

US crude oil production increased by 17% in 2018 thanks to tight oil



According to the United States Energy Information Administration (EIA), US crude oil production grew by 17% in 2018 to a yearly average of 10.96 mb/d, reaching a new record. Domestic production even reached 11.96 mb/d in December 2018, the highest monthly level of crude oil production. US crude oil production has increased significantly over the past 10 years, driven mainly by the development of tight rock formations. Companies operating in these areas have increased the use of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing techniques. Tight oil production accounted for around 60% of total crude oil production in the United States in 2018.

The EIA predicts that this growth in crude oil production will continue over the 2019-2020 period and will reach 12.3 mb/d in

2019 and 13 mb/d in 2020. Most of the production will come from Texas, which made up 40% of the national total (about 4.4 mb/d) in 2018 and has been holding the top position in nearly every year since 1970 except for 1988 and from 1999 through 2011, when offshore production from the Gulf of Mexico (GoM) area was higher. Texas's production rose by another 0.95 mb/d in 2018, mostly due to the significant growth within the Permian region, which made up nearly 60% of the total US increase. The EIA expects three major tight oil plays in the Permian Basin, namely Spraberry, Bone Spring, and Wolfcamp, to account for half of cumulative tight oil production until 2050 (it should reach 12 mb/d in 2050), followed by the Bakken plays (19%) and Eagle Ford plays (17%).

GIIGNL Annual Report 2019: Strong demand in Asia drives LNG import growth for third consecutive year



GIIGNL, the international association of LNG Importers, is pleased to bring its 2019 Annual Report industry to the readers of Gastech Insights. This complimentary report is mainly based on data submitted by GIIGNL's 81 member companies. In the report, we describe the state of the LNG industry and the main evolutions of the last twelve months in LNG trade, contracts, liquefaction, regasification and shipping. For the second year, GIIGNL also reports on the development of retail LNG, providing statistics on LNG trucking and small-scale vessel loadings.

Main findings:

- In 2018, LNG imports reached 313.8 million tonnes, an 8.3% growth compared with 2017
- 42 countries are now LNG importers and 20 countries are exporters
- Since 1964, more than 97 000 cargoes have been safely delivered
- China and South Korea continued to absorb new supply

while additional volumes from Australia, the USA and Russia contributed to increase market flexibility

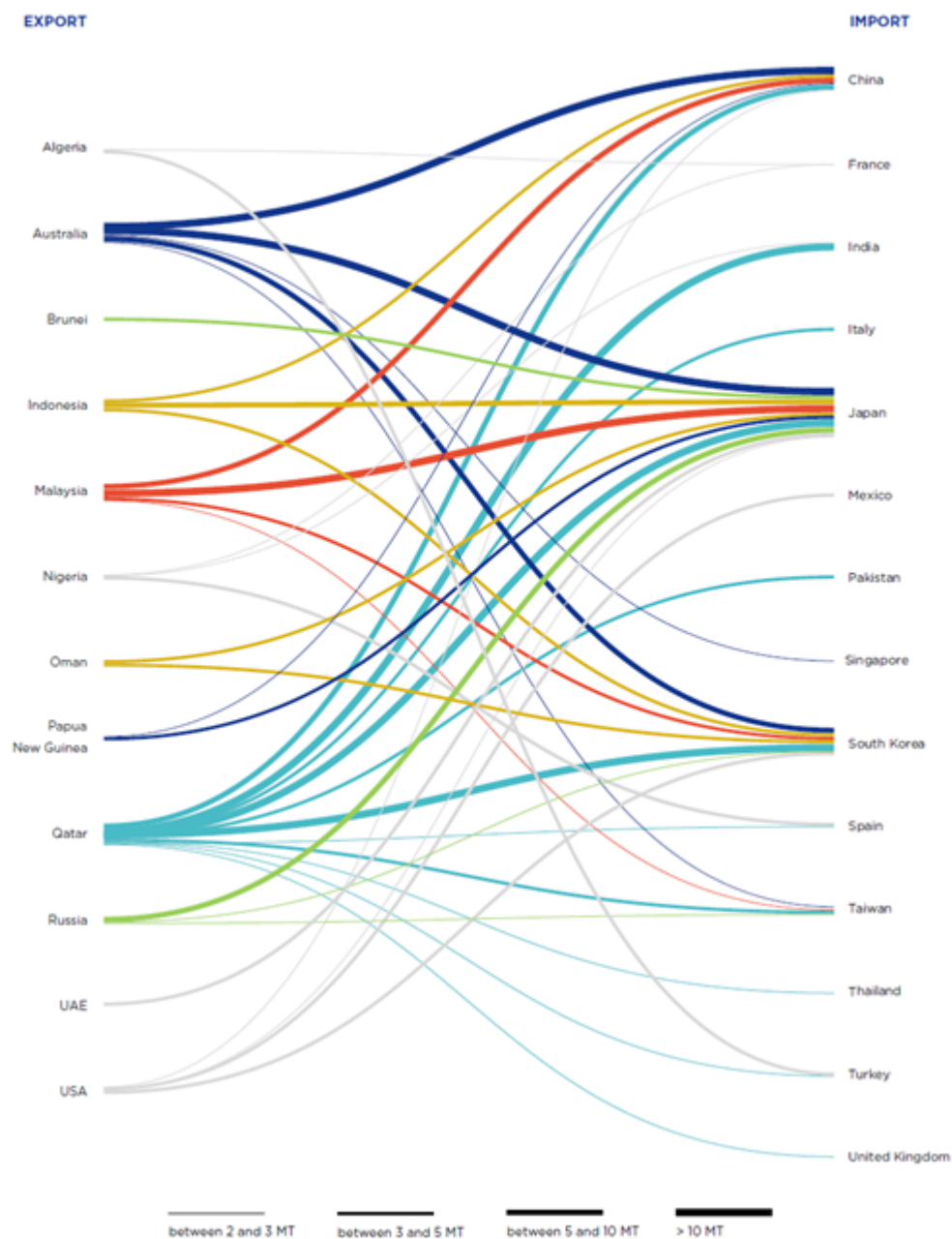
- LNG delivered under contracts of 4 years or less accounted for 32% of total imports or 99.3 million tonnes; cargoes delivered less than 3 months from the transaction date reached 25% of the market compared with 20% in 2017
- GIIGNL foresees profound changes in the global LNG market structure in 2019 and beyond

