

Use Cyprus LNG Facility says BESA Report to avoid Islamist Turkey for Israeli Gas Export



The Triple Alliance: Cyprus, Greece and Israel

Source: Dr. Rich Swier

In January 2016, we wrote about the triple alliance formed with Israel, Cyprus and Greece for export of natural gas produced in their respective offshore Exclusive Economic Zones, "[The Triple Alliance Eastern Mediterranean Gas Pipeline announced in Cyprus.](#)" We wrote:

Auspicious meetings were held in Nicosia, Cyprus with members of the emerging Trilateral Eastern Mediterranean Gas Pipeline alliance: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades and Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras.

The alliance was focused on the possibility of developing the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Pipeline with EU assistance to avoid the rising geo-political problems and desires of Turkey's Islamist President Erodgan. He prefers to have Israel

transport natural gas via a Turkish pipeline. However concerns with Turkey's stability have arisen, with domestic turmoil as a result of the staged coup and purge by Erdogan. There is also his renewal of relations with Russia over the completion of the Turkish pipeline have raised questions about the wisdom of that option. This is notwithstanding the reconciliation pact between Israel and Turkey reached in August. In a September 2016, *New English Review* article, "[Why are Turkey and Israel Reconciling](#)," we wrote:

There are compelling economic and security reasons for reconciliation between Turkey and Israel. One is significant tourism and economic trade between the two Mediterranean countries. Another is the attraction to Ankara of Israel's development of major gas fields offshore in its Exclusive Economic Zone. That requires investments in pipelines for transporting it to both Turkey, for its internal needs, and prime markets in the EU. Erdogan had just concluded a deal with Russian President Putin in Moscow that would complete the so-called Turkish Stream pipeline. Israel's gas would offer significant economic benefits to Turkey which, in turn, might invest in the submarine pipeline connecting Israel's offshore gas fields to the Turkish Stream, estimated at \$4 billion.

There is another option that we noted in our January 2016 *Iconoclast* post on the triple alliance, the existing option of an LNG facility in Cyprus:

There is the alternative of the onshore LNG facility at Vassilikos on Cyprus' south shore to be built by the Consortium at an estimated cost of \$10 billion. A Memorandum of Understanding for planning the Vassilikos LNG complex was