

Declaration
on the development of cooperation in the field of energy
between Turkmenistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan,
the Republic of Turkey and the European Union

We, the Director of the State Agency for Management and Use of Hydrocarbon Resources at the President of Turkmenistan Yagshygeldi Kakayev, the Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan Natig Aliyev, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Turkey Taner Yildiz and the Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Energy Union Maros Sefcovic (hereinafter referred to as the Parties),

Noting the importance of sustainable energy in modern world and the provision of global energy security,

Basing on the principles of equal and fair access to energy and unrestricted export of energy to international energy markets,

Calling for creating maximum favorable conditions for ensuring reliable, stable and long-term international energy cooperation by an equal consideration of the interests of energy producing, transiting and consuming countries,

Considering that international relations in the field of energy should primarily be carried out on the basis of diversification of energy sources, delivery routes and sales markets, and therefore, emphasizing the importance of developing efficient cooperation between Turkmenistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkey and the European Union,

Also in compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation in the field of energy between Turkmenistan and the European Union signed on 26 May 2008, the Memorandum of Understanding on Strategic Partnership in the field of energy between the European Union and the Republic of Azerbaijan signed on 7 November 2006, and the Joint Declaration on Southern Gas Corridor between the

European Union and the Republic of Azerbaijan signed on 13 January 2011, the Joint Press Statement of the Southern Gas Corridor Advisory Council issued on 12 February 2015, the Agreement concerning the transit passage of natural gas between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Republic of Turkey signed in October 2011; the Memorandum of Understanding concerning the development of a standalone pipeline signed in December 2011; the Agreement concerning Transit Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP) signed in June 2012; the Agreement concerning the Trans Caspian Turkmenistan-Turkey-Europe Natural Gas Pipeline Project between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and Government of Turkmenistan signed in October 1998; the Framework Agreement on the cooperation on transportation of natural gas from Turkmenistan to the Republic of Turkey signed in May 2013, as well as the Joint Declaration of Turkey-EU High Level Energy Dialogue Strategic Energy Cooperation dated March 2015,

We declare the following:

1. The Parties recognize the importance of equal and mutually beneficial cooperation in ensuring reliable natural gas supplies from Turkmenistan to Europe.

2. The Parties consider it necessary to facilitate joint efforts for the preparation of the draft of a legal Framework Agreement on natural gas supply from Turkmenistan to Europe.

3. In the view of considering organizational, legal, commercial, technical and other issues, related to natural gas supply from Turkmenistan to Europe, the Parties agreed to establish a Working Group at the level of Deputy Ministers (or equivalent) in charge of energy sphere of Turkmenistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Turkey and the European Union. The composition of the Working Group and the schedule of talks for 2015 will be agreed among the Parties within one month. Georgia will also be invited to the next meeting.

4. The Parties note the significance of initiative on establishing the Caspian Development Corporation and welcome the consultations carried out with gas companies in the context of the study to define the appropriate modalities and parameters for establishing and efficient functioning of such corporation.

5. The Parties highlight the necessity to develop constructive dialogue on formation of transport infrastructure necessary for providing reliable supply of natural gas from Turkmenistan to Europe. Meanwhile the Parties pay attention to the fact that construction of this transport infrastructure shall be carried out in strict compliance with the relevant norms and standards, including those related to safety and environmental protection.

6. The Parties welcome the completion of the preliminary environmental study on the Trans-Caspian Pipeline, with financial support of the European Union and World Bank, which will be published before the end of 2015.

7. The Parties support the establishment of appropriate commercial frameworks which, in accordance with international legal acts and the European Union Legislation, where applicable, will be aimed at supporting long-term supply of natural gas from Turkmenistan to Europe.

8. The Parties highly appreciate their pursuit to continue actively interact in the framework of international organizations on the issues of establishing efficient international mechanism aimed to achieve energy security.

This Declaration is adopted by the Parties in Ashgabat on 1 May 2015.

