This also resulted as an oil price jump to a nearly six-month highs, above \$65 a barrel, due to the fears of a potential supply disruptions². Iran's reaction was a threat of closing the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important chokepoint for crude oil, as a move that could disrupt the global supply. However, the Trump administration has increased the coordination with two of the top oil exporters, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), as a preventive action to ensure oil



markets remaining "adequately supplied", according to Reuters³. These efforts of the U.S. government are also recently demonstrated in the International Energy Agency's (IEA) statement dated on April 23, 20194. IEA indicates that global oil markets are currently adequately supplied with an additional production capacity remains at ease. On the other hand. according to the statement, Iranian crude export capacity are continuing to decrease and reached around 1.1 million barrels a day (mb/d) in April this year, demonstrating a significant reduction of 0.3 mb/d and 1.7 mb/d, compared to the levels of March 2019 and May 2018 respectively. Owing to their increasing spare production capacity, Saudi Arabia and UAE highlighted as key actors to avoid oil price booms as potential swing producers. The IEA also highlighted, in its unusual special statement, the option of a strategic

stocks release: "As ever, the IEA stands ready to act if necessary, to ensure markets remain well supplied." IICEC estimates a higher risk premium for this year that could lead to a \$5-10 increase in Brent crude prices for the first quarter of 2020 due to the already high and increasing geopolitical risks. Moreover, IICEC expects Iranian crude oil exports to be reduced but not eliminated. Saudi Arabia may actually overcompensate for losses from Iranian barrels as they did when the Iranian sanctions were first imposed during 2018. After the Saudi increase, the unexpected scope of U.S. sanctions waivers (November 2, 2018), was an additional factor that accelerated the dramatic drop in oil prices from early October to late November in 2018 (Download for a review of the factors leading to the 2018 price collapse).

¹U.S. Department of State, Office of the Spokesperson (April 22, 2019) Advancing the U.S. Maximum Pressure Campaign On Iran.

²CNN Business, (April 22, 2019) Oil shoots above \$65 on fears about Iran sanctions.

 $^{^{3}}$ Reuters, (April 22, 2019) UPDATE 6-U.S. to end all waivers on imports of Iranian oil, crude price jumps.

⁴ International Energy Agency (IEA), (April 23, 2019) IEA statement on global oil markets.

GLOBAL OIL PRODUCTION SLUMPED IN MARCH 2019

International Energy Agency (IEA) shared the latest information regarding the global oil market on 11 April 2019⁵. The report stated that global oil production decreased by 340 kb/d in March, reaching 99,2 mb/d. The main cause for this decline is also highlighted in the report as the deepening supply shortage by Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), where Saudi Arabia is the major economy by experiencing its lowest level of production in over two years. This led crude oil production of OPEC to drop 550,000 b/d, accompanied by



a sharp decrease in Venezuelan oil supply and lower output in Iraq. Just then, non-OPEC supply increased by 210,000 b/d in March, and is noted to grow in 2019 continuously, according to IEA. On the demand side, although China, India and

the U.S. are estimated to have growing demand, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries experienced a slump for the first time since the end of 2014, caused by weakening demand from Europe.

EIA REVISED ITS ESTIMATION FOR OIL BENCHMARKS

According to Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO) for April⁶ published by the U.S.' Energy Information Administration (EIA), crude oil price is expected to increase even further in 2019. Brent crude price is re-estimated with a \$2 per barrel increase compared to its earlier report in March 2019, expecting to reach an average \$65 per barrel in 2019. Moreover, EIA is expected a \$3 per barrel increase for West Texas Intermediate (WTI), expecting to reach

an average \$57 per barrel in the first half of the year. Even though, EIA is expecting a growing crude oil supply disruptions and voluntary reductions in oil production from OPEC members together with a reduced crude oil production and exports in Venezuela for the short-term future, it kept the price forecast for both benchmarks unchanged for 2020 - \$62 per barrel for Brent Oil and \$58 per barrel for WTI.

