

THE DIVERSE IMPACT OF GREECE'S INVOLVEMENT IN ENERGY MATTERS

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Introduction

The new era of global environmental issues demands the engagement of new energy policies both actively and dynamically. The turn from the traditional sources to new ones, will strengthen the economy of a nation and will bring it one step closer to energy autonomy. Development in the field of production is of high value and the next level of environmental policies opposite to redistribution.

During the last years the abundant form that has been approved as the best solution for reliable, clean and domestic energy to reduce their reliance on foreign sources of energy is natural gas.

Greece is a country with the potential abilities to take advantage of its location as a dynamic energy distributor in the south part of Europe as a bridge between East and West. Getting in the energy field Greece will be able to support its partner countries and benefit from various investment opportunities and revenue flows. As a result Greece should not be sensitive to foreign interference, but cooperative in a common goal.

The following is a presentation of the latest proposals in Greek energy cooperation as far as the distribution is concerned. This article will state the pros and cons and cover all the possible areas as far as the TAP and South stream pipelines. TAP stands for Trans Adriatic Pipeline and it serves Azeri interests. South stream is the pipeline that serves Russian interests. These two are the most important energy cooperation proposals for Greece this period.

Greece should seize the opportunity that's given, regardless who will be picked as energy partner. After considering which one is in best interest for Greece now or a future partner in new forms of energy could be the starting point for an independent development of natural resources to be found in sea

and shore in the future years. The combined effort with partners of advanced level of experience in energy matters, will prepare solid foundation for Greece's own energy opportunities.

The geopolitical impact of Greece due to the involvement in the energy sector and the pros and cons that come along.

The involvement of Greece in the energy field will cause multidimensional and radical changes with time. The engagement with energy allies will probably awaken the need in Greece to take part in a more active role in the global energy events that take place, finally Greece should take advantage of its geographical location and act as an important energy link between the East and the West.

It is vital to comprehend the role of the energy distributors in nowadays as the need of energy is becoming greater all over the globe. If we combine the demand for energy and the rarity of resources we get the increased value and price and as a result we realize that the price of natural gas is the best choice not only for its lower price, but also the environmental impact of it. Natural gas is the cleanest and environmentally friendly in compare with coal or oil. Also the fast expanding exhaustion of oil reserves worldwide is now a fact that helps natural gas gaining ground when the resources get to be compared.

If Greece enters the energy field, the most immediate changes that will be experienced, are the investments and the inflow of foreign funds in different aspects and forms. Except of the construction work that will take place on the area where the pipeline will take its form, the maintenance of the project it's self is also very important in the future profit share. Between exporting countries and the country of admission the forwarding agent may not just benefit from a wide initial investment in its territory but also from its maintenance. Sometimes the gain could be a part of the migrant gas that flows through the country itself. The remuneration of the country is not always a share of the distributed natural gas, but also in any potential deal sealed by the countries involved in the agreement. The energy cooperation is something that will increase its profits of the state budget, one way or another and will reduces costs over time through the detachment of the oil and the shift to natural gas.

However something else need to be said, is that the interaction of Greece with the international energy productive countries might just be the right "school" for Greece to take some lessons just before becoming active in its own energy resources that is said to be found and many more to be discovered. So getting involved with major energy productive countries is considered as a great opportunity.

We also need not to misjudge the status of Greece as an energy partner. Because could be the perfect partner for any country that exports energy resources. Some of things an exporting energy country is looking in a potential partner is political and social stability to ensure its stable activity in the region, and in the Mediterranean region Greece is the best solution for any partner to seal a deal and create a connection between East and West. In order to seal that kind of deal the guarantees about political stability are essential from both sides, the positive agreement of current government in power and the opposition to it, so the mutual interest wont fade away in time and the agreement will maintain its first form and won't change by any means.

This will help both countries to gain their own interests with the lowest risk as possible.

Another advantage is that Greece's importance will be evolved, from just a alliance member in the EU that doesn't play a great role in decisions made on its behalf, to a vital country and its importance to be safe and protected from any foreign invasion or negative interaction domestically, cause its role is to provide energy supplies the EU and not only. Being a distributor makes the country safer and attracts the attention of partner countries to keep it safe and sound for their own energy interest, it prepares the ground for possible new partnerships and alliances and even redefines old ones.