LNG supply moves west, demand moves east:

Two new countries – Bangladesh and Panama – joined the importers' ranks last year, bringing the total number of importing countries to 42. Asia firmed up its position of leading importing region with a 76% share of global LNG imports. Policy choices in the Asia-Pacific region largely drove the growth in LNG imports, fostered by measures to improve air quality in China and by uncertainties regarding nuclear power in South Korea. In Europe, cross-basin arbitrage opportunities continued to determine the level of LNG inflows as the reduction of price spreads led to a strong rise of import activity in Northwest Europe towards the end of the year.

New LNG supply volumes were mostly driven by new production from Australia, the United States and Russia (Yamal). Eight new onshore liquefaction trains were commissioned in these countries in 2018 and a floating liquefaction unit came online in Cameroon. The Pacific Basin remains the largest source of LNG supplies with 43.8% of the global market, followed by the Middle East and the Atlantic Basin. In 2019, the share of Atlantic Basin LNG supply in global trade is expected to continue to increase, as new liquefaction capacity is scheduled to come online in the United States.

MAJOR LNG FLOWS IN 2018



Spot and short-term trade is rising:

Spot and short-term volumes accounted for 99.3 MT in 2018. The share of spot and short-term volumes jumped to 32% compared with 27% in 2017. This expansion was supported by the ramp-up of flexible volumes from the United States and Russia and by the rise of LNG volumes handled by aggregators and traders who are able to optimize their portfolios allowing them to market volumes, in some cases purchased on a long-term basis, on a short-term or spot basis.

Even if it may still take some years before the commoditization of LNG becomes a reality, our industry is on the verge of profound change in terms of market structure. In 2019 we are likely to reach a tipping point with many long-term supply contracts starting to expire and as new supply comes on-stream.



As Jean-Marie Dauger, President of GIIGNL put it in his editorial: “For LNG importers, long-term partnerships, destination and volume flexibility as well as the ability to optimize or arbitrage between Asian and European markets remain key. In China, in India and South East Asia, in particular, LNG’s environmental benefits and its versatility make it particularly attractive as a destination fuel for thermal power generation and cogeneration, in the industrial and commercial sectors as well as in a growing variety of fields like marine and road transportation.”