TURKEY'S TOTAL FUEL SALE CONTINUE TO DECREASE

Turkey's Energy Market Regulatory Authority (EMRA) published its latest oil market report⁷. According to the report, Turkey's oil products import increased by 18.39% to 3.1 million tons in January 2019 compared to the same month of 2018. Considering the same period, Turkey's crude oil imports increased by 48.14% to 2.2 million tons. Similar to an increase in imports, oil refinery

products increased by 26.68% to 2.3 million tons. Diesel and gasoline production increased by 7,03% reaching more than 815,000 tons and 13.86% reaching more than 446,000 tons, respectively. Despite to an increase in imports and production, total fuel sales fell by 7.9% to 2 million tons compared to the same month last year – a continuing trend from last year.

⁵ International Energy Agency (IEA), (2019) Oil Market Report: 11 April 2019.

⁶ U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), (2019) Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO) April 2019.

⁷ Energy Market Regulatory Authority (EMRA), (2019) Oil Market Sector Report January 2019.

LNG TRADE GROWS CONTINUOUSLY IN 2018 AT GLOBAL MANNER

As a well-known organization in the global LNG markets, International Group of Liquefied Natural Gas Importers (GIIGNL) has recently published its latest annual report - The LNG Industry Annual Report 20198. According to the data, global LNG imports reached 313.8 million tons (MT), with an increase of 24 MT (8.3%) in 2018 compared with the previous year. This increase is also denoted in the report as the third largest annual increase after experiencing in 2010 and 2017, respectively. In a similar manner, the figures for the exporting and importing countries are also increasing in the same year. With Cameroon that starts to export LNG in 2018, the number of exporting countries reached to 20; while the two new importing countries, Bangladesh and Panama, led the total



number of importing countries to increase to 42, added GIIGNL. Furthermore, having added 10 new regasification terminals, total regasification capacity also reached to 868 metric tons per annum (MTPA), said the report. Witnessing a supply growth of LNG for the 5th consecutive year, the report highlights that the Pacific Basin is the major actor of global LNG supply with a share of 44%, in order to meet the global LNG demand mainly comes from Asian countries – 76% of the total.

LNG PRICES ARE ON THE RISE SINCE LAST DECEMBER

According to Reuters⁹, following the increasing gas prices in European markets, Asian spot LNG prices also responds with an increase in the first week of April for the first time since December 2018, but still below Dutch gas benchmark price. The recent news added that LNG trading has been conquered and LNG derivatives traded

higher in the same week. In addition, the prices for May 2019 will increase – even its lowest level in the last three years – and this price increase was caused by the two major gas hubs in Europe, Netherlands and Britain, since the supply from Norway through the Langeled pipeline fell into a decline, reported the news.

THE SHARE OF TURKEY'S LNG IMPORT EXCEEDS 40% IN JANUARY

According to the latest natural gas market report 10 published by Turkey's Energy Market Regulatory Authority's (EMRA), LNG import climbed to a historic record level of 2.34 billion cubic meters (bcm) in January 2019, demonstrates a share of 40,28% in the monthly total gas imports first time in years. The figures for the total natural gas import, meanwhile, indicates a decline of 6.54% comparing the same month of 2018, reaching a level of 5.81 bcm. The report added that Algeria and Nigeria are the two major countries that

Turkey imports LNG with an increasing volume. In addition, Russia, Iran and Azerbaijan is denoted as the trade partners where the remaining of the natural gas imported via pipeline. Another remarkable point is that the amount of natural gas imported from Russia was down by 35% compared to January 2018, while the volume of natural gas imported from Azerbaijan reached a milestone with 808.36 million cubic meters (mcm) for the first time after TANAP has launched in June 2018, reported EMRA.

⁸ International Group of Liquefied Natural Gas Importers (GIIGNL), (2019) The LNG Industry GIIGNL Annual Report 2019.

 $^{^{9}}$ Reuters, (2019) Jump in European gas prices pulls LNG higher.

¹⁰ Energy Market Regulatory Authority (EMRA), (2019) Natural Gas Market Sector Report January 2019.