There is also a domestic advantage that's very important for the Greek people and it is a matter that concerns mass psychological recovery from the economic crisis. According to data from the Research Institute of Mental Health, the last three years has almost doubled the frequency of suicides in Greece (6.5 by 3.4 suicides per 100,000 inhabitants)¹. 20% increase in recorded incidents and depression². If such construction would start in Greece in either case Russian or Azeri's interest there would be employment chances and be a cause to stop the youth be directed to the external labor migration and see a chance of staying in their own country and diverse the whole idea about Greece not having a prospective as a place to achieve things.

Possible collaboration with Azeri gas pipeline (TAP) the pros and cons.³

Just to be sure that we get the hole point in which is the identity of the Azeri pipeline we must mention that investors in this project are 3 companies that share the head chair and those are: EON (Germany-15%) TAP AXPO (EGL) (Switzerland - 42,5%) Statoil (Norway - 42.5%)⁴. The transport capacity: 10 billion. Cubic meters per year - extendable to 20 billion by adding two compressor stations in Serres and the Greek-Albanian borders. Also some technical details that just might interest some people is that the tube diameter: onshore section 1.2 meters, offshore section 0.91 meters cause its really makes a difference in the natural gas placement and transfer. The total length of the project will be 870km in which the 550km are taking place in Greece, 110km in the Adriatic Sea also 205 km in Albania and 5 km in Italy. Altitude difference will be great because the highest point of the project will be 1800 meters approximately in the mountains of Albania and the lowest one will be 810 meters under the Adriatic Sea surface.

¹ Βυθούλκας Διονύσης , Φυντανίδου Ελενα, ΔΗΜΟΣΙΕΥΣΗ: 03/04/2013 07:13. <<Ντόμινο αυτοκτονιών λόγω κρίσης την τελευταία τριετία>>[e-journal] Στον ιστότοπο: <http://www.tovima.gr/society/article/?aid=505755> [Ημερομηνία επίσκεψης/ανάκτησης 12/08/2014]

² Ρεπορτάζ Υγείας, ΔΗΜΟΣΙΕΥΣΗ: 10-09-2014 / 09:00. <<Πως η κρίση αύξησε τις αυτοκτονίες στην χώρα μας! Παγκόσμια Ημέρα>>[e-journal] Στον ιστότοπο: <http://www.iatropedia.gr/articles/read/3422> [Ημερομηνία επίσκεψης/ανάκτησης 12/08/2014]

³ Έκθεση του ΥΠΕΞ, ΔΗΜΟΣΙΕΥΣΗ: 26 Ιουν. 2013, 15:19. <<Τα πλεονεκτήματα για την Ελλάδα από την επιλογή του TAP>>[e-journal] Στον ιστότοπο: <http://news.in.gr/economy/article/?aid=1231254660> [Ημερομηνία επίσκεψης/ανάκτησης 12/08/2014]

⁴ <http://www.tap-ag.com/the-pipeline/building-the-pipeline/in-greece> [Ημερομηνία επίσκεψης/ανάκτησης 12/08/2014]

A possible collaboration with the Azeri pipeline will be one of the most expensive investments in Greece the last years and it will definitely put Greece back in tracks in the international world energy map and as far as the geopolitics are concerned. Also being part of the natural gas pipeline in the southern gas corridor that will supply the whole Europe make the country get involved in the exploitation of large natural gas deposits in the Caspian Sea. Greece will be able to distribute natural gas to the countries in the Southeast Europe and their markets like Romania and Bulgaria the pipelines IGB⁵ and IAP⁶ will manage to supply the western Balkans. It is clear that even the distribution of the natural gas is something that will make Greece to gain even more profit in future days and as a result the neighboring countries will form a stronger bond between them.

The significant foreign direct investment that Greece really needs it these days with all the unfavorable conditions prevailing in the country and the TAP's is foreign direct investment in Greece of 1.5 billion Euros would be of a great help for the national economy. The need for man power will be immediate, the total employment opportunities will be 2,000 direct and 10,000 new direct jobs. Knock-offs on Greek economy will pop up along the way the construction and operation of the project, will require the procurement of a variety of products and services by Greek companies, that will broaden the horizons of small companies. This will be useful in the preparation of project and as a result there will be a more developed market and offer services for future projects.

