Negative: East Med Pipeline - Bad

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.***

In the last few years, large deposits of natural gas have been discovered under the waters of the eastern Mediterranean Sea. A plan was developed to build a pipeline known as the East Med pipeline to import the natural gas to markets in Europe, with a couple of European companies putting up the money. The goal was to provide Europe with an alternate source of energy besides being dependent on Russia, which as a policy priority even before the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Pres. Trump announced US approval and agreement for the idea, which helped give it legitimacy and attract investors and support, although neither the US government nor any US companies had any direct financial stake in it. Pres. Biden in January 2022 reversed the policy by telling the Greek government that the US would no longer support it. AFF plan will reverse Biden's policy and bring back US support. This NEG brief argues the East Med pipeline is a bad idea and Biden is right to oppose it.

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Negative: East Med Pipeline

INHERENCY

1. Egypt option

EastMed doesn’t matter because they can use the alternative Egypt option

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)

Last year, officials from Israel and Greece said they were [weighing plans](https://www.politico.eu/?p=1670873) to reroute the EastMed pipeline to bypass Cyprus and flow through Egypt. Egypt and Israel also signed an agreement to transport Israeli gas, which undermined the case for EastMed. “The construction or not of the EastMed pipeline does not impact the transportation of gas reserves to Europe, because the Egypt option seems more efficient and viable,” said George Tzogopoulos, a senior research fellow at the International Center for European Studies, a French think tank.

Details on how the Egypt alternative option works

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 21 July 2022)

When Cyprus, Greece and Israel [signed](https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy/news/eu-welcomes-eastmed-deal-but-highlights-further-cost-benefit-analysis/) the pipeline deal in January 2020, an EU official told EURACTIV that the pipeline should be seen as “one option” of tapping EastMed gas supplies for the EU, alongside shipping it by tankers in the form of LNG. Egypt’s President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi presented an [alternative idea](https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy/news/athens-and-cairo-mull-changing-the-route-of-eastmed-pipeline/) to Greek Premier Kyriakos Mitsotakis in March 2021. The pipeline would still start from Israel’s Leviathan gas field but instead of going to Cyprus through an offshore pipeline, it would head to Egypt by land and then ascend to the island of Crete, passing through the demarcated Greek-Egyptian Exclusive Economic Zone. LNG ships will then be able to transport the gas either to Alexandroupolis in north-eastern Greece or elsewhere, having Europe as a final destination.

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

1. Not needed for Europe

East Med isn't needed to meet Europe's energy demand

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)

Data shows that EastMed is not required to meet Europe’s energy demand. According to the consultancy firm Artelys, the EU has [sufficient supplies](https://www.artelys.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Artelys-GasSecurityOfSupply-UpdatedAnalysis.pdf) from Norway, Russia, Central Asia and North Africa to cover demand. This is even assuming a supply shock in one of the source countries, given that Europe’s natural gas requirements are expected to diminish over time.  If it is to stay below the 1.5°C target, Europe must cut its consumption of natural gas by a quarter of 2018 levels by 2030, and by 90% by 2050. Such a rapid reduction in demand means there will be no time to make use of the EastMed gas. The Cyprus fields are not expected to start production until 2030, [according to energy research specialist Rystad](https://www.globalwitness.org/en/press-releases/eu-must-end-support-gas-disputed-eastern-mediterranean/).

2. Status Quo not funding Russia's war machine

Russian exports are not paying for the war - not physically possible because of where the money goes

Prof. Mark Harrison 2022. (Emeritus Professor, Univ. of Warwick) 13 June 2022 " Western sanctions on Russia are working, an energy embargo now is a costly distraction" <https://voxeu.org/article/western-sanctions-russia-are-working-energy-embargo-now-costly-distraction> (accessed 30 June 2022)

Two things follow. One, the fact that Russia is exporting one seventh of its national income to the rest of the world is weakening, not strengthening, its war effort. Two, Russia’s exports are not ‘paying for Putin’s war’. They are certainly paying for something, but not that. What they are paying for is the accumulation of idle balances of foreign currency. This currency may be held by the state (within Russia) or by private citizens abroad (in the case of capital flight). But, if they cannot be used to import resources into Russia, they are not paying for Putin’s war.

3. A/T "US geopolitical competition with Russia / China"

Neither China nor Russia are a threat to the US, just moving the world back into healthy balance of power

Vijay Prashad 2018 (Indian historian, editor and journalist. He is a writing fellow and chief correspondent at [Globetrotter](https://independentmediainstitute.org/globetrotter/), a project of the Independent Media Institute) A paranoid America is greatly exaggerating Russian power 22 Feb 2018 https://www.salon.com/2018/02/22/a-paranoid-america-is-greatly-exaggerating-russian-power\_partner/ (accessed 25 July 2022)

But it remains a defensive statement. Neither China nor Russia is making a push to become the global powerhouse. They are merely seeking to rebalance a world order that has — since the end of the Cold War — tilted unhealthily towards the United States. So is Russia a threat? Is China a threat? The question really is, to whom? They are threats to any assertion of US dominance over the planet. But they are no threat to the United States as such. They are committed to a multi-polar planet: a sensible solution in our very unstable and dangerous times.

US massively spends more on military than Russia, and Russia can’t establish much power abroad

Vijay Prashad 2018 (Indian historian, editor and journalist. He is a writing fellow and chief correspondent at [Globetrotter](https://independentmediainstitute.org/globetrotter/), a project of the Independent Media Institute) A paranoid America is greatly exaggerating Russian power 22 Feb 2018 https://www.salon.com/2018/02/22/a-paranoid-america-is-greatly-exaggerating-russian-power\_partner/ (accessed 25 July 2022)

One of the central features of Putin’s reforms was to strengthen the military, whose capacity had declined in the post-Soviet era. This included Russia’s weapons production, which withered for lack of investment. Putin put in resources towards both the arms industry and the military — although the numbers here are minuscule compared to those in the United States. It is important to point out that the increase of the US military budget insisted upon by Donald Trump is greater than the total Russian military budget. The new US budget will spend $105 billion more on the military than it did last year, taking US military spending to $716 billion; Russia’s total military spending is $69 billion. Even Russia’s interventions — in Ukraine and in Syria — are less acts of belligerence than acts of defense. The two warm-water ports that Russia is able to access for its navy are in Sevastopol (Ukraine) and Tartus (Syria). If the West had been able to draw Ukraine and Syria away from mild Russian influence, Russia would have lost its navy. The United States, meanwhile, has 40 warm-water bases on its own territory and an additional 31 naval bases across the world (from Peru to Japan, from Spain to Diego Garcia). Russia’s attempt to create the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a rival to NATO, has not gained traction. Eastern Ukraine remains in distress, while Syria is still in the midst of a terrible war. Russia has prevented American hegemony in these zones, but it has not been able to establish its own power here either.

SOLVENCY

1. Key countries not supporting

Italy, Cyprus, Israel and Greece aren’t fully on board with EastMed

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)

Even in Cyprus, at the sharp edge of confrontations with Turkey, the American move was greeted with mixed signals.  Newly appointed Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides [told](https://www.ethnos.gr/World/amp/191645/kasoylidhseblepapantaosergaleiodhmioyrgiasproblhmatontoneastmed) local radio he “always considered EastMed as a tool for creating problems.” But Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades said those were Kasoulides' personal views. “It is sad that some people are happy because the execution of the project has been supposedly cancelled,” Anastasiades said in a written statement. The EastMed pipeline was set to be one of the longest and deepest underwater pipelines in the world, capable of carrying between 9 billion and 12 billion cubic meters of natural gas annually — some 10 percent of Europe's supply, which would help reduce the EU's dependence on Russian gas. But it had been dogged with complications since the get-go, raising doubts as to whether it made financial and technical sense. Italy, where the pipeline was supposed to land, was never officially on board. Last year, officials from Israel and Greece said they were [weighing plans](https://www.politico.eu/?p=1670873) to reroute the EastMed pipeline to bypass Cyprus and flow through Egypt. Egypt and Israel also signed an agreement to transport Israeli gas, which undermined the case for EastMed.

