



PM Erdogan announces major Cabinet reshuffle

Date : 02.05.2009

Source: Today's Zaman

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=174153>

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced revisions in the Cabinet after receiving approval from President Abdullah Gül in the wake of the March 29 local elections and amid the ongoing global financial crisis.

Whereas eight ministers were excluded from the Cabinet, nine new individuals started to carry ministerial titles. With the revision, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Hilmi Güler was left out of the Cabinet.





New Energy Minister Yildiz: Armenia efforts won't harm energy projects with Baku

Date : 07.05.2009

Source: Today's Zaman (Reuters)

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=174580>

Turkey's efforts to normalize relations with Armenia will not harm planned energy projects with Azerbaijan, including the Nabucco gas pipeline, Energy Minister Taner Yildiz has said.

Turkey's traditional ally Azerbaijan has objected to US-backed talks with Armenia because it wants to first resolve a dispute with Armenia over its occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave before Turkey opens its borders.

"Energy will play the role of a catalyst in bringing the relations among Azerbaijan, Armenia and Turkey to a more positive level," said Yildiz, who took over the government's energy portfolio after a Cabinet reshuffle over the weekend. "There's no plan to delay the projects with Azerbaijan" because of the Armenian normalization talks, he said.

Turkey already buys about 6 billion cubic meters of Caspian natural gas annually after a pipeline from the Azeri Shah Deniz field opened in 2007. Some of that gas, which Turkey buys at a discount, is shipped to Greece. Turkey is seeking an additional 8 billion cubic meters of gas from Azerbaijan to meet domestic needs, according to Energy Ministry sources.



Government lowers gas prices by 25 percent

Date : 04.05.2009

Source: Hürriyet Daily News (Bloomberg)

<http://arama.hurriyet.com.tr/arsivnews.aspx?id=11568003>

The government cut natural gas prices by 25 percent for consumers and 26 percent for industry, said Nazan Konuk, a spokeswoman for state-run pipeline company BOTAS.

The government cut the gas prices by as much as 18 percent in February after raising them about 75 percent last year after it introduced an automatic pricing mechanism that pegs retail gas and electricity rates to fuel costs, inflation and the exchange rate.



EU gas summit seeks Southern Corridor plan

Date : 06.05.2009

Source: Hürriyet Daily news (EurActiv)

<http://arama.hurriyet.com.tr/arsivnews.aspx?id=11585258>

An extraordinary European Union meeting in Prague on Friday will try to break the deadlock over a proposed 'Southern Corridor' for natural gas, as the Czech Presidency tries to drum up support for the Nabucco pipeline project.

EU member states and Turkey will be urged to speed up an intergovernmental agreement over the Nabucco gas pipeline in order for it to be signed by June 2009, according to draft conclusions of the meeting obtained by EurActiv. The Prague meeting, organized by the Czech EU Presidency, will bring together representatives of Azerbaijan, Turkey, Georgia, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, alongside the EU institutions. No EU heads of state will be present, despite the meeting being billed as a summit by the organizers.

In Prague, the Czech Presidency will be pushing for an intergovernmental agreement by the end of 2009 over the planned ITGI gas pipeline, which would link Greece to Italy. The project is still in planning phase, but crucially received backing from Greece, Italy and Turkey in July 2007. The meeting will also seek to promote a pipeline aimed at bringing natural gas supplies under the Caspian from Turkmenistan to Baku, according to the draft declaration. This so-called Trans-Caspian Link is seen as an important building block for Nabucco, as it could help fill the pipeline with the gas needed to make the project commercially viable.

However, it appears that EU countries have yet to agree on which projects should actually constitute the Southern Gas Corridor. In November last year, the European Commission tabled its Second Strategic Energy Review, calling for the EU's gas supplies in the Caspian region to be extended when political conditions permit. The review mentioned the Nabucco, Turkey-Greece-Italy and South Stream pipelines as possible alternatives to Russian gas in the aftermath of the January supply crisis between Moscow and Kiev.

But it shied away from precisely defining the Southern Gas Corridor concept. "It is not yet clear what is meant by the expression," admitted a senior diplomat from one of the EU's largest member states. The Czech meeting will attempt to clarify the issue, and the draft summit declaration suggests that the main idea will be to define the concept in the broadest possible terms.



