



**AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ  
YUNANISTAN RESPUBLİKASINDAKI VƏ ALBANIYA RESPUBLİKASINDAKI  
SƏFİRLİYİ**

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**Məsələyə dair:** Enerji layihələri ilə bağlı mətbuat xülasəsinə dair

Hörmətli Həmkarlar,

Bununla regiondakı enerji layihələri ilə bağlı yerli və xarici KİV-də yayılmış məlumatla əlaqədar TAP-ın İctimaiyyətlə Əlaqə şöbəsi və SOCAR-Hellas mətbuat məsləhətçiləri tərəfindən hazırlanmış mətbuat xülasəsini diqqətinizə təqdim edirik.

Hörmətlə,

Səfir

Rəhman Mustafayev

İcraçı: Talehə Həsənli



## TAP News Summaries

The TAP Communications Department aims to provide a daily media monitoring service, giving a comprehensive overview of all of TAP's media monitors in key countries, Google alerts, Factiva and other sources. Italian, Greek and Albanian media clippings will link to the original article in most cases. Links to translations will also be provided for selected articles.

### Greece

#### **Western Macedonia: Funding for corporate social responsibility projects to the areas affected by TAP - ERT Kozani** *links to full text in Greek*

**ERT (Greek national broadcaster; 13,000 on-line unique daily visitors) – Antonis Mavridis - 02.03.2016**

TAP will invest €32 million in the prefectures of Western, Central and Eastern Macedonia and Thrace for corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, became known during a meeting between Energy Minister Skourletis, representatives of TAP and of the three Prefectures. Western Macedonia was represented by Prefect Karypidis.

Out of the €32 million, €7 million concerns proposals for CSR in Kozani, Florina and Kastoria, €10 million for Central Macedonia, €10 million for Eastern Macedonia-Thrace and €5million will go to a "savings account" for the three prefectures. TAP, according to its design, will pass through Western Macedonia for 100 km, 230 km in Central and 228 km in Eastern Macedonia-Thrace. The four axes of the CSR programme are environment, education, professional training in the energy field, social-economic development, agricultural development and tourism, and quality of life.

#### **Upgrade in the energy sector discussed at the meeting Skourletis-EBRD** *links to full text in Greek*

**To Vima (National weekly newspaper; circulation 45,000; 140,000 on-line unique daily visitors) - 02.03.2016**

Energy Minister Skourletis discussed the possibilities for Greece to receive funds for energy infrastructure projects from the EBRD during a meeting with top executives of the bank. He mentioned the recent developments in the energy projects, the goals of the ministry for fighting energy poverty, the decrease of prices for households and businesses and the reinforcement of the energy security.

Skourletis referred to TAP, IGB, the potential construction of the LNG terminal in Alexandroupoli, the upgrade of the LNG terminal in Revythoussa, the connections of the islands with the onshore electricity system and the plan of connecting Israel, Cyprus and Greece. He also underlined the expansion of the internal gas network, saying that the possibilities and potentials are immense. The EBRD representatives described the priorities of the energy sector for Greece in 2016-2020, highlighting gas, energy connections and hydrocarbons. *Also published in Imerisia, Naftemporiki Businessnews, Euro2day, Reporter, New Money, Avgi, Rizospastis, Left, Xrimatistirio*

#### **Greece's 'multidimensional' future**

**Politico (News portal; 60,000 unique daily visitors) - 03.03.2016**

Greek Energy Minister Skourletis met with the EBRD and discussed priorities for Greece's energy sector between 2016 and 2020 such as gas, and interconnections. Greece is working hard on turning the country into an energy hub. Specifically, the planned TAP, IGB, a floating LNG terminal, upgrades to an existing LNG terminal, and electricity links with Israel and Cyprus, were

discussed.

**Verriopoulos: Greece becomes an energy hub through the Southern Gas Corridor** *links to full text in Greek*

**Energy Press (Industry news portal; 7,000 unique daily visitors) - 02.03.2016**

At the Southern Gas Corridor (SGC) Advisory Council in Baku, Greece was represented by the General Secretary of Energy Verriopoulos who said that the SGC is of great importance for the energy security of Europe. The transfer of gas from Azerbaijan and future possibilities for alternative sources in the Caspian, serve the purpose of utilizing new gas sources and corridors. Greece becomes an energy hub for the best interest of the Balkans through TAP, IGB, the LNG terminal in Revythoussa and the project for an LNG terminal in Alexandroupoli. *Also published in Energia*

**Down the corridor we come**

**Politico (News portal; 60,000 unique daily visitors) - 03.03.2016**

The Greek energy ministry had a delegate to the Southern Gas Advisory Council meeting in Azerbaijan. "The gas transportation from Azerbaijan to Europe, and possibly the future of alternative power sources in the Caspian Sea, essentially serves the objective of all European nations, the diversification of sources and routes of gas," said the ministry's general secretary for energy.