2. Small capacity

East Med's capacity is too small to make any difference in diversifying Europe's energy supplies

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) (brackets in original)

Supporters of the EastMed project argue that it will contribute to a diversification of natural gas sources. However, this is not the case as our research shows. To start with, its capacity is low. Charles Ellinas, former President of the Cyprus Hydrocarbons Company pointed out that “even at full capacity, EastMed could only cover a small fraction of [Europe’s] gas imports, and will not contribute to a diversification of sources.”

3. Not economically viable

EastMed is too expensive and would take too long to build

Bloomberg news 2022. (journalists [Paul Tugwell](https://www.bloomberg.com/authors/AOXQCpopcGQ/paul-tugwell) and [Georgios Georgiou](https://www.bloomberg.com/authors/ARI4EcNXNaA/georgios-georgiou)) 7 Apr 2022 U.S. Says EastMed Pipeline to Europe ‘Not Economically Viable’ https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-04-07/u-s-says-eastmed-pipeline-to-europe-not-economically-viable (accessed 25 July 2022)

A pipeline project to transport natural gas from the eastern Mediterranean to Europe will take too long to build and be too costly to be viable, according to U.S. Under Secretary for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland. The planned 1,900-kilometer (1,181-mile) EastMed pipeline will be one of the longest and deepest in the world and will provide an export route from gas fields in the eastern Mediterranean to European markets via Greece and Italy.  While there’s a need to find alternative supplies to reduce dependence on Russian gas, the EastMed project is “not economically viable” because it’s very long, in very deep water and will take some 10 years to build, Nuland said Thursday in Nicosia.

4. Political and business complications

Turkey is blocking, Cyprus wants to wait for more study, companies want to change direction, investors aren't interested

FINANCIAL MIRROR 2022. (Cyprus business newspaper) " Turkey obstacle to EastMed pipeline study" 29 June 2022 (ellipses in original) https://www.financialmirror.com/2022/06/29/turkey-obstacle-to-eastmed-pipeline-study/ (accessed 25 July 2022) (ellipses in original)

The commercial viability study of the ambitious EastMed gas pipeline is not proceeding normally as Turkey is “interfering with the Nautical Geo ship conducting environmental surveys,” Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides said. He said that Cyprus’ attitude “has not changed on the need to wait for environmental sustainability, because of the new development that has arisen from the war in Ukraine.” “We are looking for other solutions such as extracting natural gas from the fields of Israel, Egypt and Cyprus (Aphrodite).” He revealed companies involved in the [EastMed pipeline](https://www.financialmirror.com/2022/04/16/new-momentum-for-east-med-gas/) want to change its direction so that it “can go over the border of the EEZ of Egypt and the Republic of Cyprus and proceed to Crete, bypassing the areas within Turkey’s reach; to harass.” “The Cypriot government has not given its consent to the change of route of the pipeline…so far, no investor has shown interest in the project…this is a bad development in terms of viability.”

Turkish political interference prevents investors from being interested in East Med pipeline

Elias Hazou 2022 (journalist) 28 June 2022 " Lack of interest in EastMed pipeline ‘worrying’" CYPRUS MAIL <https://cyprus-mail.com/2022/06/28/lack-of-interest-in-eastmed-pipeline-worrying/> (accessed 25 July 2022)

Companies have so far not expressed an interest in the construction of the mooted EastMed pipeline, Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides said on Tuesday. He was briefing MPs at the House foreign affairs committee. Kasoulides called the lack of interest “worrying.” He explained that the problem has to do with the fact that a feasibility study for the pipeline has stalled, because the company tasked with the study is being “harassed” by Turkish ships at a location which Turkey claims lies within its continental shelf. As things stand, the minister said, there are only rough estimates relating to the length and cost of the proposed pipeline. The project is thought to carry a price tag of €7 billion. But as long as no feasibility study is available, companies have no information to go on – hence the absence of interest.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Oppression of Palestinian human rights

Link: East Med will send gas from Israel to Europe

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)

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen this month said that the EU was preparing two “major” energy infrastructure projects to increase energy links with Israel. The projects include a gas and hydrogen pipeline in the Eastern Mediterranean and an underwater power cable linking Israel to Cyprus and Greece.

