Jumpin’ Jack Flash : The Case for the East Med Pipeline

By “Coach Vance” Trefethen

***Resolved: the United States Federal Government should significantly reform its import and/or export policy within the bounds of international trade.***

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine spotlighted a problem that many already saw coming years before: Europe’s import dependence on Russia for a large portion of it natural gas supply. Even if the war ended tomorrow, we would still need long range planning for energy alternatives. In 2016, wise Europeans and others already knew this and started planning to take advantage of newly discovered massive reserves of natural gas underneath the eastern Mediterranean Sea. Some European companies formed a partnership and began seeking financing for a new project known as the “EastMed Pipeline” to import Mediterranean offshore natural gas into Europe. The Trump administration announced US support for the project, which, although not costing US taxpayers a dime, gave international legitimacy to the project and made its financing and completion feasible. In January 2022, Pres. Biden foolishly announced he was withdrawing US support either because 1) natural gas doesn’t meet his climate change agenda; OR 2) he wanted to favor Turkey (which opposes the pipeline) for some political reason, over Greece (which wants the pipeline and hates Turkey); OR 3) Trump favored it so Biden had to oppose it just because he hates Trump. Different evidence quotes argue for different reasons. Whatever the case, it was a bad decision, and this plan reverses it.
 Note again: The US government is not financing or subsidizing the pipeline with any taxpayer funds. US “support” for the pipeline is entirely political. US influence in the region is such that declaring we oppose it is enough to sink it. Multiple advocates since January 2022 have written that if Biden would reverse his opposition, the EastMed pipeline could be built and would bring substantial economic and political benefits to Europe and the US.
 The map in the DEFINITIONS section of the 2A evidence cannot be shown as evidence in the round (TP evidence rules don’t allow “props” or visual displays), but it gives you the background so you can explain it verbally if anyone asks.

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Jumpin’ Jack Flash : The Case for the East Med Pipeline

The Trump Administration supported a proposed pipeline to Europe that would import much-needed natural gas from newly discovered sources offshore in the Eastern Mediterranean. Known as the "East Med" pipeline project, it was a win-win for everyone. It cost US taxpayers nothing and it would have helped Europe break free from reliance on Russia for critical energy supplies. But for political reasons, the Biden Administration foolishly withdrew US support and blocked the project. Europe and the US would be much better off if we reverse this decision and instead affirm that the United States Federal Government should significantly reform its import and/or export policy within the bounds of international trade.

OBSERVATION 1. DEFINITIONS

Significant

Merriam Webster Online Dictionary copyright 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/significant> (accessed 10 May 2022)

2a**:**having or likely to have [influence](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/influence#h1) or effect **:**[IMPORTANT](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/important)

Policy

Merriam Webster Online Dictionary copyright 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/policy> (accessed 10 May 2022)

a high-level overall plan embracing the general goals and acceptable procedures especially of a governmental body

OBSERVATION 2. INHERENCY, or the conditions of the Status Quo. One simple FACT:

Biden blocks EastMed. Pres. Biden's decision to withdraw US support for EastMed effectively blocks it

Burak Bekdil 2022 (Fellow at the Middle East Forum and has covered Turkey for the U.S. weekly Defense News since 1997) 28 Feb 2022 " The EastMed Pipeline: More Needed than Ever" <https://www.meforum.org/63033/the-eastmed-pipeline-more-needed-than-ever> (accessed 19 July 2022)

Biden recently surprised EastMed partners by abruptly withdrawing U.S. support for the pipeline, thereby effectively killing the project, preventing a diversified energy supply to Europe, and further assuring even greater revenues for Russia and its war machine. The White House said the $7 billion project was antithetical to its "climate goals."

OBSERVATION 3. The Plan, implemented by Congress, the President and any necessary Executive Branch officials

1. The President reverses US policy on the East Med pipeline and announces full US support for East Med.
2. All US State Department officials and any other federal appointees and representatives will promote and support East Med at all possible occasions.
3. Funding from general federal revenues and existing budgets of existing agencies. Plan is policy and political only and has no taxpayer cost.
4. Plan takes effect 2 days after an Affirmative ballot.
5. All Affirmative speeches may clarify.

OBSERVATION 4. ADVANTAGES

ADVANTAGE 1. European economic benefit

Changing policy on East Med would improve Europe’s economy and energy security

Prof. Nicholas Saidel & Prof. Godfrey Garner 2022 (Saidel is associate director of the Institute for Strategic Threat Analysis and Response at the Univ. of Penn; previously was a fellow at the Penn Law School’s Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law. Garner is a professor of counterterrorism at Mississippi College) 15 Mar 2022 THE HILL " The US should link eastern Mediterranean gas to Europe to subvert Russia" <https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/598111-the-us-should-link-eastern-mediterranean-gas-to-europe-to-subvert/> (accessed 19 July 2022)

As stated in the bipartisan [Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2913/text) of 2019: “Natural gas developments in the Eastern Mediterranean have the potential to provide economic gains and contribute to energy security in the region and Europe, as well as support European efforts to diversify away from natural gas supplied by the Russian Federation.”[**END QUOTE**] As the war in Ukraine rages on, natural gas prices in Europe have [reached](https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/russia-ukraine-latest-news-2022-03-07/card/natural-gas-prices-in-europe-jump-to-record-highs-as-war-intensifies-RZeWDEgiOYW2XbAIJjTh) record highs.  Climate change goals are important, and renewables may be the future, but we must recalibrate our focus in these perilous times. [**THEY CONTINUE LATER IN THE CONTEXT**, **QUOTE**] Biden should reverse his rejection of the EastMed Pipeline and have the U.S. take a leadership position in devising a plan to bring much-needed eastern Mediterranean gas to the European marketplace.

ADVANTAGE 2. Less Money for Russia

A. The Link: Access to eastern Mediterranean gas is essential to cutting Europe’s reliance on Russian natural gas

Prof. Nicholas Saidel & Prof. Godfrey Garner 2022 (Saidel is associate director of the Institute for Strategic Threat Analysis and Response at the Univ. of Pennsylvania. He previously was a fellow at the Penn Law School’s Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law; an associate at the law firm of Wolf, Block LLP; and a fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute. Garner is a professor of counterterrorism at Mississippi College) 15 Mar 2022 THE HILL " The US should link eastern Mediterranean gas to Europe to subvert Russia" <https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/598111-the-us-should-link-eastern-mediterranean-gas-to-europe-to-subvert/> (accessed 19 July 2022)

The Biden administration should pause its hyper-focus on renewable energy and support efforts to prevent Russian energy [blackmail](https://www.cnbc.com/2022/03/08/russia-warns-of-300-oil-if-ban-goes-ahead-threatens-to-cut-off-european-gas.html) against our European allies. The European Union (EU) has [declared](https://thehill.com/policy/international/597306-eu-announces-plans-to-cut-reliance-on-russian-gas-by-two-thirds?rl=1) it will cut reliance on Russian gas by two-thirds. If the U.S. is serious about energy security in Europe, it must help ensure that eastern Mediterranean natural gas makes it to Europe’s shores.

