

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

'Turkey - EU High Level Energy Dialogue' Meeting

28 January 2016

Istanbul

The Turkish Minister for Energy and Natural Resources, Mr Berat Albayrak, and the EU Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Mr. Miguel Arias Cañete, held their Turkey-EU High Level Energy Dialogue in Istanbul on 28 January. The High Level Dialogue is the manifestation of the importance both sides attach to enhancing the cooperation in the energy sector.

Both sides will continue to further cooperate on securing and diversifying energy supply sources as well as ensuring that supply meets demand under the competitive market conditions. In the meeting, issues that are important for Turkey and the EU were discussed including gas, nuclear safety, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. Technical teams will convene as appropriate to discuss these issues in more detail.

Both sides underlined the importance of Turkey as a key country for EU's energy security and as a regional energy hub, and they re-affirmed their joint commitment to the successful implementation of the Southern Gas Corridor. Its timely completion is critical so as to allow gas flowing to Europe by 2020. In this regard, Turkey will continue to play an active role in the Southern Gas Corridor Advisory Council which will convene for a second meeting shortly. This Advisory Council meets on a regular basis to politically strengthen the development of the Southern Gas Corridor by bringing together all the countries and stakeholders involved.

Commissioner Arias Cañete and Minister Albayrak discussed the availability of natural gas resources in the Caspian region and stressed the importance for continued discussions in order to ensure additional Caspian gas capacity into the Southern Gas Corridor. The sides have also discussed the prospects for transportation of the additional regional sources, as well as the importance of regional cooperation. Turkey is ready to fulfil its responsibilities in terms of contributing to EU's security of supply through various pipeline and interconnection projects.

The idea was discussed to work together more closely in order to optimize natural gas supply to Turkey and through Turkey to the EU and improve storage and LNG capacity that will contribute to Turkey's position as a regional gas hub in the medium and long term. It was decided that these topics will be further explored in the near future with a view to reinforcing the energy security of both the EU and Turkey.

Minister Albayrak and Commissioner Arias Cañete welcomed the agreement signed on 14 January 2016 between the Turkish national transmission system operator TEIAS and the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity ENTSO-E, by which TEIAS became the first observer member of ENTSO-E since its creation in 2009. Mr. Albayrak and Mr. Arias Cañete noted this advanced level of cooperation which means that electricity can flow freely in two directions to the benefit of consumers on both sides. Both sides expressed their will to work further on the steps for the full membership of TEIAS to ENTSO-E.

Both sides discussed the COP21 Paris Agreement and the policies to implement it. The EU took note of Turkey's position regarding its classification.

In addition, Commissioner Arias Cañete and Minister Albayrak took note of the progress being made in the accession process. In this context, the Commissioner explained that the European Commission is currently screening the alignment of Turkish energy legislation with that of the EU. The Commission reiterated its commitment to complete this preparatory work in the first quarter of 2016. Within this context, the meeting of the High Level Energy Dialogue at a time when the European Commission has started its work on the revision of the Screening Report on the Energy Chapter was beneficial in terms of information exchange.

Mr. Arias Cañete and Mr. Albayrak also agreed to meet on a regular basis to discuss and review energy issues of mutual interest, and to cooperate on securing sustainable, competitive and affordable energy for both sides.

Istanbul, 28 January 2016