<https://gastechinsights.com/article/giignl-annual-report-2019-strong-demand-in-asia-drives-lng-import-growth-for-third-consecutive-year#.XK8XcmHAoUI.twitter>

Jordan, Egypt Strengthen Ties

with New Gas Line Compression Station Development Project



Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hala Zawati on Saturday met with her Egyptian counterpart Tariq Mulla to discuss joint projects between Jordan and Egypt in addition to strategies linked to energy saving and the diversification of energy sources, especially natural gas.

The meeting, held in Aqaba, also tackled ways of benefitting from the expertise of Egyptian companies in developing the Kingdom's infrastructure to best utilise natural gas.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Zawati reaffirmed the presence of exceptional fraternal relations between Jordan and Egypt, pointing to their cooperation on issues of petrol and gas.

The two ministers also inaugurated the Egypt-Jordan gas line's main compression station development project.

<https://www.albawaba.com/business/jordan-egypt-strengthen-ties-new-gas-line-compression-station-development-project-1276996>

Exxon Mobil leads oil and gas discoveries in 2019



A trio of offshore discoveries made by Exxon Mobil has set up 2019 to be the biggest year for new finds since the last oil price collapse in 2014.

With discoveries made offshore of Cyprus in the Eastern Mediterranean and off of Guyana in South America, Exxon Mobil alone accounts for nearly 40 percent of the new oil and gas gains found in the first quarter of the year, according to a new report from the Norwegian research firm Rystad Energy.

“If the rest of 2019 continues at a similar pace, this year will be on track to exceed last year’s discovered resources by 30 percent,” said Rystad analyst Taiyab Zain Shariff.

Although last year saw a handful of new discoveries in the Gulf of Mexico, all of the new conventional finds this year are international, ranging from the Mexican side of the Gulf to Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

Rystad counts 3.2 billion barrels of estimated oil equivalent discovered through March, versus just more than 9 million barrels for all of 2018.

The biggest announced discovery this year is Exxon Mobil’s gassy find offshore of Cyprus, which Rystad estimated at nearly 700 million barrels of oil equivalent. Exxon’s two new Guyana discoveries represent two more of the top six finds for the year.

Other than Exxon Mobil, the other top discoveries include Paris-based Total’s South Africa find, Spain-based Repsol’s Indonesia discovery, and the latest North Sea discovery made offshore of the United Kingdom that was actually made by the China National Offshore Oil Corp., called CNOOC, in a partnership with Total.

[https://www.chron.com/business/energy/article/Exxon-Mobil-lead-s-oil-and-gas-discoveries-in-2019-13751265.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20\(Mobile\)&utm_source=whatsapp.com&utm_medium=referral](https://www.chron.com/business/energy/article/Exxon-Mobil-lead-s-oil-and-gas-discoveries-in-2019-13751265.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20(Mobile)&utm_source=whatsapp.com&utm_medium=referral)

Turkish-Russian energy dependence vs. independence



Energy cooperation is the backbone of Turkey-Russia relations and a locomotive of their interactions in matters of regional security, military technologies, trade, construction and tourism. It ensures their stable progress but renders no immunity to occasional mishaps. The Turkey-Russia jet crisis of November 2015 has shown that for these relations to return to normal and resume their progressive development, their national leaders must apply political will. Developments after the amicable resolution of the crisis in August 2016 have also revealed that mutual trust and resilience are indispensable for Turkey-Russia relations.

Ever since the '70s, Turkey-Russia gas cooperation has been special: It is immune to political squabbles around the Russian gas monopoly and is guided by economic necessities. Cooperation is natural, since Turkey is an energy dependent country, while Russia is a prime global supplier of energy

resources and of natural gas in particular. This value added became apparent in 2016 when, discouraged by a lack of progress with Bulgaria to develop the South Stream project, Russia turned to Turkey and closed a deal to construct the Turk Stream gas pipeline in record-short time. Guided by economic necessity, the countries joined forces in pursuit of their sovereign wills: Russia proceeded to develop its southern export corridor to Europe, while Turkey moved closer to becoming a regional energy hub.

Turk Stream is a transit-free pipeline, and construction of its 1st line nears completion by year-end. No more than 52 hours will be needed to bring gas from Russia's Anapa on the Black Sea to Kiyıköy in northwestern Kırklareli province in Turkey by passing 930 km across the bottom of the Black Sea. Consisting of two lines, Turk Stream will supply Russian natural gas to Turkey and provide for its transit to EU markets.