B. The Impact: Reduced suffering. Energy independence from Russia defunds Russia’s war machine

Prof. Basil Kalymon 2022 (Professor Emeritus at Ivey Business School in Canada) 12 Apr 2022 “Europe must stop funding Vladimir Putin’s war crimes in Ukraine” <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/europe-must-stop-funding-vladimir-putins-war-crimes-in-ukraine/> (accessed 27 May 2022) (brackets added) (FYI as of 27 May 2022, the euro = $1.07)

While war is raging in Ukraine, EU countries continue to send an estimated EUR 1 billion [euros] every single day to Russia in payment for oil and gas imports. This European money is the lifeblood of Vladimir Putin’s war machine.[**END QUOTE**] About 60% of Russian oil exports and 75% of Russian gas exports currently go to Europe, according to Energy Facts IEA. Oil and gas revenues are critical for the continuation of the Russian war effort and constitute and estimated 45% of the country’s state budget. [**HE CONTINUES LATER QUOTE**:] Without this funding, the Russian economy would spiral into collapse and Putin’s ability to continue the invasion of Ukraine would be drastically reduced.

ADVANTAGE 3. US Geopolitical Advantage

A. The Link: Rising threats. Russia & China both want Europe weakened, divided, and vulnerable

Dr Ted Bromund & Daniel Kochis 2022 (Bromund, PhD; Senior Research Fellow for Anglo–American Relations at Thatcher Center for Freedom, Heritage Foundation. Kochis is Senior Policy Analyst in European Affairs in the Thatcher Center) "The Top Five U.S. Priorities for European Policy After Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine" 7 Apr 2022 <https://www.heritage.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/IB5258.pdf> (accessed 16 July 2022)

Russia’s and China’s goals in Europe are identical. They both want a weakened and divided Europe that they can exploit. They both want to eclipse the U.S. partnership with Europe so that the free world is divided and more vulnerable.

B. The Solution: Supporting East Med would help US geopolitical competition

Prof. Nicholas Saidel & Prof. Godfrey Garner 2022 (Saidel is associate director of the Institute for Strategic Threat Analysis and Response at the Univ. of Pennsylvania. Garner is a professor of counterterrorism at Mississippi College) 15 Mar 2022 THE HILL " The US should link eastern Mediterranean gas to Europe to subvert Russia" <https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/598111-the-us-should-link-eastern-mediterranean-gas-to-europe-to-subvert/> (accessed 19 July 2022)

The eastern Mediterranean is a flashpoint for great power competition — and potential friction — as NATO and non-NATO major allies are increasing joint [military exercises](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/israel-france-greece-cyprus-come-together-for-naval-military-exercise-661786) and [drills](https://greekreporter.com/2020/11/29/five-nation-military-exercise-in-east-mediterranean-sends-message-to-ankara/) to protect their offshore assets and territorial waters from foreign threats.[**END QUOTE**] The U.S. does not project much military power in the eastern Mediterranean, notwithstanding its geopolitical significance and proximity to vital waterways such as the Suez Canal. As the U.S. recedes from the region, it must leave in place a regional security architecture that provides stability, respect for rule-of-law, and deterrence to nefarious actors such as Putin. [**LATER IN THE CONTEXT THEY CONCLUDE QUOTE**:] Sponsoring energy links to Europe would signal to Putin that the U.S. (and indirectly NATO) remains committed to its allies in the eastern Mediterranean, who will certainly enhance military cooperation as the stakes increase.

C. The Impact: Greater US influence reduces risk of future conflicts

Anthony Cordesman 2022 (Center for Strategic & International Studies, emeritus Chair in Strategy; previously served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council, the State Department, and the Department of Energy) 12 May 2022 “U.S. Strategy: Rebalancing Global Energy between Europe, Russia, and Asia and U.S. Security Policy in the Middle East and the Gulf” <https://www.csis.org/analysis/us-strategy-rebalancing-global-energy-between-europe-russia-and-asia-and-us-security-policy> (accessed 21 July 2022)

The sudden escalation of the Ukraine crisis into a major regional conflict and the need for political and diplomatic support in the UN as well as for sanctions are warnings that much of the U.S. success in deterrence and defense lies in creating long-term global diplomatic and political support as well as true and lasting strategic partnerships. Ideally, that support will prevent or limit a conflict as well as decrease the risks of any confrontation with a major power like Russia or China.

ADVANTAGE 4. Reduced pollution

Eastern Mediterranean natural gas would replace more polluting alternatives

Jonathan Ruhe and Samuel Millner 2022 (Ruhe - Director of Foreign Policy. Millner - Policy Analyst. Both are with The Jewish Institute for National Security of America) 21 June 2022 " U.S. Leadership Needed on East Med Energy" <https://jinsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/JINSA_20220621_EastMed_v2-1.pdf> (accessed 19 July 2022)

As part of its larger effort to impose costs on Russian aggression and reduce Europe’s vulnerabilities to Moscow, the Biden administration should harness the significant efforts of its partners to date and actively embrace an all-of-the-above approach to peaceful Eastern Mediterranean energy development, including by: » Aligning U.S. policy with its EU partners by supporting peaceful development of natural gas as a critical piece of the continent’s energy security – a “bridge” – while it reduces dependence on Russia and transitions to more renewable energy sources. The current lack of natural gas alternatives to Russia is, counterproductively, compelling much of Europe to increase much less environmentally-friendly coal consumption.

ADVANTAGE 5. Resisting Turkey

A. Link: Status Quo policy blocking EastMed rewards bad behavior by Turkey

Nektaria Stamouli 2022 (journalist) 18 Jan 2022 " EastMed: A pipeline project that ran afoul of geopolitics and green policies" <https://www.politico.eu/article/eastmed-a-pipeline-project-that-ran-afoul-of-geopolitics-and-green-policies/> (accessed 19 July 2022)

The pipeline was broadly supported by all political groupings in Greece, and the U.S. change of policy is seen as a reward for Turkey's hardball position. It also comes as Washington is trying to improve relations with Ankara thanks to rising tensions with Russia. “From Turkey's perspective, it is very reasonable to believe that it is a diplomatic victory, achieved by using methods that all regional and other players condemned,” said Constantinos Filis, director of the institute of global affairs and professor of international relations at the American College of Greece. “What is most worrying is that Turkey could understand that what the U.S. is effectively saying is that you can destabilize the area and be blamed for that, but at the end of the day we take it into account and make a decision that satisfies you.”

B. The impact: We stop incentivizing terrorism and instability

Michael Rubin 2022 (*senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute*) 21 March 2022 “It’s Time to Go All-In on the EastMed Pipeline“ <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/it%E2%80%99s-time-go-all-eastmed-pipeline-201343> (accessed 21 July 2022)

Too many in the State Department seek to reward Turkey for cessation of behaviors in which it never should have engaged in the first place. Doing so only incentivizes Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s destabilizing behavior further. This is the case when the State Department either encourages further reliance on hydrocarbon transit through Turkey or even supports an alternate [Israel to Turkey pipeline](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/erdogan-says-turkey-israel-can-jointly-bring-gas-europe-media-2022-02-04/). The problem with the former is not only that Turkey openly supports terrorist groups like Hamas, but also that the Islamic State never would have established itself in Syria and Iraq had it not been for the logistical support that [Turkey provided its fighters](https://www.newsweek.com/impossible-beat-isis-erdogan-power-442767).

