

# EUROPE'S KEYSTONE XL?



## The Planned Mega-Pipelines

Behind the closed doors of company boardrooms and government offices a mega pipeline is being planned and promoted. This huge piece of infrastructure would carry gas over 4,000 kilometers from the Caspian Sea to Central Europe, and in the process would lock Europe into gas dependency for at least the next 35 years. Such a project would not enable us to 'transition to a renewably powered Europe', but instead would lock us into fossil fuel for decades, making it even more difficult to tackle climate change.

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## The Route:

The mega-pipeline would suck gas 4,000 kms from the Caspian Sea to Central Europe.

From 26 new gas wells in the Azeri Caspian Sea, fossil fuel would be forced westwards through the South Caucasus Pipeline Expansion across Azerbaijan & Georgia. From there, the new Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline would pump the gas across the entire length of Turkey, to the border with Greece. From here a further line would run: the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline across Greece and Albania to Italy.

While each segment has a different name, in reality they are all part of one giant mega-pipeline. And the pipeline plans don't end there. Pressure is building to extend it, to suck gas across the Caspian from Turkmenistan, and North from Iraq and Iran. This would create a significant resource grab as Central Asian and Middle Eastern gas fields would be locked directly into the European grid.

## The Climate Impacts:

Corporates and politicians attempt to present gas as a replacement for coal, promising lower carbon emissions. But the truth is that LNG terminals, tankers, pipelines and the extraction of gas itself produces high levels of CO<sub>2</sub>.

This mega-pipeline could put an extra 1100 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere by 2048 - the equivalent of 2.5 years of total emissions from five of the countries it runs through: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Greece and Albania.<sup>1</sup> It would lock the EU into dependency on fossil fuels, undermine support for renewable energy even further and undermine our ability to transition to a low carbon economy. To reduce our emissions below 350 ppm, we have to stop this pipeline.

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<sup>1</sup> This is calculated according to figures taken from TAP's website: <http://www.trans-adriatic-pipeline.com/tap-project/key-features/capacity/> and figures on the level of throughput from TANAP: [http://www.jamestown.org/programs/edm/single/?tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=39545&tx\\_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=27&cHash=2e9f386bf569ef7ea670cde5a5c3784c#.Ucw\\_bceuieFc](http://www.jamestown.org/programs/edm/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=39545&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=27&cHash=2e9f386bf569ef7ea670cde5a5c3784c#.Ucw_bceuieFc)

## Other Impacts:

This mega-pipeline would also harm human rights, democracy and push more people into fuel poverty. BP's recently-built Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline on a similar route caused environmental destruction, loss of livelihoods and heavy repression along the militarised route. If the new mega-pipeline goes ahead, people living along it would experience the same disruption.

The pipeline would entrench Azeri oil dictator Ilham Aliyev, the country's oil dictator who uses Azerbaijan's fossil fuels to finance repression. The new gas pipeline would see more money from Caspian natural resources siphoned into offshore bank accounts.

The mega-pipeline would increase dependence for people in Western and Central Europe on gas imports. This would give more power to big energy companies and see gas prices rise even higher, pushing more and more people into fuel poverty.

This pipeline would give corporations and politicians further control over our energy and lives, and threaten human rights and the environment from the Caspian to Central Europe.

## Companies involved:

BP is a major player in extracting Caspian gas and building this pipeline. BP wants this massive infrastructure so it can sell its gas at a higher price. But this pipeline is so huge that it cannot be built by one company alone. A consortium of companies plan to build the mega-pipeline together, including:

- SOCAR (the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan). Socar will be significant investors, potentially along the whole route. SOCAR is controlled by the Aliyev regime and faces many allegations of corruption and malpractice (for example demolishing people's homes without permission or court orders). The company's significant involvement in the project is very controversial.
- BOTAS – the Turkish state petroleum Pipeline Company (also involved in the building of BTC).
- Turkish Petroleum Overseas Company
- Iranian National Oil Company
- Statoil (Norwegian)

- Total (French)
- E.ON (German)
- RWE (German)
- Axpo (Swiss)

### How much would it cost?

Over \$40 billion. Much of this would come from public funding from the likes of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development.

Yet most would be borne by the Azeri State Oil Fund, SOFAZ. This was initially intended to diversify the Azeri economy, not to entrench dependence on fossil fuels. Infrastructure projects often run over budget and over schedule, so it could cost substantially more.

### How can this pipeline be stopped?

The mega-pipeline would cross six different countries and involve many different corporations and political decision making processes. This means there are many opportunities to stop it being built. Campaigns could include both political lobbying and corporate shaming.

If we stop the pipeline being built in one place, we can stop its construction everywhere - the pipeline is only useful if the whole structure is complete.

This is a chance for citizens across Europe and beyond to achieve a significant climate victory together. While campaigns will look very different in the many different places along the route, people will be working towards a common goal: stopping the pipeline.

The mega-pipeline promises not only to lock us in to climate disaster but to limit our imaginations - so a life beyond carbon continues to elude us. Stopping the mega-pipeline is a key step in reclaiming our energy future.