INCREASING POWER GENERATION LED PRIMARY ENERGY DEMAND TO GROW

According to International Energy Agency (IEA)¹¹, the growing energy demand worldwide by 2.3% in 2018 is mainly driven by a vigorous global economy and increasing needs on heating and cooling in a number of regions. The demand for all types of fuels are increased, but as a fuel of choice natural gas has been emerged, said IEA. Likewise, the IEA figures demonstrate that

global electricity demand continue to grow by 4% in 2018 and jumped to above 23,000 terawatt hours (TWh), which constitutes a 20% share of electricity in terms of total final energy consumption. Therefore, the agency concluded that electricity continues to position itself as the "fuel" of the future. According to IEA, in terms of the demand side of the primary energy increasing power generation

is also responsible for half of its growth. In the report, Dr. Fatih Birol, the IEA's executive director, stated that "we have seen an extraordinary increase in global energy demand in 2018, growing at its fastest pace this decade", and "last year can also be considered another golden year for gas, which accounted for almost half the growth in global energy demand", Dr. Birol concluded.

THE NET CAPACITY OF U.S. NATURAL GAS-FIRED COMBINED-CYCLE PLANTS HAS GROWN BY ABOUT 30 GW

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) statistics published on April 10¹², the gap between the electricity generation capacity of natural gas-fired combined-cycle (NFCC) plants and coal-fired plants is getting closed between 2002 and 2018, since NFCC plants has grown gradually in this period, and finally, surpassed in January 2019, 264 gigawatts (GW) and 243 GW,

respectively. The main motivation behind the fact is that while the net capacity has grown by about 30 GW, and the technology is improved for NFCC, the administration said that for the last 5 years almost 40 GW of coal-fired capacity have retired in the U.S., with no new coal capacity being online since the beginning of 2015. Although the number of NFCC plants accounts for about half of the total U.S.

natural gas-fired generation capacity, the share in terms of total natural gas-fired generation is almost 90%, the administration said. Moreover, the projections in EIA's most recent annual energy outlook emphasized the NGCC-powered electricity generation as "it should consistently rank as the most prevalent source of electricity generation in the United States for the foreseeable future."

DOMESTIC AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES ARE LEADING IN TURKEY

The recent data of Turkey's Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MENR)¹³ indicates an increase of 445 megawatts (MW) for installed electricity production capacity from 100% domestic and renewable energy resources in the first quarter of 2019. MENR reported that the increase in Turkey's power generation is aimed at maximizing the use of these so-called resources economically while also targeting a 10,000 MW adding

capacity of solar and wind energy in the following 10 years period. Since the Turkish government do not have any strategies for the additional power plant from imported resources such as coal or natural gas, the entire newly installed electricity generation capacity for the year 2019 is meant to be generated again from domestic and renewable energy resources, added the ministry. For the first three-months period of 2019, the MENR data shows

that majority of the installed capacity in Turkey comes from the domestic col resources followed by hydroelectricity power plants, – a share of 57.3% making up a total 255 MW and a share of 22.5% with an additional 100 MW, respectively. Finally, the statistics demonstrates that 70 MW installed capacity of wind, and 20 MW of geothermal, biomass and waste resources are the remaining capacities came from.

¹¹ International Energy Agency (IEA), (2019) Global energy demand rose by 2.3% in 2018, its fastest pace in the last decade.

¹² U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) Today in Energy, (2019) U.S. natural gas-fired combined-cycle capacity surpasses coal-fired capacity.

 $^{^{13}}$ Anadolu Agency, (2019) Domestic and renewables add 445 MW in Turkey in Q1.

A NEW FUNDING FOR CLEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS BY EUROPEAN COMMISSION¹⁴

The European Commission (EC) is recently announced that a funding of € 750 million which comes from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) will be delivered for European clean energy infrastructure projects. The commission also noted that the 2019 CEF Energy call for

proposals will be open until June 13 and selected among the ones with Projects of Common Interest (PCIs). Furthermore, the commission clarifies these PCIs as having a significant impact on at least two EU countries and aiming to develop in three areas: increasing competitiveness, and

enhancing energy security of the EU, as well as contributing to sustainable development and environmental protection. Several additional criteria such as state of maturity, solidarity or innovation during the evaluation phase has also been highlighted by the commission.