When the 1st line is commissioned, Turkey will additionally start receiving about 16 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas per year. Its 2nd line, currently under construction and of an equal capacity, will deliver gas to the Turkish-Bulgarian border from where it'll be further carried by the local distribution network to the border with Serbia. Going on to Hungary, Russian gas will eventually reach the mega storage facility in Baumgarten, Austria.

Diversifying gas supply

According to the Energy Market Regulatory Authority (EMRA), Turkey annually consumes close to 55 bcm of pipeline gas, while receiving at least half from Russia. Currently, the second largest supplier is Iran (16 bcm), followed by Azerbaijan (9 bcm).

From Russia, Turkey receives 14 bcm through the Trans Balkan pipeline transiting through Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and

Bulgaria, and 16 bcm by means of the Blue Stream submerged pipeline crossing the Black Sea from Novorossiysk, Russia to Samsung, Turkey, bypassing transit countries. Russia's contract with Ukraine for gas transit is due to expire in 2019, and chances are high for deliveries via the Trans-Balkan pipeline to stop after Turk Stream's completion, in particular, since Turkey will hardly need extra volumes of Russian pipeline gas in addition to the 30 bcm it currently receives.

Azerbaijan is about to substantially increase Caspian gas supply to Turkey and then to Europe through the Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP) connector, a brainchild of the EU and the backbone of the Southern Gas Corridor (SGC) transmission system envisaged to diversify EU gas supply. TANAP was launched last year to deliver to Turkey 6 bcm of gas from Azerbaijan's Shah Deniz-2 offshore deposit, one of the world's largest. Then, it proceeds to the Greek border to connect with the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), the European leg of the SGC, which will pump 10 bcm of Azeri gas to Greece, Albania and eventually Italy upon construction completion in 2020.

This makes Azerbaijan a Russian competitor to challenge its gas expansion through Turkey to EU markets, while strengthening Turkey's position as a regional energy hub. These developments further diversify gas supply sources and contribute to Turkey's energy independence, making it immune to dangers of over-reliance on Russian gas imports, if they grow.

Recently, Turkey increased consumption of liquefied natural gas (LNG). During 2018, its dependence on pipeline gas decreased to less than 80 percent, while the share of LNG imports went up to about 20 percent. Turkey is expanding the LNG infrastructure and is keen on its combining with a diverse gas pipeline network and increased gas storage capacities. This trend reveals the country's pursuit of the goal of

becoming a regional energy hub, while contributing to the diversification of supply sources it started this decade.

Currently, Turkey operates four LNG terminals: two floating storage and re-gasification units (FSRU), while the remaining two are land facilities. In December 2016, the first FSRU became operational, and its current supply capacity has reached 5 bcm a year; it can re-gasify more than 12 percent of Turkey's annual gas demand. The second FSRU was commissioned in January 2018; it has the largest LNG storage capacity in the world, at 263,000 cubic meters.

Gas politics

In comparison with Russia, U.S. energy cooperation with Turkey is younger. Starting in the '90s, it was largely triggered by U.S. attempts to disrupt the Russian gas monopoly by prompting the supply of natural gas from the Caspian region to Turkey. With that in mind, the U.S. designed the Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline (16 bcm) to deliver gas from Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan to Turkey to meet its gas demand and curtail Russia's further expansion in the Turkish market.

Though heavily promoted by then-U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration, the project never took off and was replaced with the Southern Caucasian Pipeline that started bringing more modest volumes of gas from Azerbaijan to Erzurum, Turkey, in 2007. Turkmenistan, in its turn, having failed to become a mega gas supplier to Turkey, made a U-turn in the direction of China and now annually delivers up to 40 bcm of natural gas to its market by means of the Central Asia-China pipeline commissioned in 2009.

Russia, following up on the U.S.'s aborted attempt to construct the Trans-Caspian pipeline, in 2004 successfully completed the Blue Stream pipeline that established a southern export route for its gas and made Turkey the first Russian gas consumer to enjoy transit-free deliveries and immunity from

the political squabbles around them.

Turkey-U.S. energy cooperation got a fresh boost in 2017 with the U.S. returning to the world gas market after 60 years of absence. In 2018, Turkey became one of the largest buyers of LNG from the U.S., according to the U.S. Department of Energy. From 2017, the U.S. share of LNG in Turkish gas imports rose to 2.7 percent from 1.6 percent, according to EMRA, which corresponds to a 66.4 percent increase in just a year. The U.S. also plans to double its LNG production to 40 million tons in 2019 and become the world's third-largest LNG producer.