2A Evidence: East Med Pipeline

DEFINITIONS & BACKGROUND

East Med Pipeline - latest details

Penda Sall 2022 (Media Relations, Energy Systems, at DNV corporation, a maritime industry consulting firm) 13 June 2022 "DNV further confirms feasibility and maturity of the EastMed pipeline" (accessed 19 July 2022) <https://www.dnv.com/news/dnv-further-confirms-feasibility-and-maturity-of-the-eastmed-pipeline-226712> (brackets added)

On 10 June, 2022, DNV issued confirmation of the Feasibility Statement of the Eastern Mediterranean Deepwater Pipeline (EastMed), a 2000 km [kilometer] long onshore and offshore natural gas conduit project meant to connect offshore gas reserves from the Levantine Basin to Greece via Cyprus, and further to southeastern European countries in conjunction with Poseidon and Greece-Bulgaria interconnection (IGB) pipelines. The current design envisions a 1400 km offshore and 600 km onshore pipeline, with an initial capacity of about 10 billion m3 of gas each year; the maximum water depth reached, for a short section of around 10 km, is 3000 m, in line with other ultradeep-water pipelines already installed in other parts of the world.

Not Evidence – Just for background: Map of the proposed East Med pipeline



INHERENCY

US opposition puts hurdles in the way of doing East Med pipeline

Jonathan Ruhe and Samuel Millner 2022 (Ruhe - Director of Foreign Policy. Millner - Policy Analyst. Both are with The Jewish Institute for National Security of America) 21 June 2022 " U.S. Leadership Needed on East Med Energy" <https://jinsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/JINSA_20220621_EastMed_v2-1.pdf> (accessed 19 July 2022)

An EastMed Pipeline to bring Cypriot and Israeli natural gas to the EU via Greece faces financial and technical hurdles as well as political opposition after the Biden administration peremptorily dropped U.S. support for the project in January 2022.

US opposition blocks East Med

Nektaria Stamouli 2022 (journalist) 18 Jan 2022 " EastMed: A pipeline project that ran afoul of geopolitics and green policies" <https://www.politico.eu/article/eastmed-a-pipeline-project-that-ran-afoul-of-geopolitics-and-green-policies/> (accessed 19 July 2022)

The EastMed pipeline — a €6 billion project that was meant to ship gas from deposits offshore Israel and Egypt through a 1,250-kilometer pipeline running via Cyprus and Greece to European markets — is for all intents and purposes dead after the U.S. pulled support for it.

A/T "They can build it without US support" - Less likely to succeed and more expensive

Todd G. Buchholz 2022 (former White House director of economic policy under President George H.W. Bush and managing director of the Tiger Management hedge fund) 6 July 2022 More pipes, less Putin <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/esponsored/20220706/more-pipes-less-putin> (accessed 19 July 2022)

If all of these positive developments are taking place without the United States, who cares if Biden’s team scoffs? We all should, because by signalling its opposition, the administration discourages banks and private equity funds from lending, while also dampening the odds of support from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Yes, the pipeline can still be built, but financing terms will be steeper and the pay-off less certain for investors.

Biden foolishly canceled US support for EastMed

Prof. Efraim Inbar 2022 (*president of the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security*) 7 July 2022 What is the US agenda for the Eastern Mediterranean? <https://www.jns.org/opinion/what-is-the-us-agenda-for-the-eastern-mediterranean/> (accessed 19 July 2022)

The first item on the agenda is better coordination in Washington to sensitize the United States to regional realities, because the U.S. does not seem to have a coherent policy on this region. Washington is obsessed with human rights in its approach to Egypt, the most important Arab state. In Libya, it tilts toward Islamist elements. The apex of strategic shortsightedness was the cancellation of U.S. support for the EastMed pipeline (for supposed environmental reasons) that was planned to begin providing energy to Europe a few weeks before the Russia-Ukraine war, precipitating an energy crisis.

Biden opposes EastMed because he wrongly believes it's not commercially viable

Burak Bekdil 2022 (Fellow at the Middle East Forum and has covered Turkey for the U.S. weekly Defense News since 1997) 28 Feb 2022 " The EastMed Pipeline: More Needed than Ever" <https://www.meforum.org/63033/the-eastmed-pipeline-more-needed-than-ever> (accessed 19 July 2022)

The Biden administration also cited a supposed lack of economic and commercial viability, even though a 2019 [study](https://ec.europa.eu/inea/sites/default/files/cefpub/summary_7.3.1-0025-elcy-s-m-15_final.pdf) financed by the European Union confirmed that "the EastMed Project is technically feasible, economically viable and commercially competitive." Few people agreed with Biden's reasoning.

Biden canceled East Med for political reasons: He opposes it because Trump supported it

Michael Rubin 2022 (*senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute*) 21 March 2022 “It’s Time to Go All-In on the EastMed Pipeline“ <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/it%E2%80%99s-time-go-all-eastmed-pipeline-201343> (accessed 21 July 2022)

It was a masterstroke of diplomacy bringing European and Arab states as well as former rivals together for a common purpose. Unfortunately, it occurred during the Trump administration, and so fell victim not only to the Biden administration’s hostility toward fossil fuels, but also to President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s mania to reverse any agreement the Trump administration supported without due consideration of its merits.

US absence creates opportunities for Russia, China and Iran

Jonathan Ruhe and Samuel Millner 2022 (Ruhe - Director of Foreign Policy. Millner - Policy Analyst. Both are with The Jewish Institute for National Security of America) 21 June 2022 " U.S. Leadership Needed on East Med Energy" <https://jinsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/JINSA_20220621_EastMed_v2-1.pdf> (accessed 19 July 2022)

Throughout, even as its regional partners have worked together more concertedly and frequently on diplomatic and energy cooperation, the United States has largely and conspicuously avoided playing any sustained roles in promoting development or addressing simmering regional tensions, creating opportunities for Russia, China and Iran to move into the ensuing vacuum.

A/T "Other energy alternatives for Europe" - We must do them all, including pipeline. It's not "either/or"

Roudi Baroudi 2022 (CEO, Energy & Environment Holding, Qatar) Interview with Newmoney.gr by Symela Touchtidou (article is undated but references materials published in March 2022) https://euromenaenergy.com/r-baroudi-it-is-entirely-possible-for-greece-to-be-a-strategic-energy-hub-for-europe/?print=pdf (accessed 25 July 2022)

Second, the effectiveness and timeliness of solutions will be determined by multiple variables that depend on sound decision-making and dedicated follow-up, adequate financing from both governments and multilateral financial institutions, and cooperation among EU countries and with their neighbors in North Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean. Europe has several buttons it can push, and the more of them it pushes, the better the results will be. Some of these would be to delay the coal/nuclear phaseouts; radically increase investments in renewables like wind and solar; expand Europe’s capacity to receive and process shipments of liquefied natural gas; make better use of such capacity in Spain by linking it to France, and therefore the rest of Europe, by pipeline; install shared power grids with neighboring regions; help develop undersea gas resources in the Eastern Mediterranean; and build new pipelines linking EU markets to gas producers in Central Asia. The more of these things we do – and do well – the sooner the crisis will recede. The more we allow implementation of such steps to be delayed, the longer the crisis – and Europe’s vulnerability to similar problems in the future – will persist.

