

1ST GREEK-TURKISH ENERGY FORUM

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Conclusions & Recommendations



Conclusions & Recommendations of the 1st Greek-Turkish Energy Forum

Conclusions

The 1st "Greek - Turkish Energy Forum", which was convened by IENE and took place on April 25, 2024, in Istanbul, can be considered as a milestone in Greek-Turkish energy relations. The 1st "Greek - Turkish Energy Forum" brought together senior managers from the largest companies and organizations in the Greek and Turkish energy sector, as well as a number of distinguished academics and experts from both countries. By and large this Greek - Turkish energy colloquium succeeded in addressing all the issues that it set out to explore and, in this aspect, it accomplished its mission. More than 30 speakers and 100 attendees in all gathered in this unique meeting and, in this regard, the Forum can be considered a success.

The proceedings and deliberations of the Forum are well documented and can be seen [here](#). A number of initial conclusions can be drawn and are listed as follows:

1. The prime reason for the success of the organization of the Forum is the great interest shown from businessmen and energy and financial entities, especially from the Turkish side. It should not be overlooked that Istanbul, which hosted this important event, has emerged as a major business center not only in SE Europe, but also internationally. Thus, the companies and institutions, the representatives of which attended the 1st "Greek – Turkish Energy Forum" by IENE, have their eyes focused not only in the narrow confines of the Turkish economy, but also on markets far beyond in Europe, Asia, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

2. Another important reason that underpinned the success of the 1st "Greek-Turkish Energy Forum" is that there are specific areas in the energy sector of both countries, where co-operation already exists. These sectors include market regulation, natural gas, electricity interconnections, electricity trading and RES. Through this finding, it becomes clear that Greece and Türkiye have already traveled a substantial distance in order to join forces in energy, with the consequence that there is now sufficient awareness of further prospects afield, but also of the limitations of possible synergies per sector.

3. In particular, specific and constructive cooperation already exists in the electricity transmission as well as in the RES sector, where there is interest from both countries for a faster "pace", as the trend towards electrification is accelerating (see networks, electrification, etc.) - as the two countries adapt, among other things, to the European and international goals for the reduction of carbon emissions, which, in turn, encourages relevant investments.

In addition, excellent co-operation between Greece and Türkiye has developed in market regulation issues (see RAAEY and EMRA) and electricity market operation (see EnEx and EPIAS).

4. Each one of the two countries has long experience and specialized know-how in sectors that would be of interest to the other, and, thus, in these energy sectors there could be an exchange of expertise. Specifically, as it was established during the proceedings of the 1st "Greek-Turkish Energy Forum", Greece has excelled in the field of submarine electrical interconnections, thanks to a series of projects within the country but also internationally, which are already at the stage of completion, but also due to a number of Greek companies

that supply cables to projects of this kind in Europe and the Middle East. As regards Türkiye, the country has developed to a very large extent its geothermal potential - especially for power generation - thus strengthening the local economies as well as the nation's energy independence.

5. By contrast, although there already exists an interconnection between Greece and Türkiye in the natural gas, there is no inclination to promote cross-border trade. This finding concerns primarily the trade sector, as the Turkish market has not yet been fully liberalized. As a result, there is limited interest from export-oriented "players" to join the market. This situation shows that the specific market in Türkiye, as a candidate country for EU membership, needs to continue constructive work in line with EU standards.

6. As it is already noted, this IENE event attracted considerable interest from the Turkish side. This became evident by the significant presence of representatives of Istanbul-based funds, investment houses, banks, etc. This shows that cooperation between Greece and Türkiye in the energy sector is an attractive investment option for the Turkish financial sector and, more notably, for entities based in Istanbul, which, as highlighted above, is emerging as major economic center of global importance. It is possible that there will be similar interest from the business community of Greece, where the next "Greek - Turkish Energy Forum" is planned to take place.

Recommendations

Based on the experience of the 1st "Greek – Turkish Energy Forum", some proposals can be tabled so that it may evolve into a permanent bilateral meeting at business executives and experts level, so that Greek and Turkish entities can exchange experiences and views on co-operation in the energy sector. More specifically:

1. The successful organization of the 1st "Greek - Turkish Energy Forum" has laid the foundation for a repeat event over the coming years. In this context, the setting up of an informal Working Group, under the "umbrella" of IENE, consisting of Greek and Turkish experts, is deemed necessary. This group will monitor the developments in the energy sector of the two countries, with the aim of identifying potential cooperation opportunities. To this end, this Working Group should meet at frequent intervals, e.g. per semester. For its more efficient operation, it would be desirable that this Working Group be in regular contact with "Enterprise Greece", the official investment and trade promotion agency of the Greek State, and the corresponding body of Türkiye ("Invest in Türkiye").
2. In order to become a permanent institution that will effectively promote business cooperation between Greece and Türkiye in the field of energy, the "Greek - Turkish Energy Forum" should be held on a regular basis, e.g. every two years. In order to prepare every time the Forum, the Working Group, as proposed above, will play a central role, identifying the areas on which its agenda will each time focus.
3. IENE will identify the specific energy sectors in which Greece could offer know-how to Türkiye (e.g. underwater electrical interconnections, gas trading) and, conversely,

Türkiye to Greece (e.g. energy trading, electricity distribution, geothermal energy, e-mobility infrastructure, PV equipment etc.).

4. Within the next 3 months, IENE will prepare a detailed report that will identify the energy sectors described in Recommendation No. 3. and could be discussed in the first meeting of the above proposed Working Group.
5. Parties should encourage transmission operators to accelerate the necessary investments.

Athens, July 10, 2024