Brink: Natural gas windfall will transform Israel's relationship with Palestinians

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)

The recent news that Germany is firing up long-dormant [coal-powered plants](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/germany-plans-put-idled-coal-plants-standby-case-gas-supply-disruption-2022-05-24/#:~:text=BERLIN,%20May%2024%20(Reuters),ministry%20sources%20said%20on%20Tuesday.) is a significant setback for years of positive growth in the green energy sector. Coal will mitigate some energy concerns, but it cannot replace Europe’s need for natural gas. The continent is looking to kickstart Israeli natural gas imports, and this subsequent cash windfall for Israel could transform its relationship with the Palestinians forever.

Link: Gas revenues will fuel and increase Israeli oppression of Palestinians

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)

With so much focus on Russia’s actions in Ukraine and the subsequent end of Russian natural gas supply, it is unclear if there will be fresh discussions about what Israeli natural gas means for Europe’s commitment to human rights. Israel is on the verge of a cash windfall unlike any other in its brief history. This infusion of capital will radically transform its relationship with the international community over the ongoing occupation of Palestinian land. With recent normalization agreements in the Arab world, Israel is showing the world that it can maintain its brutal domination over the Palestinians while making new allies and getting rich from its bountiful natural gas reserves. The immediate effect will be the maintenance of the status quo and the expansion of Israel’s settlement project in the West Bank. The long-term impact of these developments, at least from a Palestinian perspective, is anything but hopeful.

Impact: Oppression and denial of human rights

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights 2022. " Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories: Israel has imposed upon Palestine an apartheid reality in a post-apartheid world" https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/03/special-rapporteur-situation-human-rights-occupied-palestinian-territories (accessed 22 July 2022) ("apartheid" (pronounced "apart hide") was the governmentally imposed system of racial segregation and white supremacy in South Africa from 1948 - 1994)

Michael Lynk, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, said the report addressed the question as to whether Israel’s acquisitive and repressive practices over the course of its 55-year-old regime had curdled from an endless occupation into something darker, harsher and more ominous.[**END QUOTE]**  He had concluded that the political system of entrenched rule in the occupied Palestinian territory satisfied the prevailing evidentiary standard for the existence of apartheid.  [**HE CONTINUES IN THE SAME CONTEXT QUOTE:]** First, an institutionalised regime of systematic racial oppression and discrimination has been established.  Second, this system of alien rule had been established with the intent to maintain the domination of one racial-national-ethnic group over another.  And third, the imposition of this system of institutionalised discrimination with the intent of permanent domination had been built upon the regular practice of inhuman(e) acts.  This was apartheid.  With the eyes of the international community wide open, Israel had imposed upon Palestine an apartheid reality in a post-apartheid world.

2. Conflict with Lebanon and Hezbollah

[Background: Hezbollah is a group operating in Lebanon and designated by the US as a terrorist organization. They have a habit of launching rockets and blowing up things in Israel and operate their own private militia/army outside of the armed forces of Lebanon. In addition to their violent/military/terror activities, they also are a legitimately operating political party with elected seats in the Lebanese Parliament. Their political goal inside Lebanon is to promote the interests of the Muslim citizens of Lebanon adhering to the Shi'a flavor of Islam (pronounced "SHE-ya", and the people are called Shi'ites "SHE-ites"). Their international goal is the destruction of the State of Israel, which they view as illegitimately occupying land belonging to Arabs. They get a lot of their funding from the government of Iran.]

Link: Eastern Mediterranean drilling zones are disputed. Drilling before settlement will trigger Hezbollah

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)

There are still several significant challenges in the Eastern Mediterranean’s natural gas landscape. The Karish gas field between Israel and Lebanon continues to be a flashpoint. Israel claims the field lies entirely in its UN-designated exclusive economic zone, but Lebanon says the area is disputed. US-mediated talks between Israel and Lebanon have failed to reach a settlement, as the militant group Hezbollah said this month that it would “act” if Israel began to drill in the disputed area before an agreement was made.