SOLVENCY / ADVOCACY

How much does the plan cost? It's privately funded by Greek and Italian companies: 6 billion euros

Prof. Yucel Acer 2022. (Professor of International Law at Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Turkey) "With the US Withdrawing Its Support, Can the EastMed Project Now Turn Regional?" <https://politicstoday.org/eastmed-project-eastern-mediterranean-united-states-turkey-greece/> (accessed 20 July 2022)

The pipeline was planned to run for about 1,900 km, starting from a midpoint between Israel and the island of Cyprus in the sea,  in the Israeli section of the Levantine Basin, and eventually reaching Italy via the island of Crete and Greece with the Poseidon and IGB pipelines, a gas interconnector pipeline which connects gas supplies coming from both Bulgaria and Greece. It was said that it would carry at least 11 billion cubic meters of gas per year and cost around 6 billion euros to construct. It is being developed by IGI Poseidon S.A., a 50/50 joint venture between the Greek gas company Public Gas Corporation of Greece (DEPA) and the Italian gas company Edison. The project is aimed to be completed by 2025.

No cost to US government: US opposition stopped the pipeline even though the US has no financial connection to it

Furkan Akar & Saban Yuksel 2022 (Akar - Research fellow at Beyond the *Horizon* International Strategic Studies Group. Yuksel - Research Fellow & Director at Beyond the *Horizon* ISSG ) 10 Feb 2022 “**Can the US Dropping its Support from the EastMed Pipeline Change the Calculus of the Game in the Eastern Mediterranean?”** <https://behorizon.org/can-the-us-dropping-its-support-from-the-eastmed-pipeline-change-the-calculus-of-the-game-in-the-eastern-mediterranean/> (accessed 20 July 2022)



A/T "More study needed" - Study completed in June 2022. They found EastMed is feasible and ready to go

Penda Sall 2022 (Media Relations, Energy Systems, at DNV corporation, a maritime industry consulting firm) 13 June 2022 "DNV further confirms feasibility and maturity of the EastMed pipeline" (accessed 19 July 2022) https://www.dnv.com/news/dnv-further-confirms-feasibility-and-maturity-of-the-eastmed-pipeline-226712

Following a recent route optimization and geophysical studies, DNV just updated a report on the feasibility of the project, having issued a first one in 2020 covering the Pre-FEED activities. Based on the assessment of the extensive design and survey campaign results performed by IGI Poseidon, DNV reviewed the project’s current status from a technical point of view and underlined points to be addressed as the project is completing its Front End Engineering Design (FEED) phase.   On 10 June, 2022, DNV re-issued the Feasibility Statement following the assessment of the Front End Engineering Design documentation provided by IGI Poseidon S.A. up to date. This independent appraisal confirmed the technical maturity of the project and the benefits of the early involvement in the design activities of the offshore construction companies, thanks to competitive dialogue established under the ongoing tender process.

Less Study Needed: East Med is feasible and would supply 10% of Europe's gas needs for $7 billion, and we need it NOW

Todd G. Buchholz 2022 (former White House director of economic policy under President George H.W. Bush and managing director of the Tiger Management hedge fund) 6 July 2022 More pipes, less Putin <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/esponsored/20220706/more-pipes-less-putin> (accessed 19 July 2022)

Europe funded the feasibility study that undergirds the EastMed pipeline, which could supply 10 per cent of Europe’s needs at an estimated cost of about $7 billion. With its citizens protesting high energy prices, Europe literally can’t wait for the pipeline to be built in the Levant.

East Med could start commercial operation in 2027

Penda Sall 2022 (Media Relations, Energy Systems, at DNV corporation, a maritime industry consulting firm) 13 June 2022 "DNV further confirms feasibility and maturity of the EastMed pipeline" (accessed 19 July 2022) https://www.dnv.com/news/dnv-further-confirms-feasibility-and-maturity-of-the-eastmed-pipeline-226712

The EastMed-Poseidon interconnector thanks to its maturity and early involvement of the industrial construction companies could start the commercial operation in 2027, in line with European energy strategy to establish long term partnerships with new reliable suppliers, and represents the most efficient energy infrastructure, to connect Mediterranean sources to European final users.

A/T "EU green policies block EastMed" - But they're reconsidering because they need to break dependence on Russia

[Sarantis Michalopoulos](https://www.euractiv.com/authors/sarantis-michalopoulos/) 2022. (journalist) 5 Apr 2022 Ukraine war revives EastMed gas pipe talks but EU insists on feasibility <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy/news/ukraine-war-revives-eastmed-gas-pipe-talks-but-eu-insists-on-feasibility/> (accessed 23 July 2022)

“Besides its technical challenges, the EastMed pipeline has been primarily affected in recent years by the EU’s decarbonisation policies that refrained from offering further financial and political support for new gas infrastructure projects,” he told EURACTIV. To that end, he added, the EU’s renewed resolve to strengthen its energy security by significantly lowering its dependence on Russian natural gas opens a “renewed window of opportunity” for completion of the gas pipeline. “Financial and political support by the EU can facilitate the final investment decision-making process by the private entities that are considering their participation in the project,” he said, adding that the significant rise in natural gas prices in Europe favours the economic viability of the pipeline.

A/T "Takes years to come on line - won't help current crisis" - Crisis will last for decades, so it's still a good idea

Rep. Gus Milirakis and Rep. Nicole Malliotakis 2022 (Bilirakis - congressman from Florida. Malliotakes - congresswoman from New York) letter to Sec. of State Anthony Blinken 21 Jan 2022 <https://bilirakis.house.gov/sites/bilirakis.house.gov/files/wysiwyg_uploaded/EastMed%20pipeline%20reverse%20Blinken%20final%201.21.22.pdf> (accessed 19 July 2022)



A/T "Turkey will block" - Turkey has every incentive NOT to block East Med

Todd G. Buchholz 2022 (former White House director of economic policy under President George H.W. Bush and managing director of the Tiger Management hedge fund) 6 July 2022 More pipes, less Putin <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/esponsored/20220706/more-pipes-less-putin> (accessed 19 July 2022)

Biden’s team seems troubled by Turkey’s on-and-off participation in such projects and wants the country to be more involved. Turkey certainly has incentive to cooperate, as it imports 45 per cent of its gas from Russia. Other participants are troubled by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s mercurial policies and scabrous rhetoric. In the last few months, however, Erdoğan has warmed up to his neighbours, hosting Israeli President Isaac Herzog in Ankara and sending a congratulatory note on Israeli Independence Day. Since the Palestinian Authority, alongside Israel, is a founding member of the East Mediterranean Gas Forum, it would be odd for Erdoğan to boycott, mine, or otherwise disrupt a new pipeline in the name of Islam or anti-Zionism.

Eastern Mediterranean has 2 trillion cubic meters of offshore natural gas

Jonathan Ruhe and Samuel Millner 2022 (Ruhe - Director of Foreign Policy. Millner - Policy Analyst. Both are with The Jewish Institute for National Security of America) 21 June 2022 " U.S. Leadership Needed on East Med Energy" <https://jinsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/JINSA_20220621_EastMed_v2-1.pdf> (accessed 19 July 2022)

Since 2009, roughly two trillion cubic meters of offshore natural gas have been discovered in the Eastern Mediterranean, and the region is estimated to hold an additional two trillion cubic meters of undiscovered reserves; by comparison, the EU imported 155 billion cubic meters of natural gas in 2021.

