

**Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
Between**

**The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Turkey
and**

The Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic

On Cooperation in the Field of Energy

On the occasion of the first meeting of the High Level Cooperation Council held in Athens on May 14, 2010, presided by His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, and by his Excellency George Papandreou, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic; the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Turkey, and the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”,

Recognizing the importance of security of energy supply to the European Union and Turkey, through route and source diversification;

In applying this MoU, Greece shall respect its obligations arising from its membership to the EU.

Recalling that the Steering Committee which held its 15th meeting in Ankara on 9 March 2010, underlined the importance of cooperation in the field of Energy and agreed to propose to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs the establishment of an enhanced bilateral dialogue on energy networks and renewable energy sources with the participation of the private sector, in order to – inter alia- intensify cooperation regarding the EU’s Southern Gas Corridor Policy;

Taking into account the Memorandum of Understanding concerning cooperation on environmental protection signed between Greece and Turkey on the 20th January 2000;

Taking into account the Intergovernmental Agreement concerning the realisation of the Turkey-Greece Gas Interconnector and the supply of Natural Gas from the Republic of Turkey to the Hellenic Republic signed on the 23rd February 2003, by the Turkish Government and the Greek Government;

Recalling the existing “Intergovernmental Agreement Concerning the Development Of The Turkey-Greece-Italy Gas Transportation Corridor” (hereinafter referred as IGA) concluded in Rome on July 27,2007, which represents one of the most advanced options with a strategic value to enable the transportation of Middle-Eastern and Caspian natural gas resources into Europe;

Stating their commitments for the ITGI Project, and encouraging the ongoing dialogue among all parties concerned to facilitate gas transit via Turkey to Greece and Italy through this Project.

Encouraging the enhanced cooperation amongst DEPA, Edison, and BOTAS and supporting the prompt signing of an MOU related to the realisation of the ITGI project;

Stating their willingness to deepen their energy ties through cooperation in the fields of renewable energy sources (hereinafter referred to as RES) and energy efficiency in the framework of their national strategies;

Acknowledging that promotion of sustainable energy and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions are directly linked to the increased use of renewable energy sources and implementation of clean energy technologies;

Noting the importance of sound energy partnership for the sustainable development of their respective economies, the security and welfare of their people of the two countries and a greater regional cooperation, as well as the mutual commitment to protect the environment;

Wishing to further enhance long-term comprehensive cooperation between the countries in the field of energy;

Have agreed on the following:

Article 1

1. The Parties decided to establish a High Level Joint Energy Group (JEG). The (JEG), co-chaired by the General Secretaries / Undersecretaries of the two Ministries will consist equal number of representatives and experts from the respective relevant ministries, institutions and administrations appointed by each of the Parties;
2. The JEG will meet in each country alternatively every six months. The first meeting of the JEG will be held in Ankara within six months from the signing of this MoU.
3. As part of the mechanisms intended to achieve the goals of this MoU, the JEG shall, when necessary, establish ad-hoc group(s) with the mutual consent of both Parties. These group(s) would include experts from both countries representing public and private sector with a view to exchanging expertise, studying energy related specific projects and reporting to the JEG.

Article 2

1. The Parties agreed to cooperate in good faith for the timely realization of the Turkey-Greece-Italy Interconnector (hereinafter the ITGI) Project.
2. The Parties highlight the need to accelerate the implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the realisation of the ITGI Project signed in 2007 by the Governments of Turkey, Greece and Italy.
3. In this respect, the Parties will negotiate and conclude the relevant agreements referred to also in the IGA, necessary for the implementation of the ITGI Project, safeguarding its overall viability.
4. The Parties also agree to set up an ad-hoc working group within the framework of the JEG headed by the competent General Secretaries/Undersecretaries of both respective Ministries, based on relevant conclusions of the above mentioned Steering Committee and mandated to examine the status of implementation of the ITGI Project and to decide, before the end of 2010 to undertake possible additional measures necessary to support and accelerate the realisation of the ITGI project.

Article 3

The Parties encourage their relevant transmission system operators, namely TEIAS and DESMIE, to examine the possibilities to conclude agreements on technical and commercial issues for the realization of exchange of electricity between Turkey and Greece and vice versa.

Article 4

1. The Parties agree to promote cooperation between public and private sectors, as well as universities and research institutes in the areas of RES and Energy Efficiency.
2. Cooperation between the Parties in the areas of RES and Energy Efficiency may include the following:
 - Exchange of scientific, technological and technical information,
 - Organisation of Seminars, Training Courses and meetings
 - Identification of business opportunities in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency equipment
 - Encouraging Greek and Turkish authorities, developers, and investors to work together for the promotion of projects of mutual interest.
 - Establishment of a Twinning Program in the fields of RES and Energy Efficiency.
 - Exchange of know-how, experience and knowledge on legislative and regulatory issues on RES, Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy technologies.

3. Implementation of specific projects concerning Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency applications which may include:
 - Onshore Wind Energy
 - Solar power generation
 - Solar thermal heating and cooling
 - Geothermal electricity, heating and cooling, combined heat and power and district heating.
 - Biomass resource assessment and characterisation and the set up of biomass supply chains.
 - Energy Efficient and smart buildings.

Article 5

1. The application of this MoU is in the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change for the Greek side and of the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources for the Turkish side.
2. Disputes which may arise between the Parties with regard to the interpretation and/or application of the provisions of this MoU shall be resolved through negotiations between the Parties.

Article 6

This MoU shall enter into force upon exchange of written notifications between the two Parties informing each other through diplomatic channels of the completion of their relevant internal procedures for its entry into force.

Signed in Athens, on 14 May 2010, in two original copies each in Turkish, Greek and English, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence by interpretations the English text shall prevail.

For the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
the Republic of Turkey

For the Ministry of the Environment, Energy and
Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic

Taner Yildiz

Tina Birbili

Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change