

DR. FATIH BIROL

International Energy Agency,

Executive Director

Dr. Fatih Birol has served as Executive Director of the International Energy Agency since September 2015. He has been reappointed, by unanimous vote, as the President of the International Energy Agency for the third time in March 2022, which begins in September 2022.

Under his leadership, the IEA has undertaken its first comprehensive modernization program since its creation in 1974. This effort focuses on three pillars: opening the doors of the IEA to include major emerging countries, such as Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, and South Africa, who have joined the IEA Family, thus increasing their share of global energy demand from 38% to almost 75%; broadening the IEA's security mandate to natural gas and electricity as well as oil; and making the IEA the global hub for clean energy technologies and energy efficiency.

Before he was nominated Executive Director, Dr. Birol spent over 20 years at the IEA, rising through the ranks to the position of Chief Economist, responsible for the flagship World Energy Outlook publication. He is also the founder and chair of the IEA Energy Business Council, one of the world's most active industry advisory groups in energy. Dr. Birol has been named by Forbes Magazine among the most influential people on the world's energy scene and was recognized by the Financial Times in 2017 as Energy Personality of the Year. In 2021, he was named on the TIME 100 list of the world's most influential people. He chairs the World Economic Forum's (Davos) Energy Advisory Board and serves on the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on "Sustainable Energy for All". He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Japanese Emperor's Order of the Rising Sun, the Order of the Polar Star from the King of Sweden and the highest Presidential decorations from Austria, Germany, Italy, and most recently, France's Legion d'Honneur.

Before the IEA, Dr. Birol worked at the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna. He earned a BSc degree in power engineering from the Technical University of Istanbul and received an MSc and Ph.D. in energy economics from the Technical University of Vienna. Dr. Birol was awarded a Doctorate of Science honoris causa from Imperial College London in 2013. He was also made an honorary life member of Galatasaray Football Club in 2013.