A/T “Not economically viable” - US opposition to East Med on economic / feasibility grounds is wrong

Michael Rubin 2022 (*senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute*) 21 March 2022 “It’s Time to Go All-In on the EastMed Pipeline“ <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/it%E2%80%99s-time-go-all-eastmed-pipeline-201343> (accessed 21 July 2022)

Third, there is Foggy Bottom’s inconsistency: While it now undermines the EastMed pipeline and raises questions about its capacity, it nevertheless [identified](https://knews.kathimerini.com.cy/en/news/op-ed-it-s-not-the-pipeline-stupid) the EuroAsia Interconnector, the EuroAfrica Interconnector, the Alexandroupoli Floating Storage and Regasification Unit, the Greece-Bulgaria Interconnector, and the Greece-North Macedonia Interconnector as “commercially viable.” This is akin to giving a clean bill of health to a tree’s leaves, limbs, branches, and roots, but then demanding the whole tree come down because a third country objects to the trunk.

A/T “Not financially viable” - US State Dept. is unqualified to determine the financial viability

Michael Rubin 2022 (*senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute*) 21 March 2022 “It’s Time to Go All-In on the EastMed Pipeline“ <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/it%E2%80%99s-time-go-all-eastmed-pipeline-201343> (accessed 21 July 2022)

Second, few in the State Department have any business experience and so have no grounding on which to determine financial viability. Blinken’s own inter-administration had more to do with [selling contacts](https://prospect.org/world/how-biden-foreign-policy-team-got-rich/) he had made as deputy secretary than in generating wealth by creating a product.

A/T "If EastMed is dead, what's the point?" - Still some hope: They're trying to resurrect it

Joseph Dana 2022. (former senior editor of Exponential View, a weekly newsletter about technology and its impact on society) ARAB NEWS 1 July 2022 "Israel’s natural gas windfall is bad news for Palestinians" <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2114406> (accessed 21 July 2022)

As I wrote in 2019, the pipeline was meant to deliver 10 billion cubic meters of gas per annum to energy-hungry markets in the EU, “which will bring in billions of dollars for Israel, Greece and Cyprus, while providing lower gas fees for northern customers who have been dependent on Russia and other Middle East countries until now.” The US ended its support of the EastMed pipeline in January but the bones of the deal appear to form the basis of a new agreement between Europe, Israel and Egypt.

A/T "Countries don't support" - Key countries all support it

**[Note: this evidence mentions the US supporting East Med, but it was written just a few days before Biden suddenly changed policy and turned against it.]**

Thodoris Chondrogiannos 2022 (Investigative Reporter at Inside Story Greece) 7 Jan 2022 "The climate hypocrisy behind the EastMed pipeline" <https://www.investigate-europe.eu/en/2022/the-climate-hypocrisy-behind-the-eastmed-pipeline/?ie_s=ga&pk_campaign=en_dsa&pk_source=google&pk_medium=cpc&gclid=Cj0KCQjw8uOWBhDXARIsAOxKJ2Era-KvuDHC28bmfieDFIA2GcUHuphoMgdaF1wCfDATI3f1qy0NdJIaAshbEALw_wcB> (accessed 24 July 2022)

In January 2020, Greece, Cyprus and Israel signed an [intergovernmental agreement](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-01-02/leaders-from-israel-to-greece-set-to-sign-eastmed-gas-pipe-deal) on the pipeline. The project also has the support of the United States, which views it as viable competition against Russia’s natural gas supply in the European market. EastMed would join the ranks of American LNG and other gas pipelines that bring non-Russian gas to Europe. Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and North Macedonia have also [expressed their support](https://energypress.eu/eastmed-pipeline-alliance-widens-eight-countries-express-support/) stating that the project “promises to contribute to the wider region’s energy security”. For the past 12 years, Greece’s political leadership has been promoting EastMed as a pillar of the country’s energy and geopolitical strategy. Investigate Europe spoke to three politicians from different political parties who have served as energy ministers in different governments. All three — ranging from the Social Democrats (PASOK), to the leftist former Syriza government and the current right-wing New Democracy — were supportive of the project. “EastMed would put Greece on the energy map as a hub for the production and transportation of natural gas, upgrading our geopolitical role in the region,” said Yiannis Maniatis, who served as energy minister between 2013 and 2015.

ADVANTAGES

Net Benefits / General Advantages

Economic, environmental and national security implications prove Biden should change policy and support EastMed

Rep. Gus Bilirakis 2022 (US congressman from Florida) Press release: " BILIRAKIS AND MALLIOTAKIS PUSH BACK ON BIDEN’S ABANDONMENT OF KEY ALLIES" 24 Jan 2022 <https://bilirakis.house.gov/media/press-releases/bilirakis-and-malliotakis-push-back-biden-s-abandonment-key-allies> (accessed 19 July 2022)

“The Biden Administration’s actions in this matter are particularly objectionable and hypocritical in light of its tacit approval of Russia’s Nord Stream pipeline, which will only deepen Europe’s energy dependence on a volatile adversary,” said Congressman Bilirakis.  “The Administration must realize the significant economic, environmental, and national security implications that are at stake in this matter and reconsider its decision to withdraw support for this critical project.”

EastMed will directly connect Europe to new supplies of gas, enhance energy security, and be operational by 2027

**Fabrizio Mattana 2022 (Chief Executive Officer of IGI Poseidon) quoted by** Penda Sall (Media Relations, Energy Systems, at DNV corporation, a maritime industry consulting firm) 13 June 2022 "DNV further confirms feasibility and maturity of the EastMed pipeline" (accessed 19 July 2022) https://www.dnv.com/news/dnv-further-confirms-feasibility-and-maturity-of-the-eastmed-pipeline-226712

“The EastMed Pipeline, together with Poseidon Pipeline, is the most mature project in the Mediterranean area, being now in the final engineering phase, and will reach the start of the commercial operation in 2027. It will directly connect Europe to the natural gas fields in the Eastern Mediterranean basin, also creating opportunities for access to new hydrogen production sites in that area. The Project will provide Europe with a new route of gas supply, complementary to LNG, enhancing the energy security and diversification of sources. IGI Poseidon strongly believe in the importance of this realization, in the interest of the European Community and of the entire East Mediterranean region.” **stated Fabrizio Mattana, Chief Executive Officer of IGI Poseidon**.

European economy / cheaper natural gas

Killing EastMed guarantees higher gas prices in Europe thanks to Russian squeeze

Burak Bekdil 2022 (Fellow at the Middle East Forum and has covered Turkey for the U.S. weekly Defense News since 1997) 28 Feb 2022 " The EastMed Pipeline: More Needed than Ever" <https://www.meforum.org/63033/the-eastmed-pipeline-more-needed-than-ever> (accessed 19 July 2022)

"Welcome to the brave new world where Europeans are very soon going to pay €2.000 for 1.000 cubic meters of natural gas!" [tweeted](https://twitter.com/MedvedevRussiaE/status/1496112456858574849) Dmitry Medvedev, Russia's former president and prime minister, and now deputy chairman of its Security Council -- suggesting that because of the suspension, prices were set to double. Warnings about the consequences of killing the EastMed Pipeline -- and thereby preventing the diversification of energy supplies to Europe -- arrived shortly before Russia's military incursion. Evidently, it was just another clear message that Biden preferred to ignore.

