

# **Batumi Energy Conference**

## **Joint Statement**

We, the Participants of the Batumi Energy Conference “Developing the Southern Corridor - promotion of energy supplies from Caspian Region” held in Batumi, Georgia, on January 14, 2010;

Recognizing that energy security represents an issue of vital importance and at the same time is a part of the overall security of the Participant States;

Reiterating adherence to the principles of mutually beneficial cooperation among producer, transit and consumer countries, with an intention to increasing each Participant’s energy security;

Considering the significance of continuation of policies aimed at the diversification of oil and gas supplies from the Caspian Region to international markets;

Appreciating the results of the Krakow Energy Summit of May 11, 2007, the Vilnius Energy Summit of October 10, 2007, the Kiev Energy Summit of May 22-23, 2008, the Baku Energy Summit of November 14, 2008, the Budapest Nabucco Summit of January 27, 2009, the Sofia Energy Summit of April 24-25, 2009, and the Prague Southern Corridor Summit of May 8, 2009, as a clear demonstration of successful cooperation between the Participant countries;

Welcoming the political support from the EU as indicated in the 2nd Strategic Energy Review and other documents, as well as the financial support foreseen in the European Economic Recovery Plan for the implementation of the Southern Corridor initiative;

Recognizing the great importance of the Southern Corridor initiative for building closer relations and overall cooperation among the European countries, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Georgia and countries of Central Asia and Middle East, in particular through the development of cooperation in the field of energy;

Considering the rapidly increasing strategic importance of energy security for the Euro-Atlantic area, as underscored by the recently established EU-US Energy Council and other relevant international agreements;

Noting with satisfaction the progress achieved in the implementation of different international energy transit projects within the scope of the Southern Corridor;

Highlighting the signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Nabucco Gas Pipeline Project in Ankara, Turkey on 13 July, 2009;

Welcoming the positive outcome of the Feasibility Study for the Euro-Asia Oil Transportation Corridor Project (EAOTC: Baku-Georgian Black Sea Ports-Odessa-Brody-Plock-Gdansk) conducted by the International Pipeline Company "Sarmatia" LLC together with the decision of Poland to allocate funding from the EU Infrastructure and Environment Programme for the oil pipeline connection between Ukraine and Poland;

Considering implementation of international energy transit projects intended for the transportation of hydrocarbons from the Caspian Region to international markets via the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Georgia across the Black Sea, along with other projects, within the scope of the Southern Corridor development process;

Highlighting the positive experience and high importance of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Turkey in ensuring reliable transit of hydrocarbon resources through the existing export routes of the region, namely the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline, the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan and the Baku-Supsa oil pipelines, which provide favorable commercial and technical conditions for the realization of ongoing and planned projects within the Southern Corridor and their consolidation into an integrated energy transit chain for the transportation of Caspian hydrocarbon resources to international markets;

Noting with satisfaction the agreements, MOU's and other relevant documents signed among the Participant Countries for the development of hydrocarbon transit infrastructure under the scope of the Southern Corridor concept.

Stressing the high importance of realization of the Trans-Caspian energy link,

**Hereby we consider important and declare:**

1. To emphasize the strategic importance of the Southern Corridor Initiative.

2. To maintain close cooperation on strengthening sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the States of the region with the goal of ensuring security of supply, stability and sustainability of the Participant countries and wider Europe.
3. To unite efforts towards the strengthening of mutual energy cooperation and develop the Participants' strategic energy partnership based on the Energy Charter Treaty, embracing the principles of transparency and predictability, environmental protection, non-discrimination, market economy and commercial profitability, taking into account the energy security of producer, transit and consumer countries, to promote mutual confidence necessary for successful implementation of the Southern Corridor.
4. To intensify guidance and coordination on the advancement of ongoing and prospective energy transportation initiatives within the scope of the Southern Corridor, considering the transportation of hydrocarbons from the Caspian Region to international markets, including the development of Trans-Caspian and Trans-Black Sea Links among the Parties of the Joint Statement, with the aim of their rapid and effective integration in the existing framework of regional economic activity and cooperation.
5. To coordinate and strengthen the Participants' efforts for the practical implementation of the Gas Transportation Projects aimed at diversification of markets as well as sources, routes and suppliers as priority projects of the Southern Corridor initiative.
6. To welcome an intention of EAOTC countries on further implementation of EAOTC project through development by "Sarmatia" LLC together with relevant authorities of EAOTC countries before the next Energy Summit of an Action Plan aimed at the creation of appropriate supportive measures necessary for its effective, timely and efficient realization including the assignment of the status of the priority project of European interests. The EAOTC participants consider it expedient to entrust "Sarmatia" LLC to conduct negotiations with the potential suppliers and consumers of crude oil.
7. To note joint projects within the framework of the Eastern Partnership, which would contribute to the swift and effective completion of the EAOTC and all other projects within the Southern Corridor.

8. To provide the mechanisms of cooperation related to energy emergency responses, safeguarding and development of critical energy infrastructure to ensure reliable transit and enhance energy security of all Parties involved.
9. To make common efforts to use the financial support from the European Economic Recovery Plan, as well as pursue other new and existing financial instruments.
10. To strengthen Trans-Atlantic energy cooperation with an aim to implementing the Southern Corridor initiative.
11. To undertake common efforts in addressing the global challenges related to energy security and environmental protection policies, by diversifying energy supply sources, routes and suppliers, including the development of the Southern Corridor, promoting renewable and other environmentally friendly energy, increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions,

We, the Participants of Batumi Energy Conference have adopted this Joint Statement on January 14, 2010, expressed our confidence that this Joint Statement will contribute to the development of mutually beneficial cooperation among all Parties.