



## TEXAS-TÜRKİYE BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE MEETING 12 March 2025, Houston

Greater Houston Partnership (GHP), Türkiye-U.S. Business Council (TAİK) & American Turkish Business Roundtable (ATBR) organized a Business Roundtable with Dr. Alparslan Bayraktar, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Türkiye.

In this meeting, Participants discussed and explored Türkiye's advancements and opportunities to reach net zero target; focusing on policies to boost renewable energy, include nuclear energy to energy mix, integrate new technologies like hydrogen and battery storage and enhance critical mineral capabilities.

Minister of Energy and Natural Resources emphasized that Türkiye and the U.S. have significant potential to strengthen their strategic cooperation in the energy sector. The increase in our LNG trade, renewable energy investments, and technology-driven projects are taking the partnership between our two countries to a new level. The steps taken here today are of great importance in terms of energy supply security, sustainability, and mutual investment opportunities. As Türkiye, we will continue to enhance global partnerships while accelerating our energy transition.

### Regional Energy Policy Developments

- **Romania and Iraq Energy Policy Changes:** Updates on evolving energy strategies in Romania and Iraq, focusing on regulatory adjustments and new market dynamics.
- **New Potential Energy Sources from Iraq:** Exploration of alternative sources within Iraq to enhance supply security and regional stability.

### Türkiye's Energy Strategy & Market Priorities

- **Reducing Energy Imports:** Emphasis on minimizing Türkiye's dependency on energy imports through domestic energy production, renewable projects, and infrastructure enhancements.
- **Oil Demand & Market Security:** Türkiye currently requires approximately 1 million barrels of crude oil daily, making the security of gas pipelines a critical priority.
- **Power Generation Imports:** Discussion on sourcing power generation solutions from international markets, including potential U.S. partnerships.

## Renewable Energy & Sustainability

- **Comprehensive Renewable Energy Strategy:** Türkiye is expanding its renewable energy sector, covering solar, wind, and hydroelectric projects.
- **Collaboration with International Financial Institutions:** Türkiye is actively engaging with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the World Bank to secure funding for energy projects.
- **Oil & Gas Sector Developments:** Continental Resources agreement and other key oil and gas investments were highlighted. Minister Bayraktar stated that daily production at the Sakarya Gas Field in the Black Sea has reached approximately 7.5 million cubic meters, adding, we will increase this to 9.5 million cubic meters next month and to 20 million cubic meters in 2026. This will allow 15% of our domestic demand to be met from the Sakarya Gas Field. By 2030, 30% of our gas needs will come from here. Recalling that Turkish Petroleum (TPAO) has signed a Joint Venture Agreement with two U.S. companies, Continental Resources and TransAtlantic, he stated: Together with our American partners, we will focus on unconventional oil and gas production in the Diyarbakır Basin, marking a first in Türkiye-U.S. cooperation in this field. This will be a historic step. I can say that it will usher in a new era for oil and gas exploration in Türkiye.
- **Potential in Southeastern Türkiye:** Opportunities for further exploration and production of oil and gas in this region.
- **Utilization of Türkiye's Energy Infrastructure:** Türkiye plays a strategic role in European energy security through the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline and other key infrastructure projects.

## Nuclear Energy & Decarbonization

- **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs):** Türkiye sees SMRs as a key technology for industrial decarbonization and aims to collaborate with U.S. firms on nuclear energy development.
- **European Carbon Taxation Policies:** Anticipating Europe's upcoming carbon taxation regulations, Türkiye is proactively addressing carbon emissions reduction.
- **Critical Minerals & Clean Energy Technologies:** Türkiye is implementing policies to reduce reliance on imported critical minerals and is developing domestic production of solar panels, wind turbines, and battery storage solutions.

## Iraq-Türkiye Pipeline (ITP) & Energy Trade

- **Expansion & Utilization of ITP Pipeline:** Plans to extend and fully operationalize the Iraq-Türkiye Pipeline to enhance oil and gas transit.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Proposals for road projects connecting Iraq to Türkiye and further to Europe to support energy and trade routes.
- **Increased Oil Pipeline Capacity:** 1.5 million barrels of crude oil are currently prepared for transportation through the pipeline.

## **International Cooperation & Emerging Opportunities**

- **Somalian Offshore Operations:** Türkiye requires three additional offshore fields to be operational by April.
- **Digitalization of Energy Infrastructure:** AVEA inquired about the potential for digitalization of transformers to enhance grid efficiency.
- **Reconstruction Demand from Ukraine:** U.S. representative Greg raised inquiries about Türkiye's ability to supply construction materials for Ukraine's rebuilding efforts.

## **Conclusion**

The roundtable meeting underscored Türkiye's pivotal role in regional energy security and its commitment to reducing import dependency through increased domestic production, renewables, and strategic infrastructure projects. Collaboration with U.S. energy companies remains a priority, particularly in nuclear energy, critical minerals, and pipeline expansion.

- Follow-up discussions with U.S. firms on SMR technology partnerships.
- Further evaluation of Iraq's potential energy sources for integration into Türkiye's supply chain.
- Engagement with EBRD and the World Bank for additional funding opportunities.
- Strategic planning for energy infrastructure projects linking Iraq, Türkiye, and Europe.
- Development of digital transformation initiatives in Türkiye's energy sector.