DELEK TO BUY MILLION-DOLLAR GULF OF MEXICO SHARES OF SHELL

In its news and media releases 15, Royal Dutch Shell announced the sale of its 22.45% non-operated interests in the assets of Caesar-Tonga which is located approximately 190 miles (300 kilometers) southsouthwest from New Orleans. Louisiana in the Green Canyon area of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico (GOM). The agreement has signed between its subsidiary Shell Offshore Inc. and a subsidiary of Delek Group for a total consideration of \$965 million. Andy Brown, Upstream Director of Shell, said "This transaction represents our continued focus on strategically positioning our deepwater business for growth and is consistent with our Upstream strategy of pursuing competitive projects that deliver value in the 2020s and beyond.", and added "The sale will contribute to Shell's ongoing divestment program and allow us to direct resources to the areas where we see the most value in the longer term.", in the statement. According to the release, global deep-water production of Shell is projected to surpass 900,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day (boe/d) by 2020 - from the current portfolio including reservoirs in the U.S.' Gulf of Mexico, Brazil, Nigeria and Malaysia, in addition to emerging offshore basins in Mexico, Mauritania and the Western Black Sea.

TURKEY WILL INVEST \$11 BILLION TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY EFFORTS¹⁶

Fatih Dönmez, Turkey's Minister of energy and natural resources, announced that Turkey will have an investment of \$11 billion to energy efficiency efforts by



2023 according to the country's National Energy Efficiency Action Plan. The minister underlined that the reductions in primary energy consumption will be almost 14% and by 66 million tons (MT) in greenhouse gas emissions by 2023. He explained that approximately 1 million tons of oil equivalent (Mtoe) energy savings as a result of \$1.2 billion investment have already been achieved in the last two years. He added that the use of domestic energy resources will also be promoted within the Energy Efficiency Plan to meet the growing energy demand of the expanding Turkish economy - following the start of the first phase of an energy efficiency project transforming public buildings into energy efficient ones. Together with the National Energy and Mining Policy, electricity production by domestic resources has reached a share of 60% in the first quarter of 2019, Dönmez concluded.

¹⁴ Institute of Energy for South-East Europe (IENE), (2019) EU to Offer €750M Funding for Clean Energy Projects.

¹⁵ Royal Dutch Shell Media Releases, (April 11 2019) Shell to sell interest in the US Gulf of Mexico Caesar-Tonga asset for \$965 million.

¹⁶ Anadolu Agency, (April 11, 2019) Turkey to invest \$10.9B in energy efficiency up to 2023.

AN IMMEDIATE AND SUBSTANTIAL DECLINE IN CARBON EMISSIONS BY RENEWABLE ELECTRIFICATION

According to the latest edition of the analysis released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in April 2019¹⁷, renewable power generation could decrease energy-related carbon emissions. According to IRENA, the up-scaled renewable energy and electrification could deliver 75% of energy-related emission reductions to achieve global climate change targets. The report forecasts that renewable power generation will also be able to meet 86% of the global demand for electricity, as well as to supply two-thirds of final energy consumption by 2050.

Moreover, the study emphasized an increasing payoff for every \$1 spent for the energy transition and attracts the attention to the need for a change in subsidies away from fossil fuels based power generation. In terms of the additional investments, the report suggests that increasing total investment in the global energy system led the world to achieve a more climate-friendly path by 2050. Yet, there is a warning that the world is on an unlikely path where annual emissions have increased by 1.3% annually over the last five years.

