

**Afternoon Colloquium**  
**Prospects for an Expanded South Corridor, Monday 5 March, 2018**

Athens University History Museum(5 Tholou St., Plaka)

*Organized by IENE in Association with  
Energy and the Climate Change Policy Centre (KEPA) of the National  
and Kapodistrian University of Athens*

Opening Remarks by John Chadjivassiliadis, Chairman of IENE

**Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Afternoon!**

On behalf of IENE I welcome you to this Afternoon Colloquium on “**Prospects for an Expanded South Corridor**”, organized in association with KEPA of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Natural gas is a new energy carrier in the energy sector of Greece with significant developments during the last years, in infrastructure, extension of networks and increasing penetration in the energy mix.

Further expansion of its use and domination during the 21<sup>st</sup> century should be expected. Renewables and natural gas are the main energy sources in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, towards zero or low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. However, in SE Europe the gas supply is characterized mostly by lack of local production with one dominant supplier in the region.

Significant amounts of natural gas are used for power generation to substitute coal, in parallel with high penetration of renewables, while there are new uses of gas in transport and shipping.

In Greece, gas penetration into the power generation has reached almost 30% and therefore, the security of gas supply is of high priority because both are critical infrastructures and especially electricity the most critical.

The interconnected network, the storage and LNG facilities and the diversification of gas supply are main subjects for further analysis towards the improvement of the security of energy supply.

Energy security is very high on the list of the EU energy and foreign policy agenda, aiming to ensure the diversification of gas supply. To this subject, SE Europe’s geopolitical position is unique as it is close to eastern energy producers’ countries and the East Mediterranean deposits and acting as energy corridor for the EU, both for gas and electricity, towards a more interconnected and secure Europe.

The vertical corridor, the EuroAsia Interconnector, the East-Med pipeline and other pipelines under construction or in a development phase or discussion, as main energy routes should be mentioned.

The concept of an **Expanded South Corridor**, which was first broached by IENE, needs to be introduced for the supply of gas to the main European markets.

The development of an Expanded South Gas Corridor could constitute an integrated project towards the future and an important case for Europe to meet its energy needs by developing a new energy gateway to Europe with gas supplies from the Caspian area and possibly from the Middle East and the East Mediterranean area, improving competitiveness and security of energy supply.

In addition, there are good prospects for oil and gas deposits in some promising areas in SE Europe member-states of the EU, which will act also as indigenous natural storage facilities.

In IENE, by organizing this Colloquium in association with KEPA, with distinguished speakers and high-level audience we wish to contribute to a high level fruitful discussion on the concept of the Expanded South Corridor.

Especially, I would like to underline the presence of Mr Michalis Verroiopoulos, Secretary General for Energy and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Environment and Energy and the presence of Mr. John Roberts, Energy Security Specialist, well-known in the field, to contribute in the matter.

From our side, we aspire to contribute to a much-needed discussion and positive conclusions, which will help the Government and the industry for the proper decisions and the consumers alike.

Our efforts at IENE is to analyze and give a comprehensive perspective on the future energy system in the region and in Europe with natural gas and renewable energies, secure, affordable and climate-friendly energy, which are full of exciting challenges.

Thank you for your attention!!