



Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ
Vice-President of the European Commission

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Member of the European Commission

Brussels, 13th July 2017
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Dear President Hoyer,

We are writing to you in order to emphasise the importance of the Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP) and Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), two vital and irreplaceable elements of the Southern Gas Corridor initiative of the European Union.

The Southern Gas Corridor is a strategic project for the EU, directly contributing to the diversification of gas sources and security of supply objectives of the European Energy Union strategy. Both TANAP and TAP are explicitly featured in the European Energy Security Strategy as key security of supply infrastructure projects. Furthermore, Southern Gas Corridor is an example of successful cooperation and of a constructive alignment of interests between the European Union and its neighbours, namely Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan. These energy corridor projects will have positive impacts for the economies and citizens of those countries, yet the main benefits will be, without a doubt, for the European Union.

The EU has expressed its commitment to the Southern Gas Corridor projects at the highest level, most recently during the visits of President Erdogan and President Aliyev to Brussels, on 25 May and 6 February respectively, and at the SGC Advisory Council on 23 February 2017.

The importance of TANAP and TAP for meeting the EU's energy and climate goals has been recognised by all the Member States when they unanimously agreed in 2013 to the inclusion of both projects on the Union wide list of Projects of Common Interest. The PCI status of both projects was re-confirmed when the 2nd PCI list was agreed on in 2015. All Member States have subsequently approved Union financial assistance to both projects' preparatory and development studies under the Connecting Europe Facility.

President Werner Hoyer
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Europe's continued commitment to these Southern Gas Corridor projects has allowed them to make impressive progress over the last few years. Now that the projects have successfully reached the capital intensive construction phase, their promoters need to urgently secure adequate funding; Europe's commitment must therefore not wane. In this respect we would hope that the European Investment Bank, as well as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, are now in a position to assist TANAP and TAP to the extent required and thereby to exemplify that European Union patronage over the Southern Gas Corridor continues.

Yours sincerely,



Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ



Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE