

Israel's East Mediterranean Pipeline Dreams Fading as Egypt, Cyprus Go It Alone



While Israeli leaders have turned their attention to campaigning for the April 9 election, Cyprus and Egypt have been working behind the country's back to advance plans for an undersea gas pipeline.

Cyprus and Egypt in September signed an agreement for a subsea pipeline to carry natural gas from Cyprus' Aphrodite field to Egypt. Two weeks ago, the Cypriot cabinet took another step forward by approving the September deal.

In doing so, Cyprus ignored Israeli claims to a portion of Aphrodite, which lies in Israeli economic waters. The Cyprus-Egypt pipeline also weakens the economic justification for the projected East Mediterranean pipeline, a \$7 billion undertaking that would deliver Israeli and Cypriot natural gas directly to Europe via Greece.