

Chapter 6

European Energy Alternatives and Turkey's Compatibility

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ABSTRACT

Energy is an issue of strategic importance to the European Union and Turkey. Both are dependent to the outside. EU is the world's largest energy importer and second largest energy consumer after the United States. Turkey's alignment with the EU's energy policy is extremely important for EU in terms of increasing the diversity and quality of its energy resources. Turkey's strategic location makes Turkey a land of passage for transporting oil and gas to Europe. This geopolitical importance is an important opportunity for both sides. In this chapter, EU's position on energy in the world has been explained first. Then the energy situation and energy policy in EU has been examined. Secondly, Turkey's energy policy and compatibility to EU together with complementary role to EU on Energy has been presented.

INTRODUCTION

Energy is an issue of strategic importance for the European Union. According to data for the year 2000, 15% of the world's energy consumption belongs to the EU. The EU is the world's largest energy importer and second largest energy consumer after the United States. After the last enlargement of the EU, this dependency has increased little more and forced to develop new initiatives. This lead the EU to diversify resources in imports in terms of energy supply security. The energy demand of the EU for the period 2010-2020 is expected to increase by 3.5% and 9.7%. In this scenario, the sources of the energy to be consumed are of critical importance.

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The EU's energy policy is based on the Paris Treaty, which established the European Coal and Steel Community on Coal and the EURATOM Treaty on Nuclear Issues. The "EU 2020 Energy Strategy" sets priorities for the new policy and in addition, 2050 road maps are being prepared.

Turkey's alignment with the EU's Energy Policy is extremely important in terms of increasing the diversity and quality of its energy resources. Turkey is a major hydropower producer with a key role in energy, and its strategic location, makes it a transit area for transporting oil and gas to Europe.

In the ongoing negotiation process with the EU "15. Energy" Chapter, the draft screening report has not yet been approved by the EU Council and continues to be debated. The EU 2020 Energy Strategy includes priorities that need to be considered and implemented with Turkey and other regional countries in mind.

From this point of view, Turkey is not only becoming a natural energy bridge for the consumer markets in Europe and countries with large energy reserves such as the Caspian Region, Central Asia and the Middle East, but is also taking important steps to become an energy center (Yıldız, 2011, p.271). The European Union wants to take advantage of Turkey's geopolitical position in order to ensure diversity of the resources. This geopolitical advantage is also an important opportunity for both sides because of the serious contribution that the EU can make to the security of energy supplies and the possibility of facilitating Turkey's accession negotiations with the EU (Yıldız, 2011, p.273). Turkey has already become a strategic energy partner of Germany and Europe (Hauser, 2010, p. 70).

Turkey is well positioned to become the East-West and North-South corridor with the existing pipelines, as well as including the new projects involved. This potential strengthens Turkey's position vis-a-vis the EU. It must be borne in mind, though, that energy is not the only determinant of geopolitical relations, and that the pursuit of other vital interests will also impact energy relations around the world (Amineh & Guang, 2012, p.18).

In this chapter, firstly, EU's position on energy in the world has been explained, and its energy situation and energy policy have been examined. Secondly, Turkey's energy policy and its compatibility to the EU's, as well as its complementary role to the EU on Energy have been presented.

EUROPEAN UNION'S PLACE IN THE ENERGY WORLD

The European Union is one of the top players in the world. In terms of production, the biggest country is China (18.1%), and the EU ranks 7th (5.6%), below the United States, the Middle East, Asia, Russia and Africa (Table 1). The EU's production

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