**Gas: EU and U.S. distance themselves from Gazprom-DEPA-Edison deal** *links to full text in Greek*

**Euro2Day (Financial news portal; 30,000 unique daily visitors) - Michalis Kaitantzidis – 02.03.2016**

Speaking in Baku during the second meeting of the Southern Gas Corridor's (SGC) Advisory Council, U.S., EU and Italian officials distanced themselves from recent efforts to revive ITGI pipeline by Gazprom, DEPA and Edison. U.S. energy envoy Hochstein said that "the only way to resolve the EU energy security is through diversification. More projects that simply bring the same gas from the same fields to the same consumers, although through a new pipe, will not contribute to energy security". Hochstein also praised the SGC (TANAP and TAP) as the only way to achieve Europe's energy source diversification.

Vice President of the EC in charge of the Energy Union Sefcovic said that "what we have seen about ITGI is the announcement, so it is difficult to present a clear position at this stage. It is not clear where the gas will come from and what should be the route". State Secretary to the Italian Prime Minister De Vincenti emphasized the key role of Azerbaijan in diversifying Europe's energy supplies making Azeri gas supplies the number one priority. Article notes that ITGI stakeholder Edison is an Italian company, but is wholly controlled by France's EDF. *Also published in Energia, Energy Press, Energy World, E-Forologia, Kathimerini*

**The energy landscape in Greece, Cyprus and Israel** *links to full text in Greek*

**Liberal (News portal; 6,000 unique daily visitors) - Michalis Diakantonis - 02.03.2016**

Article provides an overview of energy sector developments in Greece, Israel and Cyprus. Greece and Cyprus largely play a supporting role in the region's developments, and should thus ensure that they can be successful at least in this regard (through ensuring that energy projects are not hindered by red tape and fostering regional collaboration) if they wish to become serious energy players.

TAP installation and route plans have been approved; it is a key project in the implementation of the Southern Gas Corridor; it can be linked to a number of regional interconnectors, including IGB, Vertical Gas Corridor and IAP. TAP and its branching interconnectors stand a better chance than most other planned pipelines for Greece as they are aligned with the EU's plans to reduce dependence on Russian gas. TAP and ITGI are clearly competitors, as they follow almost parallel routes and address the same clients, but carry gas from different suppliers. (Note: The author is Project Coordinator at the Eastern Mediterranean Observatory, Athens) *Also published in Energy Press*

**Our Balkan hinterland is a quicksand** *links to full text in PDF in Greek*

**Kathimerini (National daily newspaper; circulation 50,000; 150,000 on-line unique daily visitors) - Nikolaos Mertzos – 02.03.2016**

The West has abandoned Nabucco in favour of TAP, which “drastically reduces Europe and the Balkans’ dependence on Russia” and “additionally makes Greece a central energy player in the Balkans”. The pipeline’s preparation, including expropriations, is moving ahead in Greek Macedonia and Thrace “despite some provincial reactions”. (Note: A verbatim of an article originally published in news portal Elliniki Gnomi on February 8 and included then in the monitoring report)

**SOCAR-DESFA deal heading towards a shipwreck** *links to full text in Greek*

**Kathimerini (National daily newspaper; circulation 50,000; 150,000 on-line unique daily visitors) - Chryssa Liaggou – 02.03.2016**

All the evidence points towards the cancellation of a long-negotiated buyout of DESFA by SOCAR and (following EC concerns about the Azeri company acquiring undue market influence) one or more of European gas companies Snam, Fluxys and Enagas. Three main reasons are cited: a potential lowering of future gas grid usage fees sought by the Greek government which is significantly reducing investors’ interest; the risks attached to the Greek market as a whole; SOCAR’s own financial problems, stemming from low oil prices. (Note: Based on Eleftheros Typos daily newspaper story from February 27, included then in the monitoring report) *Also published in Energy Press*

**Hochstein discussed Southern Corridor and IGB with Bulgarian President** *links to full text in Greek*

**Energy Press (Industry news portal; 7,000 unique daily visitors) – 02.03.2016**

Bulgarian President Plevneliev and U.S. energy envoy Hochstein met in Sofia and discussed the strategic importance of accelerating the Southern Gas Corridor implementation, IGB and other inter-connectors with Bulgaria’s neighbouring countries.