Link: Drilling before boundary dispute is settled allows Hezbollah to strengthen its power in Lebanon

Amir Bar Shalom 2022 (journalist) 3 July 2022 "Hezbollah’s drones carried a message to Israeli gas rig, not weapons" TIMES OF ISRAEL https://www.timesofisrael.com/hezbollahs-drones-carried-a-message-to-israeli-gas-rig-not-weapons/ (accessed 22 July 2022)

The Karish gas field is located in an area that is the subject of an ongoing dispute between Israel and Lebanon; both want to develop the lucrative natural gas reserves it holds. The dispute has been a key element of US-brokered negotiations between the two countries over their maritime border.[**END QUOTE**] Hezbollah initially took a pragmatic approach to the talks, surprising Israel. The terror group said it would defend any boundary laid down in the negotiations, effectively leaving the matter to the Lebanese government. And it was Lebanese army officials who attended the talks, not military representatives of the more powerfully armed Hezbollah. But after an initial round of talks headed downhill, Hezbollah backed away from that stance. [**HE CONTINUES LATER WRITING QUOTE:**] Recent Lebanese elections saw the terror group and its allies [lose](https://www.timesofisrael.com/hezbollah-and-allies-dealt-a-blow-in-lebanon-election-early-results-show/) their parliamentary majority while facing heavy criticism inside the country. It has responded by aligning itself with the more hawkish attitude of military figures. The Karish gas field — which took center stage last month after Israel moved a drilling ship there, prompting vocal protests from Lebanon — presents a convenient opportunity for the terror group to position itself as Lebanon’s guardian.

Link: Hezbollah threatens war over natural gas rights

ISRAEL TODAY 2022. (Israeli news organization) "Hezbollah Threatens War With Israel Over Mediterranean Gas Fields" 14 July 2022 <https://www.israeltoday.co.il/read/hezbollah-threatens-war-with-israel-over-mediterranean-gas-fields/> (accessed 22 July 2022)

Lebanon’s Hezbollah terrorist militia on Wednesday issued a [threat of war](https://www.israeltoday.co.il/read/will-hezbollah-attack-israel-over-mediterranean-gas-fields/) should Israel fail to surrender to Lebanon the Karish natural gas field in the Mediterranean Sea. Hezbollah chief **Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah** said in a televised address that his organization is now entirely focused on Karish and “all gas fields across Palestine [sic].” He warned that if Lebanon is not permitted to extract gas from Karish, “we’ll flip the table on the entire world. Going to war would be more honorable if the other choice is for the Lebanese to starve.”

Link: Hezbollah isn't afraid of war and can attack natural gas drilling ships

Erez Linn, Dana Ben-Shimon and Reuters news service 2022. (journalists) 10 June 2022 "Nasrallah: Hezbollah can prevent Israel from pumping gas from Karish field" <https://www.israelhayom.com/2022/06/10/nasrallah-hezbollah-can-prevent-israel-from-pumping-gas-from-karish-field/> (accessed 23 July 2022)

The head of Lebanon's Hezbollah said on Thursday that his group could stop Israel from extracting gas from a maritime field that Beirut says lies in disputed waters, adding Hezbollah is "not afraid of war." Lebanon warned Israel on Sunday against any "aggressive action" in disputed waters where both states hope to develop offshore energy after a vessel operated by London-based Energean arrived off the coast to produce gas for Israel. Hezbollah "has the capacity to prevent the enemy from beginning to extract from Karish, and all the enemy's actions will not be able to protect this ship," Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said in a televised speech.

Brink: Current dispute is diplomatic but tensions could turn violent if we don’t calm things now

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) (brackets added)

Although this latest row remains for now at the diplomatic level, a significant danger exists of terrorist attack or larger military action. The increased tensions are perhaps a partial consequence of the news of the FPSO [floating production storage and offloading vessel] reaching the East Mediterranean. Its operations will be well out of sight of the coast, potentially allowing renewed U.S. efforts to calm or even resolve the tensions without the glare of publicity.