Mutual affiliation

Independence has been a magic word and an eternal dream since time immemorial. Energy sector professionals are no exception, and the market is impacted by political squabbles around energy resource supply that at times overshadow the rationale of their production.

This March, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the state of affairs between the EU and Russia, claiming that construction of the North Stream-2 pipeline poses danger to the EU domestic market. Pipeline construction envisages two lines to transport 55 bcm of Russian gas across the Baltic Sea to Germany, and completion is due by the end of 2019.

North Stream-2 construction is a relentless source of concern for the U.S. Last December, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution to support sanctions against North Stream-2, while calling on EU countries to drop their participation in the project.

Global developments reveal that for the foreseeable future Russian natural gas will remain an indispensable energy resource. In Europe alone, the increasing use of renewables for electricity generation results in higher consumption of natural gas needed to balance the grid when outages caused by

wind and solar farms occur. Immune to European Commission calls to diversify gas sources, Russia's share of the European gas market increased from 30 percent in 2014 to 37 percent in 2018.

"Gas pipelines are built not for making someone angry, but out of economic necessity," said Austrian Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl, when in Moscow this March.

** Freelance journalist living in Istanbul*

https://www.dailysabah.com/op-ed/2019/04/08/turkish-russian-energy-dependence-vs-independence/amp?__twitter_impimpression=true

Egypt's gas exports can give it a foreign policy edge, petroleum minister says



Egypt's goal to be a net gas exporter by the end of this year

will strengthen it politically, Egypt's petroleum minister said Saturday, stressing the opportunities for growth that would come from the recently-launched Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum.

"We cannot deny that if we are able to have our own energy this will give us some – not independence but let us say some strength, edge," Tarek el Molla told CNBC's Hadley Gamble at the World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa in Amman, Jordan.

The minister was speaking in response to a question about many Middle Eastern countries' reliance on their wealthier Gulf patrons like Saudi Arabia – and the fact that economic support from the Gulf also often means forfeiting independence in the foreign policy arena.

"The destiny of each country is at its own decision, however, you get to capitalize on what you have – so if you have the resource, the gas, you can play smart. And of course it would be a tool, or a card, that you can play with in politics, definitely," el Molla said.

"When I talk about the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum, and we talk about the hub, I say that we will together be the hub," the minister stressed. "Egypt will not ever be able to be the hub, no, it will be the hub together with its neighboring countries, allies, partners ... we are complementing each other in this field."

The forum, which aims to establish a regional gas market and offer more competitive prices, consists of Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, and the Palestinian Authority, with its headquarters in Cairo. El Molla has described high investor interest in the opportunities the forum will offer.

Hit by revolution and terrorist attacks from 2011 onward, Egypt ceased exporting its gas for several years, but has now made a comeback, becoming a key player in what many energy

experts have called the “Eastern Mediterranean gas gold rush.”

Cairo is expected to become a net gas exporter by the end of 2019 and the country has seen widespread interest in its natural gas potential – particularly after the success of Egypt’s Zohr gas field, an offshore natural gas field in the Mediterranean Sea operated by Italian energy firm Eni.

Energy consultancy Wood Mackenzie has called it “Egypt’s astonishing gas renaissance,” and estimates that existing fields have gas reserves of 61 trillion cubic feet, with a further 45 trillion cubic feet yet to be discovered.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Egypt’s oil and gas sector reached \$10 billion in the full fiscal year of 2017/18, el Molla told an Egyptian newspaper last August, and expects at least the same in 2018/2019. In December, el Molla said Egypt had signed over 12 exploration and production agreements with international oil companies (IOCs) during 2018. The petroleum minister told CNBC in January that Egypt’s gas reserves could even be a catalyst for peace in the region.

Siemens is one firm that’s no stranger to Egypt’s energy sector and reportedly started doing business in the country in 1859. In recent years, it’s supplied gas and wind power plants to boost the North African country’s electricity generation and has what it calls the “Megaproject,” which connects 14.4 gigawatts to the Egyptian national grid.

Also speaking to CNBC in Jordan this weekend, Siemens Middle East CEO Dietmar Siersdorfer told CNBC’s Hadley Gamble that Egypt now has one of most modern energy systems in the whole world.

