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**Θέμα:**EU's gas market dependency from Russia & Turkey

 URGENT

To
Executive Vice President & Competition Commissioner, Ms Margrethe Vestager

Subject: EU’s gas market dependency from Russia & Turkey.

Honorable Ms Vice President,

EU's strategy to consider that Turkey could play a reliable role to EU’s independency from Russian gas, proves that there is neither strategy nor vision in Brussels. Let's see the facts in turn.

In May 2015, SOCAR Turkey Energy’s chief Kenan Yavuz said that the Turkish Stream pipeline launched by Russia is not competing with TANAP because TANAP's mission to deliver Caspian gas to Europe will not be affected by it. Turkish Stream, while the final investment decision for the project has already been signed.

 In August 2016, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said that Russian Turkish Stream could be connected with TANAP pipeline and thus Russian gas could be exported to the European market via TANAR. Turkey will hold only 16 bcm of the 31.5 bcm of gas shipped by Turkish Stream and the rest will be exported to Europe.

In October 2016, Russian Energy Ministers Alexander Novak and Turkey's Berat Albayrak signed an agreement to begin construction of the Turkish Stream gas pipeline, which was also signed by the Presidents of Russia, Vladimir Putin and Turkey, Ragip Tayyip Erdogan.

Following The President of the Russian state-owned Gazprom, Alexey Miller, said that the Turkish Stream will have two lines with a total capacity of 31.5 bcm, of which 15.75 will serve the needs of Turkey, while the second line will be to serve the European customers of the Russian company.

But according to the TANAP construction schedule, the pipeline will have an initial carrying capacity of 16 bcm, with the prospect of reaching 31 bcm. Of the 16 bcm coming from Azerbaijan, Turkey will consume 6 bcm and the remaining 10 bcm will go to the European market.

But as I mentioned earlier, the capacity of the TANAP pipeline will be 31bcm, which means that it will require an additional 15 bcm to reach its full capacity. Namely, exactly what will carry one of the two parts of Turkish Stream, which according to Gazprom announcements will be destined for the European market.

In January 2017, following the opening of the European Gas conference in Vienna, Gazprom's Vice President Alexander Medvedev stressed that his company has infrastructure to produce an additional 100 billion cubic meters  per year, the amount that can be pumped to Europe, but not the necessary infrastructure to transport it to European countries that need this gas . This gas could reach Europe via TAP, Alexander Medvedev said, and clarified that his company could exploit the 10 billion cubic meters capacity of gas provided by the second phase of TAP (capacity upgrading to 20 billion cubic meters) as the capacity of the first phase of the project has already been allocated to users. He noted that Gazprom is the only company that can ensure the gas supply in advance.

Two days later, TAP’s shareholders through statements, left open the possibility of such cooperation. A spokesman from Enagas, commenting on Gazprom's statements, noted that "if a supplier requests TAP capability in the secondary market or in the open season and complies with the regulatory framework, then TAP will provide capacity and services." The issue was also addressed by Snam's Italian Vice President, Federico Ermoli, saying that TAP's capacity could be expanded and used to transport Russian gas to Europe. "This is a very good idea," was the comment of Belgian Fluxys CEO Pascal de Buck.

The key point by which EU and US recognized that Russia is the dominant player in the European gas market was in 2017, when State Department Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Diplomacy Ms Robin Dunnigan said during her visit to Greece that the best scenario is to receive vast gas volumes from many  sources, explaining that if the EU regulations allow third party players to enter TAP and the pipeline shareholders agree (all TAP’s shareholders have already agreed as mentioned above), then at some point GAZPROM's request to declare capacity in TAP could be achieved. Of course  she had made clear that the US approach, (under Barack Obama and Donald Trump administration) had not changed, that is, that Europe's energy security was ensured only when the gas market was competitive, based on market rules and diversification of sources of supply.

The conclusion from the above all reveals that a small amount of Caspian gas will come to EU through TANAP and TAP (+/- 5 Bcm), but the main amount will fill these pipelines will be Russian gas (+/- 15 Bcm).  Finally, European Commission and US succeeded to create the ideal conditions for EU, to depend in addition to Russia, on Turkey as well.

As a citizen of European Union I am strongly concerned about the future of the EU and I would like to propose to DG comp to block any amount of gas that will be transported by the TANAP pipeline until the European Commission is absolutely confident that the gas will be transported through TANAP will be gas that come from Caspian resources only. In addition, I call on the DG Comp to impose sanctions on Turkey for this dirty role played by the EU's extra dependence on Russian gas. Otherwise I would like to be informed, who will undertake the responsibility from Commission’s side, if Russian gas will come through Turkey and TANAP pipeline to EU?

Waiting your response.

Yours sincerely,

S Poulos