Impact: Another deadly Israel/Lebanon war

SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE 2010. (journalist Bassem Mroue, writer for Associated Press) 26 July 2010 " Natural gas could lead to new Lebanon-Israel war" <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/sdut-natural-gas-could-lead-to-new-lebanon-israel-war-2010jul26-story.html> (accessed 23 July 2022)

An official with Norway’s Petroleum Geo-Services, which is surveying gas fields in Lebanese waters, told The Associated Press that from Noble’s reports there is no reason to think Leviathan extends into Lebanon. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized by his company to speak on the subject. The rumblings are worrisome because Israel and Hezbollah each accuse the other of intending to spark a new conflict following their devastating 2006 war. That fighting, in which Hezbollah’s capture of two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border raid sparked a massive Israeli bombardment, killed about 1,200 Lebanese and 160 Israelis.

3. Methane emissions

Link: When it's not East Med, Europeans admit we shouldn't do natural gas projects due to methane emissions

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)

Despite the political hype, the pipeline has nothing to offer consumers except more expensive energy and a worsening of the climate crisis. The extraction and burning of natural gas emit both carbon dioxide and methane, the two most crucial greenhouse gases. Methane is the more potent of the two. Over 20 years, one molecule of methane is around 90 times more effective at warming the atmosphere than a molecule of carbon dioxide.  Methane is emitted throughout the chain of extraction, transport and storage of natural gas. The term “fugitive emissions” was coined to describe the emission of greenhouse gases during the production process before the burning of natural gas, which in turn generates more emissions. The footprint of natural gas is so negative, that from 2022 onwards, the European Investment Bank (EIB) will no longer be funding natural gas projects as part of its strategy to end support for hydrocarbon infrastructure. This is the [dirty fuel](https://www.investigate-europe.eu/en/2020/natural-gas-trap/) that EastMed will transport. According to a report by human rights organisation [Global Witness](https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/fossil-gas/pyrrhic-victory-why-europe-and-turkey-should-not-fight-over-fossil-gas-we-cannot-use/), if the pipeline remains operational until 2050, it will have generated more greenhouse gases than France, Spain and Italy emit in a year combined.

Link: Methane has substantial impact on climate warming

Environmental Protection Agency 2022. " Importance of Methane" last updated 9 June 2022 <https://www.epa.gov/gmi/importance-methane> (accessed 24 July 2022)

Over the last two centuries, methane concentrations in the atmosphere have more than doubled, largely due to human-related activities. Because methane is both a powerful greenhouse gas and short-lived compared to carbon dioxide, achieving significant reductions would have a rapid and significant effect on atmospheric warming potential.

Link: East Med must be abandoned to avoid climate impacts

*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)*

The science is clearly against the EastMed project. “The [data](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-i/) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change are clear,” says Dimitris Ibrahim, Climate and Energy Policy Officer of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Greece. “The majority of fossil fuels need to stay below ground if we are to achieve the 1.5°C target and prevent a climate collapse. According to the [UN’s Climate Change Programme](https://www.unep.org/), governments worldwide plan to emit 110% more emissions by 2020 than is compatible with the 1.5°C target, including 71% more emissions from natural gas. In order to prevent this, projects like the EastMed must be abandoned.”

Link: East Med distracts attention and funding from safer renewable energy sources

*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)*

What makes the climate hypocrisy behind the EastMed even more glaring is the ready availability of green alternatives to natural gas. “European funds must be channelled to electricity storage and demand management infrastructure, which are an absolute prerequisite for the transition to a 100% climate-neutral electricity system based on renewables, by the middle of the next decade. This goal is widely considered as the stepping stone to total climate neutrality for OECD countries by a wide range of think tanks and research institutions”, Mantzaris noted.

Impact: Harms human health

Environmental Protection Agency 2022. Last updated 7 June 2022 "How Climate Change Affects Human Health" <https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/climate-change-and-human-health> (accessed 25 July 2022)

Climate change affects people’s health in two main ways:
- By changing the **seriousness or frequency** of health problems that people already face.
- By creating **new or unanticipated** health problems in people or places where they have not been before.
- The health effects of climate change include respiratory and heart diseases, pest-related diseases like Lyme disease and West Nile Virus, water- and food-related illnesses, and injuries and deaths.

<https://www.courthousenews.com/eastern-mediterranean-turns-into-source-of-gas-and-conflict/>