Blocking East Med harms European consumers hit by high natural gas prices

Rep. Gus Milirakis and Rep. Nicole Malliotakis 2022 (Bilirakis - congressman from Florida. Malliotakes - congresswoman from New York) letter to Sec. of State Anthony Blinken 21 Jan 2022 <https://bilirakis.house.gov/sites/bilirakis.house.gov/files/wysiwyg_uploaded/EastMed%20pipeline%20reverse%20Blinken%20final%201.21.22.pdf> (accessed 19 July 2022)



If Russia’s gas isn’t replaced, their economies will come to a standstill with disastrous consequences.

Vijaya Ramachandran 2022 (director for energy and development at the Breakthrough Institute) “Germany Should Look to Africa for Gas, Not Russia” <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/03/11/germany-putin-russia-gas-energy-africa-development/?gclid=CjwKCAjwyryUBhBSEiwAGN5OCLaO-Hl6mX4Jq6Z5LNFuYkNMB_4AEQmEUWLR-h-FW9Sz74rngjijlxoChb4QAvD_BwE> (accessed 27 May 2022)

With the United States and United Kingdom banning Russian energy exports and the European Union announcing it will reduce Russian gas imports by two-thirds by the end of the year, the West is urgently debating how to replace Russian energy deliveries. The most crucial issue is the Russian gas on which Germany and other parts of Europe depend. From Washington to Berlin, politicians have announced they will be doubling down on wind and solar energy. But while renewable energy production will be part of a long-term solution, the idea that it can replace Russian oil and gas quickly and at scale is disingenuous at best—and disastrous for Western economies and consumers at worst. The reasons should be clear to all but the energy-illiterate: Wind and solar power can replace some of the Russian gas used to generate electricity—but only when the wind blows and the sun shines, requiring substantial backup generation capacity, much of it powered by natural gas. What’s more, electricity is only part of the energy equation: The majority of Russian oil and gas is not used by power plants but to heat homes, run factories, and fuel cars, trucks, planes, and ships—none of which can be easily shifted to other fuels. If Western countries don’t want their economies to come to a standstill, oil and gas previously delivered from Russia needs to be sourced elsewhere. Europe will therefore need a large, reliable supply of non-Russian fossil fuel for the foreseeable future.

Europe needs to reduce reliance on Russian energy because of Russia’s threat to Europe’s economy

Samantha Gross 2022 (fellow and director of the Energy Security and Climate Initiative at Brookings Institution;  Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from the University of Illinois, a Master of Science in environmental engineering from Stanford, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of California at Berkeley) 18 Feb 2022 “Now is not the time to limit U.S. natural gas exports” <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/02/18/now-is-not-the-time-to-limit-u-s-natural-gas-exports/> (accessed 27 May 2022)

The ability to bring replacement gas into Europe lessens the impact of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s natural gas weapon. For this reason, we’ve seen U.S. President Joe Biden work to find LNG for Europe beyond what the United States can supply, [meeting with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/01/31/qatar-ukraine-natural-gas-europe/) and convincing [Japan to divert some LNG to Europe](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/japan-diverting-lng-europe-some-already-route-industry-minister-2022-02-09/). Reducing demand for gas by curtailing production of gas-intensive products during cold snaps could also help Europe get through this difficult winter. However, over the longer run Europe clearly needs to [move away from its reliance on Russian pipeline gas](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/01/26/if-russia-invades-sanction-its-oil-and-gas/) to reduce Moscow’s leverage

Less Money for Russia

Russia cuts natural gas deliveries to European countries, and threatens worse to come

Jonathan Ruhe and Samuel Millner 2022 (Ruhe - Director of Foreign Policy. Millner - Policy Analyst. Both are with The Jewish Institute for National Security of America) 21 June 2022 " U.S. Leadership Needed on East Med Energy" <https://jinsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/JINSA_20220621_EastMed_v2-1.pdf> (accessed 19 July 2022)

Unsubtly, on June 16 Russia cut natural gas deliveries to Germany and Italy while the latter two countries’ leaders visited Kyiv, after completely halting natural gas flows to Poland and Bulgaria in April. – That same day, Russia’s deputy prime minister warned such cuts “are not the limit in our opinion. Everything can be much more critical.”

EastMed would break Germany's addiction to Russian gas

Ahmed Talabani 2022 (master’s degree in diplomacy from College of Security and Global Studies at the American University in the Emirates) 7 July 2022 " **Germany must choose between Russia or NATO"** <https://strategyinternational.org/2022/07/07/germany-must-choose-between-russia-or-nato/> (accessed 19 July 2022)

Secondly, is German energy security under threat because of the current crisis between Russia and NATO, and does Germany need to clarify its stance? Germany is addicted to Russian gas and must do all it can to find a new source. Due to this, Russia can blackmail the European Union as much as possible as it is taking an aggressive stance and is more predictable than in the past. The EastMed pipeline from the Mediterranean and Iraqi Kurdish gas through Turkey are good sources.

Geopolitical Strategy / Hegemony

US and Europe cooperation needed to neutralize threats from China & Russia

Dr Ted Bromund & Daniel Kochis 2022 (Bromund, PhD; Senior Research Fellow for Anglo–American Relations at Thatcher Center for Freedom, Heritage Foundation. Kochis is Senior Policy Analyst in European Affairs in the Thatcher Center) "The Top Five U.S. Priorities for European Policy After Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine" 7 Apr 2022 <https://www.heritage.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/IB5258.pdf> (accessed 16 July 2022)

While remaining committed to NATO in word, the U.S. has relentlessly downsized its military presence in Europe. This yawning gap between words and deeds has emboldened Russia, with results now obvious in Ukraine. The European failure has been even more serious. By dallying with the folly of an EU army, refusing to spend enough to fulfill NATO commitments, and failing to recognize that a feckless multilateralism would never deter Russia or China, European nations have virtually invited Russian aggression and Chinese exploitation. Because of these failures, the challenge facing the West is now very great. The U.S. and its European allies, spurred on by Russia’s naked aggression against Ukraine, must act to reverse the errors of past policies as rapidly as possible by building the deterrence and prosperity that will be the foundation of peace in the transatlantic world.

Pollution

The replacement for Russian gas will be coal, which pollutes even worse

Vijaya Ramachandran 2022 (director for energy and development at the Breakthrough Institute) “Germany Should Look to Africa for Gas, Not Russia” <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/03/11/germany-putin-russia-gas-energy-africa-development/?gclid=CjwKCAjwyryUBhBSEiwAGN5OCLaO-Hl6mX4Jq6Z5LNFuYkNMB_4AEQmEUWLR-h-FW9Sz74rngjijlxoChb4QAvD_BwE> (accessed 27 May 2022)

Germany has already announced it will further [increase its use of coal](https://www.worldometers.info/coal/germany-coal/), which overtook wind to become the biggest input for electricity production globally in 2021. Some of this will be lignite—the worst possible fossil fuel, dirtier than conventional coal and extracted in vast open-pit mines that litter the German countryside. But Germany has boxed itself into a corner with its energy policies—most crucially, the replacement of nuclear power with Russian gas—and does not have a lot of options. Already, the [European Commission](https://www.politico.eu/article/coal-not-taboo-as-eu-seeks-russian-gas-exit-says-green-deal-chief/) has given its absolution to countries replacing Russian gas with coal and producing higher emissions as a result.