BP'S UPSTREAM CARBON FUND OF \$ 100 MILLION

In its press release on March 26¹⁸, BP announced a commitment for a \$ 100 million fund to decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in its Upstream oil and gas operations. According to BP's statement, the new Upstream Carbon Fund will support projects in BP's Upstream business over the next three years and provide an

additional funding for the energy giant for generating a sustainable reduction of GHG emission in its operations. Setting short-term targets, BP clearly aimed at decreasing its emissions and moving forward with the energy transition as of April 2018. Since the date, total GHG emission of BP has declined by 1.7 million tons

(MT) regardless of a 3% growth in upstream oil and gas production, reported BP. Furthermore, in line with its targets, the release constitutes that the new fund is expected to achieve to \$ 500 million since BP invests in low carbon activities each year, including venturing investment and alternative energy businesses.

TURKEY WITNESSED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Turkey is experiencing an increasing trend in terms of greenhouse gas emissions regarding to the data provided by the Turkish Statistical Institute ¹⁹. The figures show that Turkey reached an overall level of 526.3 million tons (MT) for greenhouse gas emissions as of the end of 2017. The agency also published that energy sector accounts the largest share with more than 70% of emissions, followed by industry, agriculture and waste, respectively. According to the state-based agency the change in total emission was 140.1% in 2017 compared to 1990, the year when Turkey started to track its emission data on an annual basis. The figures of the institute underlined that the share of energy sector has almost tripled during the same period. Fortunately, Turkey's renewable energy supplies have been increasing due to the Energy Ministry's policy of localization and energy

security. As a result of these policies, Turkey has already met its 2023 goal to produce 30% of its electricity from renewables and will keep growing renewable power that would help achieve 50% renewable electricity production by 2023. New tenders will further increase private investment in wind and solar. Other renewable energy types such as geothermal and biomass are also set to increase their contribution. Measures related to non-power sectors such as transport, industry and buildings are also important in assessing emission profile of Turkish energy economy. For example, energy efficiency efforts are expected to play a significant role in emissions as experienced in many other countries. For more information on how national energy and economic goals can contribute to fighting climate change see *Hürriyet Daily News*

¹⁷ International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), (2019) Global energy transformation: A roadmap to 2050 (2019 edition).

¹⁸ BP Press Releases, (March 26 2019) BP commits \$100 million to fund new emissions reductions projects.

¹⁹ Turkish Statistical Institute, (2019) Greenhouse gas emissions statistics.

NORD STREAM 2: A FURTHER LONG DELAY OR NOT

According to the interview by Reuters with a senior EU official²⁰, Nord Stream 2 project that delivers the Russian gas to the key EU market - Germany, via pipeline through the Baltic Sea, would continuously face challenges in terms of long delays. This led Russia to come to an agreement with Ukraine on future gas transits, the official added. The news repeated the suspicious position of the United States and several eastern European and Nordic



countries since the project is likely to undermine Ukraine, and the country's revenues on gas transit, as well as a possible increase of the EU's reliance on Russian gas. Moreover, even though the official permits from the side of Denmark still delays and the rules of EU which could have an effect on its operational model, are recently changing, the Russianbased company of the Nord Stream 2 project is still expected to finish the pipeline by the end of 2019, said a representative.

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN EFFORTS OF TURKEY WOULD BE A GAME CHANGER²¹

An energy industry fair - Petroleum Istanbul, held place between March 28-30 for the 14th time at TÜYAP Fair and Congress Center. During his speech, Turkish Energy Minister, Fatih Dönmez, highlighted the importance of the natural resources in the eastern Mediterranean and "We would not let fait accompli in the Mediterranean," he said, adding that the new search efforts would be a "game changer". The minister also emphasized a continuous effort on defending the rights of Turkish Cypriots in response

to unilateral attempts and deals by Greek Cypriots. Discovering new gas resources in the northwestern province of Çanakkale, Minister Dönmez reminded the aim of Turkey to become a producer, as well as an exporter in terms of both oil and natural gas. Considering the intention of being independent in energy, he underlined the date for the transfer of the resources to Europe is approaching by the Turkish Stream project with Russia and Trans Anatolian Pipeline (TANAP).

²¹ Hurriyet Daily News, (March 28, 2019) Turkey won't allow fait accompli in Med Sea: Minister.



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²⁰ Reuters, (April 11, 2019) Nord Stream 2 Delay 'Trump Card' in Russia-Ukraine Gas Talks – EU Official.