**ELPE places first Iranian crude order after trade restart** *links to full text in English*

**Energy Press (Industry news portal; 7,000 unique daily visitors) – 02.03.2016**

ELPE (Hellenic Petroleum) has placed its first order for one million barrels of crude oil from the National Iranian Oil Company, due for arrival within the next few weeks, following the lifting of sanctions on Iran.

## Greek social media

### Blog

**Kastoria. The reply of Petsalnikos to the announcement of local Syriza members: My interest exists because “it is the growth that is missing, you fools”** *links to full text in Greek*

**SvouraNews (Local blog; 800 unique daily visitors) - 02.03.2016**

Former Pasok MP for Kastoria and Speaker of Parliament Petsalnikos is surprised by the local Syriza members of Kastoria who attacked him because during his meeting with the Minister of Defense they discussed the function of the Public Corporation for Seaming Military Uniforms in Nestorio. He suggests that it would have been better if the Syriza members would inform the citizens on how they deal with all the negative incidents such as the “amputation” of the Technical School, transfer of the Architecture School in Kozani, cancellation of the construction of the police building, the crossing of the territory by TAP with no benefit for the area and on the absence of other development project.

### Facebook

**Article on TAP CSR funds agreement** *links to full text in Greek*

**Anti-TAP – (Facebook group) – 02.03.2016**

Member of the prefectural council for Central Macedonia and of Anti-TAP Serres Tremopoulos posted a link to an article by news portal Epoli about the February 26 meeting between the Energy Minister, the prefectures of Macedonia and TAP consortium to arrange the framework for allocating TAP’s CSR funds. Tremopoulos comments, sarcastically, “Already!” (Note: Tremopoulos has previously said that discussions on the future of TAP are premature before pending rulings on lawsuits against TAP’s route at the Council of State) (Anti-TAP group has 346 participants)

**Anti-TAP – (Facebook group) – 02.03.2016**

Member of the prefectural council for Central Macedonia and of Anti-TAP Serres Tremopoulos [posted a link](#) to an article in financial news portal Euro2Day with the headline: "Gas: EU and U.S. are distancing themselves from the Gazprom-DEPA-Edison deal" and adds the comment "The U.S. is opposing and the EU through Commissioner Sefcovic is keeping a distance from the Greek-Italian-Russian plan for the Russian South Stream pipeline, a few days after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in Rome among Edison, Gazprom and DEPA". Michalis Davis commented on the post: But doesn't Italy belong to the West and signs a deal with Russia? Greece is left all alone belonging to the West! (1 like, Anti-TAP group has 346 participants)

**Facebook - 03.03.2016**

## Italy

**Olive trees to be replanted. Ministry helps TAP** *links to full text in Italian*

**La Repubblica (National daily newspaper; Bari edition; circulation 550,000; 1,000,000 on-line daily unique visitors) – 03.03.2016**

The Italian Ministry of Agricultural has saved TAP and all the companies that want to carry out public works in Salento. Olive trees along the route of TAP will be removed and then replanted, although they are full of Xylella (olive tree bacterium). Italian Minister of Agricultural Martina has signed a decree, published in the Official Journal of the government, saying: "The Regional Plant Protection Service may authorize the movement of olive trees for the realisation of works, declared as public". Now, TAP must only solve the problem concerning the verification of compliance with certain requirements of the region, before it can proceed with its construction, scheduled to be opened in spring. *Also published in Il Nuovo Quotidiano di Puglia*

**Emiliano supports TAP: "Gas instead of coal"** *links to full text in Italian*

**Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno (Regional daily newspaper; Brindisi edition; circulation 40,000; 100,000 on-line daily unique visitors) – 03.03.2016**

Apulia's Regional Council had a meeting in Brindisi to discuss the problems that beset the area. TAP has been frequently mentioned. As known, Apulia's president Emiliano has indicated Brindisi as a landfall for TAP, encountering strong resistance from institutions.