Gas pollutes a lot less than coal

International Energy Agency 2019 (international organization with representatives form the governments of 31 member countries and 8 association countries) The Role of Gas in Today’s Energy Transitions <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/cc35f20f-7a94-44dc-a750-41c117517e93/TheRoleofGas.pdf> (accessed 27 May 2022)

The clearest example is the ‘quick win’ for emissions from running existing gas-fired plants instead of coal-fired plants to generate electricity. We estimate that up to 1.2 gigatonnes of CO2 could be abated in the short term by switching from coal to existing gas-fired plants, if relative prices and regulation are supportive.

A/T “Renewables instead!” - Renewables have their own environmental and human costs

Lauren Jackson 2022 (journalist) published 24 March 2022, updated 1 Apr 2022 NEW YORK TIMES “Funding Russia’s War” <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/24/podcasts/funding-russias-war.html> (accessed 27 May 2022)

As we highlighted today in the show, the green transition also has a dark side. The materials necessary for the shift (like cobalt, used in batteries) are caught in an international cycle of exploitation, greed and gamesmanship — with superpowers vying for economic control of minerals in African countries. It’s a fight that [extends back to the Cold War](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/21/world/us-china-energy.html), and now has expanded to include China as a key influence peddler. Mining these resources is time-consuming, extractive and often violent — the opposite of an easy solution to skyrocketing gas prices at American pumps.

Turkey

Biden's decision to block EastMed emboldens Turkey into aggressive action

Burak Bekdil 2022 (Fellow at the Middle East Forum and has covered Turkey for the U.S. weekly Defense News since 1997) 28 Feb 2022 " The EastMed Pipeline: More Needed than Ever" (brackets in original) <https://www.meforum.org/63033/the-eastmed-pipeline-more-needed-than-ever> (accessed 19 July 2022)

Also unsurprisingly, the U.S. move further emboldened Turkey's Islamist president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who has never hidden his neo-Ottoman, irredentist [ambitions](https://www.aydinlik.com.tr/haber/mavi-vatan-icin-guclu-donanma-236132) over what once was considered the "Turkish lake": the Aegean and the Mediterranean. In a January 18 speech, Erdoğan [said](https://m.turkiyegazetesi.com.tr/gundem/817405.aspx) that, "Without [a pipeline passing through] Turkey, Mediterranean gas cannot be brought to Europe."

DISAD RESPONSES

Even "green" Europeans agree we need EastMed because reliable green energy isn't ready yet

Todd G. Buchholz 2022 (former White House director of economic policy under President George H.W. Bush and managing director of the Tiger Management hedge fund) 6 July 2022 More pipes, less Putin <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/esponsored/20220706/more-pipes-less-putin> (accessed 19 July 2022)

European leaders, who often sound 'greener' on energy than US politicians, have been puzzled and troubled by the US opposition to Mediterranean energy. They now understand that modern economies need natural gas, at least until green energy can ramp up without regular brownouts.

A/T "Methane emissions" - Methane emissions are tiny relative to CO2 and disappear within 20 years

Bill Sweet 2013 (adjunct professor, NYU Tandon School and City University of New York) 6 Aug 2013 "[How Big a Problem is Methane Leakage from Natural Gas Fracking?](https://spectrum.ieee.org/how-big-a-problem-is-methane-leakage-from-natural-gas-fracking)" <https://spectrum.ieee.org/how-big-a-problem-is-methane-leakage-from-natural-gas-fracking> (accessed 25 July 2022) (ellipses in original)

In communications last week with Andrew Revkin, who does the Times's admired [Dot Earth](http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/) energy blog, two eminent climate scientists took aim a natural gas alarmists. "It’s meaningless to sound off about how much more 'potent' a greenhouse gas methane (natural gas) may be, compared to CO2, unless you also take into account how small methane emissions are relative to CO2," said the University of Chicago's Raymond Pierrehumbert."The important thing to understand is that [essentially all of the climate effects of methane emissions disappear within 20 years of cessation](http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/08/01/two-climate-analysts-fault-gas-leaks-but-not-as-a-big-warming-threat/?_r=0) of emissions.… In contrast, CO2 accumulates in the atmosphere, ratcheting up the temperature irreversibly, at least out to several millennia."

A/T “Climate / Pollution” – No increase in pollution or hydrocarbons because EastMed would simply replace Russian gas

Michael Rubin 2022 (*senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute*) 21 March 2022 “It’s Time to Go All-In on the EastMed Pipeline“ <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/it%E2%80%99s-time-go-all-eastmed-pipeline-201343> (accessed 21 July 2022)

Behind-the-scenes within the Biden administration, former Secretary of State John Kerry—now Biden’s climate envoy—wields power disproportionate to his position. Foreign heads of state, for example, have told me that Kerry representatives sat in on their White House meetings. Kerry’s animosity toward fossil fuels and his radicalism on climate issues is not news. Nor is that of many progressives to whose demands Biden often folds. It would be wrong to undermine the EastMed pipeline for climate issues, however, since the gas it would transport would replace that which once flowed from or through Russia rather than add to European dependence on hydrocarbons.

EastMed wouldn't block progress toward renewable energy, nor would it block short term energy solutions

Prof. Nicholas Saidel & Prof. Godfrey Garner 2022 (Saidel is associate director of the Institute for Strategic Threat Analysis and Response at the Univ. of Pennsylvania. Garner is a professor of counterterrorism at Mississippi College) 15 Mar 2022 THE HILL " The US should link eastern Mediterranean gas to Europe to subvert Russia" <https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/598111-the-us-should-link-eastern-mediterranean-gas-to-europe-to-subvert/> (accessed 19 July 2022)

But the emergency we face in Ukraine will have repercussions in global energy markets and international affairs for years to come. U.S. policy can adjust for medium-term needs, supporting access to eastern Mediterranean natural gas, and still seek short-term solutions such as working with [Qatar](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/qatar-can-divert-up-15-its-gas-exports-2022-02-22/) and [Azerbaijan](https://www.rferl.org/a/eu-azerbaijan-gas-supply/31687095.html) — all while keeping an eye on long-term climate change goals such as phasing out fossil fuels. As for feasibility concerns, just last week Chevron CEO Michael Wirth [spoke out](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-700615?fbclid=IwAR3lbbnRUjtBcqacD29Th7X9ljNP3r5aqISIQFnkPigVzNF6vNbP_jAGHVU) in favor of the EastMed Pipeline because of the current crisis.