“In Egypt we’ve done the so-called mega projects, they’ve really electrified the country ... What happens there now is that the industry is growing, that was the plan from the beginning for the president, for the government,” he said.

“They have also now the next level of digitalization. A lot of people have been trained now during the execution of our

megaprojects,” he said, adding that the country is also developing in terms of its mobility infrastructure.

–CNBC’s Holly Ellyatt contributed to this report.

https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/egypt-apos-gas-exports-foreign-143352328.html?soc_src=community&soc_trk=wa&guccounter=1

Egypt on track to end fuel subsidies: IMF



Egypt is on track to end subsidies on most fuels by June 15 as part of a reform programme led by the International Monetary Fund, the Washington-based body said Saturday.

The economy of the Arab world’s most populous country has suffered from political instability and security threats since the 2011 uprising that ousted long-time leader Hosni Mubarak.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/egypt-on-track-to-end-fuel-subsidies-imf-119040700023_1.html

DIPLOMACY: Nicosia to host first trilateral summit of Cyprus, Greece and Lebanon Leaders



Nicosia will host the first trilateral summit between the leaders of Cyprus, Greece and Lebanon later this year to review progress that has been achieved and map out further cooperation.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Nikos Christodoulides is in Beirut, where he participated in the first official tripartite Ministerial meeting between Cyprus, Greece and Lebanon, with Lebanese counterpart Gebran Bassil, and Greece's Georgios Katrougalos.

He said it was the start of a "trilateral journey", with the three partners having to work to make their cooperation

tangible in the agreed areas.

Pointing out that cooperation of the three was based on a positive agenda and was not directed against any other country, Christodoulides stressed Cyprus' intention was to turn this promising mechanism into a productive framework of interaction that would be beneficial for all.

He briefed his Lebanese counterpart on the decision to establish a Permanent Secretariat in Nicosia, with the aim of improving the effectiveness and coordination within the tripartite cooperation mechanism with a vision to make the Eastern Mediterranean a region of peace, security and cooperation, despite the many challenges it faces.

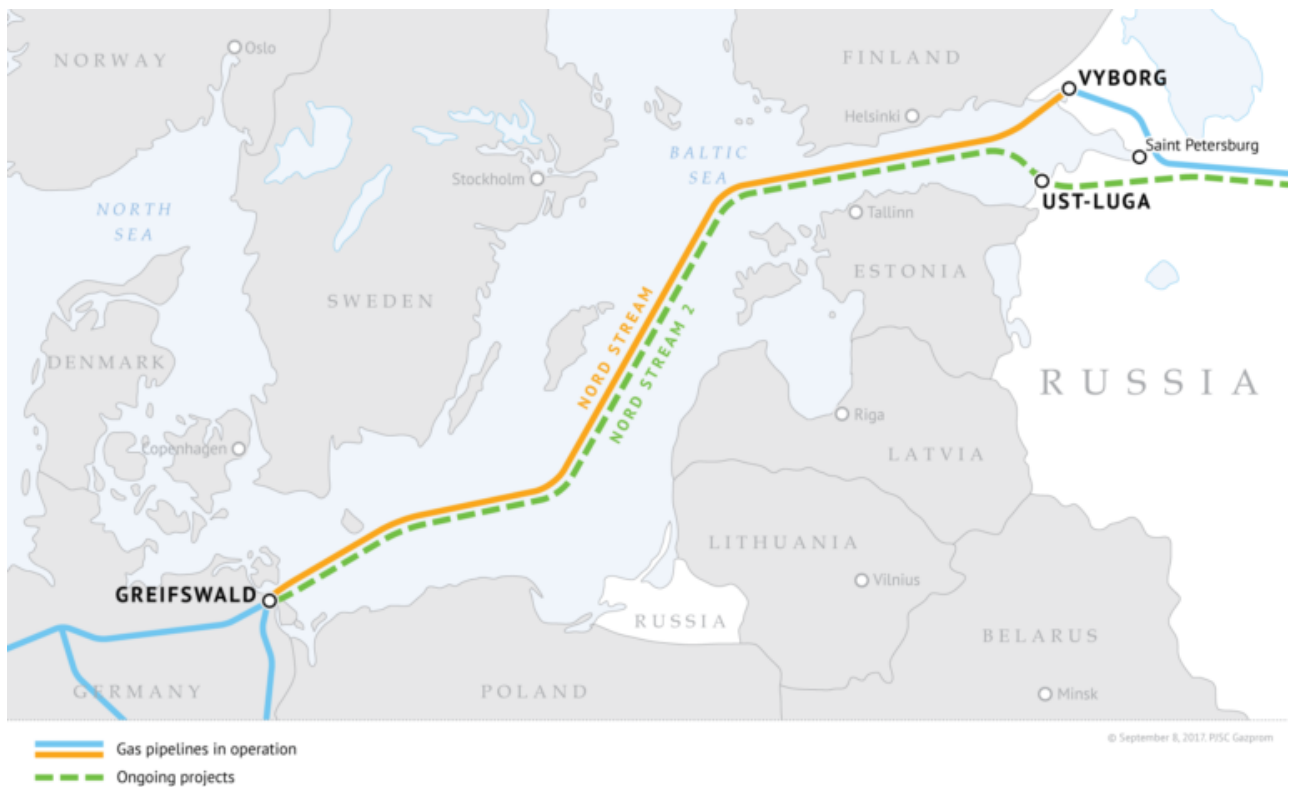
With regard to EU-Lebanon relations, Christodoulides said Cyprus would continue to work and actively assist in further strengthening them and said the EU must continue to show keen interest and activity in the region through its neighbourhood policy and its partnership priorities.