He has certainly not changed his position, insisting that: "Gas is the future that awaits us. It is the right fuel for the transition to new technologies that lower CO2 emissions. In addition, gas breaks down 100% of fine dust emissions of dioxin and this is definitely crucial for us. Italy has made a commitment to Europe towards "decarbonisation" (of steelworks Ilva). With this in mind, we made a specific proposal to the government and we are now waiting for a response. Our plans include TAP's landfall in Brindisi, as long as the price of gas goes down to that of coal. One thing is sure: we cannot keep using coal for another 30 years". *Also published in Il Nuovo Quotidiano di Puglia, La Repubblica, Corriere del Mezzogiorno, Ansa, Affaritaliani, Pontiniaecologia, Trnews*

**Baku asks, Europe responds** *links to full text in Italian*

**Re:Common (Italian activist NGO website; 150 on-line daily unique visitors) – Elena Gerebizza-02.03.2016**

The second meeting of the Advisory council for the Southern Gas Corridor took place on February 29. There are only a few statements from the meeting, mostly filtered through the Azeri press agency. The Italian government has provided no official statement, although the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Mogherini participated at the meeting, while Baku noted that a final statement was signed by the participating governments, under the auspices of the European Commissioner for Energy Union Sefcovic.

Until now, only the European Investment Bank (EIB) is officially considering a loan of €2 billion to TAP. TAP Managing Director Bradshaw, also present in Baku, announced that the opening ceremony for TAP construction will take place in late May or early June in Thessaloniki. In Italy, there are still many press articles about the failing activities of the Azeri Embassy, which tries to prevent the public event on violations of human rights in the country organised by Amnesty International in Rome. Therefore, Azerbaijan remains a bad partner of Italy in the European energy transition.

## Italian social media

### Facebook

Sigismondo Castromediano posts to the group Comitato No TAP: "The municipality of Lecce has received Snam's project of November 11, 2015, as did the other institutions. Whoever says otherwise is wrong. The No TAP Committee, the City of Melendugno and the Province of Brindisi are currently reviewing the project. What about the others?..." and posts 3 photos of the project's documents (9 likes for the post, 5 shares, 1 comment, Comitato No TAP group has 7,441 participants)

Facebook – 02.03.2016

## Albania

**TAP, its environment model followed in Albania should also be applied in Greece** *links to full text in Albanian*

**Monitor (Weekly economic magazine; circulation 1,000; 5,000 on-line unique daily visitors) – 02.03.2016**

The model followed in Albania by TAP in respecting the environment, culture and society should be also followed by Greece. According to the Greek local radio station LehoVo, the preparatory phase for the construction of TAP has shown its serious commitment to respecting tradition, cultural heritage and environment in Albania. One example is Vithkuq village in the Korca region, known for its tourist attractions. According to a representative of the village quoted by LehoVo, TAP expertise is to be trusted and have offered full cooperation to ensure the protection of archaeological and cultural sites. TAP will follow the same pattern and model, respect of environmental and social environment in Greece too. (Note: LehoVo radio broadcast was included in the monitoring report on February 10)

**Albanian Oil and Gas Institute to be re-opened after 9 years** *links to full text in Albanian*

**Top Channel (Albanian broadcaster; 180,000 on-line unique daily visitors) – 02.03.2016**

Nine years after it was closed, the Oil and Gas Institute will be opened and redesigned due to the implementation of TAP in Albania, and it will include studies for all gas infrastructures. The re-establishment of the institution is part of the "Building high infrastructure capacities in the gas sector" project funded by the Swiss government with €6 million. The launch of the project was announced by the Minister of Energy Gjirkuri and the Swiss Ambassador in Tirana.

