



*15<sup>th</sup> South East Europe Energy Dialogue, June 19/20, Thessaloniki*

Energy Security in SE Europe and the East  
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In order to understand the Energy security status of SE Europe we shall take into account mainly:

- 1.The Energy status in SE Europe (energy sources, supply routes, network flexibility)
- 2.The European Central Energy Policy affecting the Region

3. The climate crisis, new needs
4. The role of new technologies and that of Renewables
5. The Geopolitical tensions and
6. The oil and gas role

### The Energy status in SE Europe

Regarding the status of the Region's Energy Sector we can notice:

1. The relatively high dependence of the majority of the countries on solid fuels mostly used for Power generation
2. The high dependence on the imported oil and gas
3. The lack of adequate gas supply routes and interconnections
4. And the slower than anticipated penetration of Renewables and slow

progress on energy efficiency  
improvement.

The large amounts of indigenous coal and lignite deposits provide relatively cheap energy and easily accessible for most countries of the region and this are seen by European Commission as preventing a secure move towards greater decarbonization.

That means we have here a major policy challenge which both SE governments and the EU will have to address.

Certainly, there are several countries in the region, making a good effort by developing in parallel, renewables and other carbon free resources such as nuclear power but at the same time are determined to exhaust their cheap coal /lignite deposits

## The European Central Energy Policy

The European Central Energy Policy is mainly related with the Energy Transition and consequently the Decarbonization policies.

Without a doubt, EU needs to move rightly towards green energy and energy transition and why not, EU to become a world leader in this area with a lot of advantages and gains for Europe itself on energy, geopolitical and economical fronts.

But at the same time and for the long transition period, EU must protect the European Industry, the European Agriculture, the European Economy and the European Society in general.

Under the new European regulation, the “clean energy for all Europeans” each European member state is required to produce an integrated National Energy and

Climate Plan (NECP) for 2021-2030  
considering the long-term perspective

It is probable that this system may lead to tensions between SE Europe, generally reluctant to take on aggressive decarbonization and the rest of the Europe since more than half of the electricity generation capacity in SE Europe currently relies on coal and lignite

So a power system with much higher RES deployment will be realistic

But this will require steady financial support and investments and effective social protection for vulnerable energy consumers and of course a flexibility during the energy transition period

Amid a European Economic Environment with

- low economic growth or even without growth at all
- energy prices depending on the outcome of the wars
- increasing pressure to reduce carbon dioxide emissions

European Industry producers are struggling to adapt

- The low economic growth in Europe, under the pressure of climate crisis, of the higher military expenses (due to the existing wars and due to the general geopolitical instability), of the expenses of the energy transition, of the public debt and the demographic issue, this low economic growth will probably continue and hence the European Economy will face difficulties
- The Energy prices will remain a key challenge

- And the decarbonization process based on the upcoming CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM (CBAM) will not achieve what it is designed to achieve by EU as pointed out by European Heavy industry

Under these circumstances the European producers will face difficulties in achieving competitiveness and even more some Governments and International Organizations are finding it necessary to prioritize energy security over green transition

To this end a more realistic approach to decarbonization should be adopted by EU in contrast with the given emphasis to an aggressive decarbonization programme.

The results of the recent European elections possibly **promise** such an adjustment

On the other hand, the pandemic and the two

wars crises have proven that

- a. the supply dependencies must be diversified
- b. the fossil fuels will be necessary to bridge transition to green energy

### The Role of Oil and Gas

The oil and gas industry **is,** a critical component of the global energy mix, accounting for approximately, 60% of the world's energy consumption, today.

Oil is the most, widely, used fuel, in the world, accounting for around 33% of the global energy consumption. It is used, in a variety of industries including, transportation, heating and cooling, and electricity generation.

Gas, is also an important fuel, accounting for, around 24% of the world's energy



consumption. It is used primarily, for electric generation and heating, but, also, in transportation and industrial processes.

According to the Exxon Mobil's Global Outlook, oil and natural gas, are still projected, to meet more than half(54%) of the world's energy needs in 2050.

Especially, natural gas use, is projected to increase, by more than 20%, by 2050, given its utility, as a reliable and lower emissions source of fuel, for electricity generation, hydrogen production, and heating, for both industrial processes and buildings.

Based also, on BP's estimates, oil demand declines over the outlook, driven by falling use in road transport. Even so, oil **will continue** to play a major role, in the global energy system, for the next 15-20 years.

The prospects for natural gas, depend on the speed of the energy transition, with

increasing demand in emerging economies, as they grow (and industrialize offset by the transition to lower carbon energy sources, led by the developed world).

Analyzing the market trends, we understand that large companies, the non-governmental ones, do not see an end to oil demand, any time in the near future. To this end, both Chevron and ExxonMobil are proceeding, to acquire oil and gas companies, paying tens of billions of dollars.

Continued demand for oil and gas, despite growing momentum for clean energy, is due to population growth, around the globe, and in particular, due to growth in population “ascending the socioeconomic ladder” in Africa, Asia and to some extent Latin America.

Certainly, the oil and gas industry, face significant challenges, in terms of environmental concerns, related to

greenhouse gas emissions.

The industry is exploring ways, to reduce its environmental impact, through, technological innovation, including Carbon Capture and Storage (CCUS), and improvements in energy efficiency.

Another challenge for the industry, is the volatility of energy prices. The price of oil, in particular, can fluctuate significantly, due to factors, such as geopolitical tensions, (especially **nowdays**), production levels, and global demand.

On the other hand, in October 2023, the IEA released, its annual Energy Outlook report, that projects, global demand for, coal, oil and natural gas will hit an all-timehigh by 2030.

“The transition to clean energy, is happening worldwide and it is unstoppable. It is not a question of “if”, it is just a matter of “how soon”, says the IEA’s Executive Director Fatih Birol.

But there is disagreement on “how soon”?

Clean energy projects, are facing headwinds, in some markets, from, cost inflation, supply chain bottlenecks, higher borrowing costs, and shortage of grids and storage infrastructure.

Especially, in emerging economies, marked by population and economic expansion, the adoption of low-carbon energy sources, may be prohibitively expensive.

Taking all the above into account, **we** certainly, need to move steadily and decisively, towards, **clean energy**.

But to accommodate energy needs and climate goals, we'll need all forms of energy—more renewables, natural gas and oil—alongside more carbon capture, more energy efficiency and more innovation.

We need solutions that ensure intermittent renewables are supported with a reliable baseload of power that **is** still **low** emitting.

AND AS GZERO POINTED OUT “LEARNING TO

SAY YES TO ALL FORMS OF ENERGY”

THANK YOU