A/T “Upsetting Turkey” – No reason to worry about upsetting Turkey. They’re always causing trouble

Michael Rubin 2022 (*senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute*) 21 March 2022 “It’s Time to Go All-In on the EastMed Pipeline“ <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/it%E2%80%99s-time-go-all-eastmed-pipeline-201343> (accessed 21 July 2022)

 It is also hypocritical to reward or resource Turkey when it continues the same type of [occupation in Cyprus](https://nationalinterest.org/blog/politics/why-cyprus-still-divided-179859) that Russia now seeks in Ukraine. Rather, to give any credence to Erdogan’s Israel-Turkey pipeline proposal is to justify Erdogan’s expansive land and maritime territorial grabs since such a pipeline would, at a minimum, violate the Lebanese and Cypriot [exclusive economic zones](https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/images/map-med-eez-2007.jpg), something [Turkish writers](https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/01/could-new-israeli-gas-pipeline-bridge-long-standing-rift-turkey) remain ignorant of or deliberately obfuscate.

A/T "Hezbollah/Lebanon/Israel drilling zone dispute" - It's in Hezbollah's economic interest to support drilling, and money trumps ideology

*Michael Young 2020 (senior editor at the Carnegie Middle East Centre in Beirut and a columnist for The National) Oct 2020 "*Hezbollah is losing its ability to intimidate anyone*"* <https://www.thenationalnews.com/opinion/comment/hezbollah-is-losing-its-ability-to-intimidate-anyone-1.1089213> *(accessed 23 July 2022)*

 By agreeing to indirect negotiations, Hezbollah implicitly acknowledged that a compromise could be reached when it had argued that Lebanon’s rights to its offshore gas were inviolable. That prior insistence meant, in principle, that there was nothing over which to compromise. Stark reality, however, has trumped ideology. Lebanon is going through a terrible economic crisis, exacerbated by the resistance of the country’s politicians and parties to introducing reforms that would unlock financial aid from the International Monetary Fund. Such reforms would threaten their networks of corruption and patronage. That is why the prospect of offshore gas reserves represents a valuable lifeline for them, especially when Hezbollah’s and Mr Berri’s supporters are increasingly unhappy with Lebanon's economic situation.

A/T "Hezbollah / Lebanon / Israel drilling zone dispute" - 1) Non-unique, it's already at risk in SQ. 2) Israel has military defense ready

Simon Henderson 2022 (Baker fellow and director of the Bernstein Program on Gulf and Energy Policy at The Washington Institute) 6 June 2022 " Production from Israel’s Karish offshore natural gas field is scheduled to start later this year." <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/lebanons-verbal-threat-against-israeli-gas-exploration> (accessed 22 July 2022)

A simmering row between Lebanon and Israel over their mutual maritime border has returned to a boil with the arrival in the East Mediterranean of a specialized vessel to produce gas from Israel’s Karish field, which is located more than fifty miles off the country’s northern coast. The Energean Power is a floating production storage and offloading vessel (FPSO) that has been towed by two tugs all the way from Singapore, where it was built; last week, it passed through the Suez Canal. [**END QUOTE**] Lebanon regards the Karish field as being in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), the area coastal countries can claim stretching up to two hundred nautical miles beyond the normal twelve nautical miles of territorial waters. As yet, there is no agreed line between either the territorial or the EEZ claims of Israel and Lebanon, despite months of U.S.-mediated talks. Lebanon warned Israel on June 5 against any “aggressive action” and on June 6 invited American special energy envoy Amos Hochstein to restart his involvement although he had previously given up, apparently frustrated with Lebanese intransigence. [**HE CONTINUES LATER IN THE CONTEXT QUOTE**:] The Energean Power would be very vulnerable to hostile military action, and the Israeli media is reporting that the country’s navy is preparing to defend its operations against Hezbollah attacks with naval ships including submarines, as well as a seaborne Iron Dome antimissile battery.

A/T "Hezbollah attacks offshore gas facilities" - Israeli military is ready to protect them

Hanan Greenwood 2020 (journalist) JEWISH NEWS SYNDICATE "Israel’s gas rigs are high-priority targets for Hezbollah, warns top Israeli Navy commander" <https://www.jns.org/israels-gas-rigs-are-high-priority-targets-for-hezbollah-warns-top-israeli-navy-commander/> (accessed 23 July 2022)

Israel is marking the 14th anniversary of the 2006 Second Lebanon War, during which terrorists fired a missile at the INS Hanit warship, which was on operation 16 kilometers (10 miles) off Beirut’s shores. Four Israeli sailors were killed. Aginsky said that the Israel Defense Forces has learned its lesson. “We are better prepared and I have absolute faith in our tools. The threat still exists, and it is significant, but we are looking to protect Israel’s gas rigs, above all else. If Hezbollah wants to cause strategic damage, it will try to attack the rigs, but if it hits a ship along the way, it won’t be sorry. In the end, the ship’s goal is to protect the rig,” he said. “We are expanding our powers in terms of vessels, infrastructure, [and] personnel. Our operational readiness is a top priority, given the changing strategic reality around us, down to the micro-tactical level, which changes every day,” said Aginsky.

A/T "Hezbollah" - Turn: Attacking Israel would backfire and completely discredit them

*Michael Young 2020 (senior editor at the Carnegie Middle East Centre in Beirut and a columnist for The National) Oct 2020 "*Hezbollah is losing its ability to intimidate anyone*"* <https://www.thenationalnews.com/opinion/comment/hezbollah-is-losing-its-ability-to-intimidate-anyone-1.1089213> *(accessed 23 July 2022)*

If financial realities are forcing Hezbollah to reconsider Lebanon’s negotiations with Israel over maritime boundaries, then the country’s economic collapse is having more pernicious implications for the party. Hezbollah’s missile arsenal is there as a deterrent to protect Iran and its nuclear programme from Israeli attacks. Yet to what extent is that even conceivable today? With over 50 per cent of the Lebanese living under the poverty line, and many of them believing Hezbollah to be part of the corrupt political elite, a war with Israel could turn the population decisively against the party. Worse, Lebanon would be so devastated that the very idea of Hezbollah’s “resistance” could be permanently discredited, with the party blamed for acting primarily to benefit Iran instead of Lebanon.

A/T “Palestinian oppression” – Palestinians would benefit from Mediterranean gas development

Shadia Nasralla 2018 (journalist with Reuters news service) 6 July 2018 “Energean ready to take Gaza Marine gas field stake if Israel, Palestinians agree” <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-gaza-gas-energean-israel-idINKBN1JW1D8> (accessed 31 July 2022)

Gaza Marine, located about 30 km (20 miles) off the Gaza coast between the giant gas fields Leviathan and Zohr, is estimated to hold over 1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, the equivalent of Spain’s consumption in 2016. But plans to develop it have been put off several times over the past decade. Earlier this year Shell [RDSa.L](https://www.reuters.com/companies/RDSa.L) relinquished the 55 percent stake in the field that it took over as part of its acquisition of BG Group in 2016, after struggling to find a buyer. The Palestine Investment Fund (PIF) then became the field’s sole owner. It is now looking for an operator and buyer for a 45 percent stake. A PIF official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters that negotiations were ongoing with several potential international operators. “PIF and its partners are very keen and committed in accelerating the exploitation of Gaza marine. The final decision will be made in coordination with the Palestinian government and for the best interests of the Palestinian economy.” Israel has said in the past it supports the field’s development.