Gjirkuri underlined the importance of the Institute project for technical capacity building in the oil and gas sector in Albania since the country has suffered from a loss of these specific capacities during the last decade. Another important element of the project is to start the operation of Vlora thermal power plant (TPP) with gas and the feasibility study to be conducted for connecting the TPP with TAP. The project also includes a comparison of TAP agreements in Greece and Albania, in order to maximize the benefits for Albania. *Also published in [Shekulli.com](#), [Gazetatema.net](#), [Shqiptarja.com](#), [Gazetadita.al](#), [Zeri-popullit.com](#), [Kohajone.com](#), [Javanews.al](#), [Monitor.al](#), [24-ore.com](#), [Balkanweb.com](#), [Oranews.tv](#), [Mapo.al](#), [Sot.com.al](#), [ata.gov.al](#), [scan-tv.com](#), [Vizionplus.al](#), [ABC news](#), [Top News](#), [TVSH](#), [Albanian Daily News](#), [Gazeta Shqiptare](#), [Shqip](#)*

## Azerbaijan

**Russia enters "gas race" with Azerbaijan** *links to full text in English*

**Trend (Azeri news agency; 400,000 on-line unique daily visitors) - Maksim Tsurkov – 02.03.2016**

Baku hosted the second meeting of the Southern Gas Corridor (SGC) Advisory Council on February 29. Curiously enough, on the same day, Russian President Putin held a meeting with head of Gazprom Miller in Moscow on supplying gas to Europe via the same route as the SGC, that's to say, to Greece and Italy. It seems that Russia is seriously concerned about the progress of the SGC and the competition with Azerbaijan in gas supply to Europe.

**Southern Gas Corridor important for the whole world – Azerbaijani MP** *links to full text in English*

**Trend (Azeri news agency; 400,000 on-line unique daily visitors) - Elchin Mehdiyev – 02.03.2016**

Implementation of the Southern Gas Corridor is important not only for Azerbaijan, but for Europe and the whole world, Azeri MP Rzayev said, adding that the project will play a significant role in supplying Europe with gas.

**Swedish company to supply thermal insulation for Shah Deniz 2 project** *links to full text in English*

**Trend (Azeri news agency; 400,000 on-line unique daily visitors) - Aygun Badalova – 02.03.2016**

Swedish Trelleborg's offshore operation is awarded its largest single order for thermal insulation and corrosion coating services for phase 2 of Shah Deniz project, contracting directly to BOS Shelf LLC. BOS Shelf company was established by Star Gulf FZCO and SOCAR, represented in this partnership by the Baku Deep Water Jacket Factory. The contract is expected to run until 2022. Trelleborg will supply in excess of 1,000 tons of its Vikotherm P7 high temperature insulation material.

**Twitter**

TAP retweets Alessandro Torello's [tweet](#): "Maros Sefcovic says there is "absolute determination" to make sure Southern Gas Corridor is built on time; BP, TAP (2 retweets; 2 likes; 2,410 followers)

**Twitter – 02.03.2016**

## Turkey

**Israel to consider joining TANAP project** *links to full text in English*

**ABC (Azeri news portal; 30,000 unique daily visitors) – 02.03.2016**

According to the Ambassador of Israel to Azerbaijan Stav, the Southern Gas Corridor (SGC) has a global significance as energy remains the major source that human beings are depending on. "We are watching with great interest the process of development of the SGC project. Israel will start producing gas for export in the coming years. Accordingly, an issue of Israel's joining the SGC project, especially TANAP, will be duly considered".

**Cheap gas will make Turkey advantageous: Turcas Chairman** *links to full text in English*

**Anadolu Agency (Turkish news agency; 250,000 on-line unique daily visitors) - Murat Temizer – 02.03.2016**

The private energy sector in Turkey is ready to support the Turkish government to enhance Turkey's energy market, said Erdal Aksoy, chairman of Aksoy Holding and of Turkish fuel retail company Turcas Oil. "In the last 10 years, Turkey's gas consumption increased to 50 bcm. Therefore, an increase in global gas production is an advantage and offers opportunities for Turkey". Aksoy said that Turcas expects cheaper gas for Turkey in the future from gas producing countries which will help Turkey finance its deficit and contribute towards Turkey becoming an industrial center.

**Gazprom reduces gas export to Turkish companies 'without official explanation'** *links to full text in English*

**Hurriyet Daily News (Turkish English language daily newspaper; circulation 5,000; 50,000 on-line unique daily visitors) – 02.03.2016**

Gazprom has unilaterally decided to hike the price of gas sold to Turkish private companies and reduced export volumes without an official explanation, private Turkish importer Enerco said, adding that the gas flow started to be reduced on February 24, and stressed that this is against the law.

**The South Caucasus in the shadow of the Russian-Turkish crisis** *links to full text in English*

**International Relations and Security Network (Swiss online information service; 100,000 unique daily visitors) - Konrad Zasztowt – 03.03.2016**