



Athens Office



International Conference

Lines of Power: The Politics of Energy in Southeast Europe

02 November, 2021 | Athens

AMALIA HOTEL

Amalias 10 Avenue, Athens

Conference Venue	<i>Amalia Hotel, Athens, Greece</i>
Language	<i>English</i>
Organizers	<i>Southeast Europe Association /Munich Hanns Seidel Foundation/ Athens Office Ost-Ausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft</i>
Conference Team	<i>Jens Bastian, Hanns Seidel Foundation / Athens Office, Anja Quiring, Hansjörg Brey</i>

BACKGROUND

In the course of the past five years Southeast Europe has become a focal point of regional energy policy initiatives. These include, inter alia, the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), the Greece- Bulgaria Interconnector and the signing of the EastMed Initiative between Greece, Cyprus and Israel in 2020. Moreover, the European Green Deal challenges countries in the region to adjust their energy [policy] mix.

These projects highlight different energy sources, financing arrangements and configurations of cooperating countries involved. What they have in common is the emergence of new constellations of regional cooperation between countries; be they bilateral, trilateral or even multilateral. However, as events in the Aegean have illustrated in 2020 energy projects are not only a means of cooperation, but also a catalyst for inter-regional competition and potential conflict.

The conference seeks to highlight the changing landscape of energy projects, cooperation and competition in southeast Europe. The more these initiatives take shape, the more they impact on the energy security arrangements in the region. This development affects other countries, e.g., Turkey and Russia, who have competing energy projects in and through Southeast Europe.

Moreover, the new fields of energy cooperation raise the question, to what degree their execution incorporates necessary benchmarks such as sustainability, environmental impact assessment and the potential for a ‘Green Deal’ in Southeast Europe.

**Organized with kind support of
German Eastern Business Association / Ost-Ausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft e.V.**



PROGRAM	
09:00-09:15	<p>Welcome address and introduction to the conference</p> <p>Hansjörg BREY: Executive Director of the Southeast Europe Association</p>
PANEL I THE CHANGING ENERGY LANDSCAPE IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE	
09:15-11:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The shift in energy perceptions about the eastern Mediterranean 2. The role of the United Nations' Law of the Sea Convention 3. Can the region be a bridge to a future energy transition scenario? <p>Moderator: Helge TOLKSDORF Former Head of Division for EU Enlargement, Southeastern Europe and Turkey, Directorate-General for European Policy, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Berlin</p> <p>Yannis MANIATIS: Professor at University of Piraeus, f. Minister of Energy, Environment, and Climate Change</p> <p>Dirk BUSCHLE: Deputy Director, Energy Community Secretariat, , Vienna (via Video Link)</p> <p>Aristofanis STEFATOS: Managing Director of the Hellenic Hydrocarbon Resources Management S.A.</p>
11:30-11-45	Coffee Break

PANEL II
ENERGY SECURITY IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE

<p>11:45-13:15</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do the energy resources lurking beneath the waters of the eastern Mediterranean pose a security challenge? 2. Is energy the novel way of applying pressure against neighbors in southeast Europe? 3. Is the lure of gaining access to new energy resources pushing former foes toward cooperation? <p>Moderator: Angelos ATHANASOPOULOS, Editor in Chief, Politics, Senior Editor on Diplomatic Defense and EU Affairs, “To Vima”</p> <p>Naif BEZWAN: University of Vienna</p> <p>Harry TZIMITRAS: Director, PRIO Cyprus Centre and Senior Fellow, Global Energy Center, Atlantic Council, Washington D.C.</p> <p>Odysseas CHRISTOU: University of Nicosia, F. Member of the Cyprus Energy Strategy Council</p>
<p>13:15-14:00</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>

PANEL III REGIONAL ACTORS IN ENERGY EXPLORATION IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE	
14:00-15:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the motivating factors for companies to invest in energy extraction in the region? 2. TAP, Greece-Bulgaria Interconnector, East-Med Initiative: Value for money, return on investment? 3. Can the energy resources from the region help ease Europe's dependence on imports from Russia? <p> Moderator: Anja QUIRING Regional Director South Eastern Europe, Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations, Berlin, </p> <p> Ioannis GRIGORIADIS: Senior Research Fellow, Head of ELIAMEP Turkey Programme </p> <p> Nikolaus EICHERT: Managing Director, wpd think Energy, Romania </p>
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break

PANEL IV

ENERGY TRANSITION – A GREEN DEAL IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE?

16:00-17:30

1. Outdated energy options that carry high economic risk? Should countries in the region ban new hydrocarbon exploration and extraction?
2. Many European companies are committed to achieving a carbon neutral energy balance by 2050. Can energy extraction in southeast Europe 'square the circle'?
3. Countries in the Western Balkans have signed up to the *Sofia Agenda* of the European *Green Deal*. How can they translate commitment into sustainable implementation?

Moderator:

Johanna DEIMEL

Independent Analyst, Munich

Sonja RISTESKA

Project Officer Southeast Europe, Agora Energiewende,
Berlin (TBC via Video Link)

Thomas NARBESHUBER:

Vice President, responsible for
South East Europe, BASF Group

Aleksandar JOVOVIC:

Faculty for Mechanical Engineering, University
of Belgrade