Turkey sends BOTAS delegation to Baku for energy talks

Date : 05.05.2009

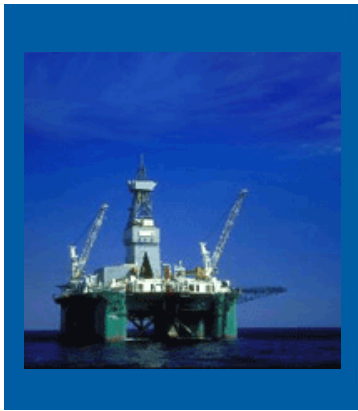
Source: Today's Zaman

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=174406>

State-owned Turkish Pipeline Corporation (BOTAS) President Saltuk Düzyol led a delegation to Baku for talks on energy relations. BOTAS officials will discuss the price and amount of gas to be purchased from Azerbaijan in 2009.

Turkey currently buys on average of 6 bcm of natural gas per year from Azerbaijan via the Shah Deniz I pipeline for \$120 per 1,000 cubic meters. Azerbaijan is insisting on an increase in the price of natural gas sold to Turkey.

Currently the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) and the Shah Deniz oil pipelines transport Azerbaijani oil to international markets. The delegation will also participate in talks aimed at completing the Nabucco pipeline project, which will carry gas to European markets from fields in the Caucasus and Central Asia, as soon as possible.



Petrobras and TPAO sign pact to operate in Black Sea

Date : 05.05.2009

Source: Rigzone

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=75811

Petrobras, by means of its Petrobras Oil & Gas B.V. Turkey subsidiary, and Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) signed a farm-out agreement for the Leiv Eiriksson drilling rig, which will operate in the Black Sea, on April 30.

This partnership was made after the signature of the drilling service agreement between Petrobras and Ocean Rig, on April 8, through which Petrobras secured the right to use the drilling unit in the Black Sea for a three-year period.

Via the agreement, Petrobras authorizes TPAO to use the Leiv Eiriksson drilling rig to drill one of its seven wells in the Black Sea, with the possibility to extend the services to additional wells. The rig is expected to arrive in Turkey in late 2009, and drilling operations are slated to begin in the Sinop well, which Petrobras is the operator of, in the first quarter of 2010.

The Leiv Eiriksson rig was built in 2001 and is capable of performing drilling operations in water depths of more than 2,000 meters. Its total drilling capacity is of upwards of 9,000 meters. The rig is 119 meters long, 85 meters wide and can lodge up to 140 people.

Petrobras kicked-off its activities in Turkey in February 2006, when it was the highest bidder for exploration and production in two blocks in the Black Sea. As a result, Petrobras and TPAO signed operation agreements that ensured 50% stakes for each company for the exploration and production of blocks 3920 (Kirkklareli) and 3922 (Sinop). In late 2008, Petrobras completed the commitments it had taken-on to perform seismic studies and is now beginning the well-drilling phase.



Oil rises above \$57 on economic hopes

Date : 08.05.2009

Source: The Guardian

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/feedarticle/8496281>

Oil rose above \$57 a barrel on Friday, heading for weekly gains of more than 7 percent as signs that the global economy may have reached bottom multiplied and brought hopes of recovering oil demand down the road.

The U.S. stock markets welcomed the results of bank stress tests in which U.S. regulators asked top banks to raise \$74.6 billion to build a capital cushion, sending U.S. stocks up in after-hours trade and erasing earlier losses.

U.S. light crude for June delivery rose 44 cents to \$57.15 a barrel, having settled up 37 cents at \$56.71 a barrel on Thursday, the highest settlement since Nov. 14. London Brent crude gained 69 cents to \$57.16, having earlier shot up to \$57.80. "People got optimistic (after the test results) because it wasn't as bad as they thought it would be," said Tony Nunan, risk manager at Mitsubishi Corp in Tokyo. "But we are not out of the woods yet. The economy has yet to recover and there could still be another dip in prices."

Oil has gained more than 65 percent since hitting the low \$30s in February, rallying with stronger equity markets as economic indicators have stopped worsening. Encouraging the optimism, Labor Department data on Thursday showed the number of U.S. workers filing new claims for jobless aid unexpectedly fell by 34,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 601,000, the Labor Department said.

❖ **GDPA Activity Report (2008)**

Source : General Directorate of Petroleum Affairs
Weblink : http://www.pigm.gov.tr/pigm_2008_yili_idare_faaliyet_raporu.pdf

❖ **OPEC Bulletin (March – April 2009)**

Source : Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
Weblink : http://www.opec.org/library/OPEC%20Bulletin/2009/pdf/OB03_042009.pdf

❖ **Energy Efficiency Review of the Slovak Republic (2009)**

Source : Energy Charter
Weblink : http://www.encharter.org/fileadmin/user_upload/document/Slovakia_EE_id_2009_ENG.pdf