In a Joint Statement, the three Ministers recognize inter alia, the importance and value of the tripartite cooperation mechanism and reaffirm their strong commitment to further expanding and deepening their countries cooperation in this context, and to identify synergies in various areas of common interest, to the benefit of the societies and the citizens of the three countries.

According to the Joint Statement, the three Ministers also agree that this tripartite cooperation is based on respect for international law and the aims and principles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the United Nations.

The statement also defines the initial priority areas for cooperation as Tourism, Higher Education, Culture, Economy and Trade, with agreement to submit specific programs for these areas before the first Trilateral Summit, which was agreed to take place in Cyprus during 2019.

Gazprom raises gas exports to France by 58% in five years



MOSCOW – A working meeting between Alexey Miller, chairman of the Gazprom Management Committee, and Sylvie Bermann, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of France to the Russian Federation, took place today at the Arctic: Territory of Dialogue 5th International Arctic Forum in St. Petersburg.

The parties discussed issues related to cooperation in the gas sector, including gas supplies. It was noted that France ranks among Gazprom's key markets in Europe. The Company's gas exports to the country grew by 58% in five years, reaching 12.9 Bcm in 2018.

Particular attention at the meeting was paid to the progress of the Nord Stream 2 project. It was highlighted that 607.7 mi (978 km) of pipes – 40% of the gas pipeline's total length –

have been laid in the Baltic Sea by now.

<https://www.worldoil.com/news/2019/4/10/gazprom-raises-gas-exports-to-france-by-58-in-five-years>

Jordan to reject any proposal without independent Palestinian state – PM



AMMAN – Jordan will reject any proposed settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict that does not guarantee the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, Prime Minister Omar Razzaz said on Tuesday.

The premier noted during a press conference on Tuesday that Jordan's position on the long-running Palestinian-Israeli conflict rests on two irreversible constants; the

establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital and the Hashemite Custodianship over Jerusalem's Islamic and Christian holy sites.

"These are the unshakable foundations of Jordan's position on Palestine and the non-negotiable red lines," Razzaz said in response to a question on how Jordan would respond to the so-called deal of the century.

Regarding calls to scrap a gas deal between Jordan's National Electric Power Company and Israel, Razzaz said that his government was not the one who signed the deal.

He added that the decision to keep or cancel the deal will be taken in accordance with Jordan's higher interests.

"There is definitely a penalty clause in the deal," the premier told reporters.

Razzaz said that the deal is currently being reviewed by the Constitutional Court.

The Lower House has recently declared its "utter rejection" of the gas deal, requesting that the agreement be "cancelled at any cost".

The government has decided to refer the gas deal with Israel to the Constitutional Court for interpretation of Article 33 of the Constitution.

Paragraph B of the said article reads: "Treaties and agreements which involve financial commitments to the Treasury or affect the public or private rights of Jordanians shall not be valid unless approved by the National Assembly. In no circumstances shall any secret terms contained in any treaty or agreement be contrary to their overt terms".

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordan-reject-any-proposal-without-independent-palestinian-state-%E2%80%9494-pm>