

**MINISTER OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
H.E. TANER YILDIZ**

**13. INTERNATIONAL ENERGY FORUM MINISTERIAL MEETING**

**14 MARCH 2012  
KUWAIT**

**Excellency Ministers,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before starting my speech, I would like to thank Kuwait Petroleum Ministry for the organization of the 13-th Ministerial Meeting and for the hospitality and would also like to thank the the IEF Secretariat for their efforts in organizing this Meeting.

The IEF Ministerial meeting, which forms an important platform for oil and natural gas producing, consuming and transit countries, the 13-th of which is being held this year, is an event that provides us with an opportunity to get together to exchange views and also an event that is of an agenda determining nature. I would particularly like to underline my pleasure being here today.

**Distinguished Participants;**

Only a year ago in the historical meeting in Ryadh we signed the IEF Charter. For the last one year the IEF has been successfully implementing its institutionalization process. I also believe that Mr. Quiroga who took over the post of the Secretary General in January would make a significant contribution thanks to his experiences.

**Distinguished Participants,**

As it has been highlighted during the discussions, it is obvious that energy has become an essential part of each country's prosperity and economic growth with even further increasing significance.

Apart from that, today the world is confronting unprecedented uncertainties.

The recent economic crisis has impacted the energy markets as well. The key for the future energy expectations lies behind the speed of the global crisis recovery.

### **Distinguished Participants,**

It is obvious that cooperation composes the foundation of a better energy future. In today's world, the issue of energy security has become a concept closely associated with foreign policy, national security and global stability. It is a fact that there is a growing interdependence in the energy field and this phenomenon boosts the importance of energy relations among the countries and regions as well, and as a result leading efforts to realize the diversification of supply and routes. However, establishment of the international or regional cooperation together with solidarity before the interdependence phenomenon emerged shall make sense and result in more beneficial and efficient outcome.

### **Distinguished Participants,**

Today, no country is capable of dealing with the energy problems on its own. Likewise, no country can be said literally to have fully secured energy supplies or referred to as self-sufficient. In such an atmosphere, while energy consumers seek for security of their energy supplies, energy producers seek for security of energy demand to reduce the risks associated with their large long-term investments.

On the other hand, transit countries have their own concerns and they form the essential part of the whole transit chain. In this context, the cooperation and solidarity among the producers, consumers and transit countries is inevitable for developing regional and global transportation systems. This is a core to the effectiveness of the whole transit business.

In this scope, playing an important role in establishing such an environment for dialogue is expected from the IEF.

### **Distinguished Participants,**

Parallel to the increasing global energy demand, Turkey's energy need has been growing as a result of the economic development and rising level of welfare. At present, roughly 30 % of the total energy demand is being met by the indigenous resources, while the rest is coming from a diversified portfolio of imports.

In this regard, the main goal of our energy policies has been set as the provision of required energy in a timely, reliable, cost-effective, environmentally sound and high-quality manner so as to support the envisaged development impetus and social progress. In doing so, utilization of domestic sources of the country to an extent possible and diversification of imported sources form the basic pillars of our energy concept.

Located at a crucial geopolitical region, Turkey lies adjacent to regions possessing some 65 % of the world's proven oil reserves and 71 % of the world's proven gas reserves and thus forms a natural bridge between the energy rich countries of the Caspian Region, The Central Asia, The Middle East and the consumer markets mainly located in Europe. With this in mind, Turkey has been promoting east-west and more recently north-south axis energy corridors across the country. While on one hand Turkey develops projects to meet its own gas demand, it also envisages to serve for meeting the European Union's increasing demand by opening several other arteries to the continent via Turkey.

The studies clearly show that the region around Turkey has an importance on supplying the increasing hydrocarbon demand of the World, especially Europe. Azerbaijan and Iraq are the two countries that have a high possibility to supply the demand of markets in the near future.

Turkey has been in good relationship with Azerbaijan from past to present. In last decade, we have had a good cooperation especially on energy sector. This cooperation has been started with Baku – Tbilisi – Ceyhan Crude Oil Pipeline which transports Azeri oil to world markets. Afterwards, the cooperation has enhanced when the natural gas fields were discovered in Azerbaijan. Being the first and sole purchaser of the gas produced in the Shah Deniz Natural Gas Phase 1 field, Turkey, in a way, could be viewed as a promoter of this Project both as an investor and a customer. In recent past, the two countries have been studying the ways to transport the gas produced in the Shah Deniz Natural Gas Phase2 field to Turkey and to Europe via Turkey. I believe not only Turkey and Azerbaijan but also Europe, whose natural gas demand is increasing day by day, will be happy with the result of these studies.

In such an environment with high demand, we think that natural gas and oil are the most important natural resources that Iraq has at its disposal for its reconstruction and welfare. In case the natural gas fields in Iraq are developed, it will be easy to transport the natural gas to Turkey through short connections. Turkey has a vast experience on both international and national gas trade and is in a position to sincerely help the whole natural gas plan of Iraq. In this context, there have been ongoing studies with regard to possible cooperation with Iraq and we believe that in the near future Iraqi gas will reach to the world markets. On the other hand, signing an agreement on the duration extension of the Iraq – Turkey Crude Oil Pipeline, which is the oldest international pipeline of Turkey, proves that the cooperation between two countries is well-grounded.

### **Distinguished Participants,**

It goes without saying that international community needs to put all sorts of efforts into the best improvement of the regional energy policies.

It is very important to work jointly to put forth such a political will that would bring back the major role of energy to support peaceful and collaborative relation in the entire world.

It is also possible to realize a number of actions within the current international framework; although, the true benefit of a multilateral approach would be gained through the establishment of new relations encompassing major important topics in terms of the countries in the region.

It is of great significance to further increase collaboration and economic ties among producers and consumers, hence to establish more sensitive and sustainable international environment.

I would like to conclude my words here noting that Turkey is becoming a remarkable energy trade hub for supplies from the producer regions, and will continue to contribute to any initiative which is mutually beneficial and based on "win-win" principle, and exert every effort as circumstances allow.

I'd like to thank all the participants for the attention.