Referring to such amount's it should be mentioned for the investment trust that will be build by the completion of the project something that shows the confidence of the international investment community and a sympathy and confidence in dynamics and the prospects of the Greek economy that will motivate and transfer to other investment groups and communities to choose to Greece as a place to be active in the business area⁷.

All above are the positive aspects of such collaboration, but there is also the other side of the coin. We must really consider the facts that might discredit the project as there are dangers on the passage of Azerbaijani gas pipeline according with Annex Eastern Macedonia Geotechnical Chamber of Greece in matter that concern the local community and not just them, problems that are presented are⁸ :

- Loss of agricultural land of high productivity, since the entire land management legislation geared to protect and maintain the high productivity of land.
- Prohibiting obligatory crop over and near the conduit.

⁵ http://www.icgb.eu/about/igb_project [Ημερομηνία επίσκεψης/ανάκτησης 12/08/2014]

⁶ Kostis Geropoulos, Published: 27.09.2013 - 19:40<<Croatia: Croatia: 'Ionian Adriatic Pipeline is top priority'>>[e-journal] On the website: <http://www.neurope.eu/article/croatia-ionian-adriatic-pipeline-top-priority%E2%80%99> [Date visit / recovery 12/08/2014]

⁷ Γιώργου Αλεξάκη, Published: 2014. <<Συλλαλητήριο για τον αγωγό αερίου TAP από το ΓΕΩΤΕΕ Αν. Μακεδονίας>>[e-journal] On the website: <http://www.anexartitos.gr/syllalithirio-gia-ton-agogo-aerioy-tar-apo-to-geotee-an-makedonias/>[Date visit / recovery 12/08/2014]

⁸ www.anexartitos.gr, Published: 2013. <<Οι κίνδυνοι για τις Σέρρες, από τον αγωγό φυσικού αερίου TAP, σύμφωνα με το ΓΕΩΤΕΕ>>[e-journal] On the website: <http://www.anexartitos.gr/oi-kindynoi-gia-tis-serres-apo-ton-agogo-fysikoy-aerioy-tap-symfona-geotee/> [Date visit / recovery 12/08/2014]

- Unnecessary and / or difficult movements in the rural area, with all that this implies in environmental, economic and social charges
- Cancellation of land reclamation projects in the region

It's been told that most of the agricultural problems will be solved and they will continue with the procedure of the constriction of the pipeline⁹. These are just couple of the most important problems that sees the light of publicity and surly need to be checked and reassured or maybe even most of them solved if possible. Then points to the dangers of the creation of the Compressor Station near the city of Serres, mainly on the risks to the health of the villagers of Constantinato notes an increase in oxides of nitrogen (NOx) from 19.5% to 70% which is a huge percentage and a great increase almost 50% increase.

Possible collaboration with South stream gas pipeline the pros and cons.

Russian interest pipeline that goes by the name "South stream" as far as the company and the in charge of the construction work and the transportation of the natural gas is concerned it consists of multiple companies and people in charge. The main partners that still have the head chair in the whole project is Russian Gazprom¹⁰ and the Italian Eni¹¹ so together they plan to carry out the south stream project¹². If we take a good look at the international affairs around the globe right now it is clear that it's the right time to make good and powerful friends...and yes by powerful is meant, in every mean possible, in the best interest for the most unstable country.

The latest events that concern Russia and European Union would be characterized as tense and the starting point was the Ukrainian crisis in which will not be elaborated here, because it's been presented in another RIEAS researches¹³. It's a basic need to watch carefully the chain reactions that took place in the foreign relationships between them.

After the happenings in Crimea with the blood clashes going on for days and almost reaching to civil war levels between the Ukrainian people. European union and the USA asked Russia not to take action in the event's and let the Ukrainian people solve it by them self's without any intervention. Russian president Vladimir Putin felt obligated to intervene and keep safe Russians in the Ukraine¹⁴ as he replied. So the EU and USA reaction was to sanction Russia in any way possible. Trying to boycott natural gas in EU was at first a "good" idea but after couple of organizations gave it a

⁹ <http://www.newsit.gr/>, Published: 12.09.2014 | 18:24. <<Εγκρίθηκαν οι περιβαλλοντικοί όροι για τον αγωγό TAP>>[e-journal] On the website: http://www.newsit.gr/default.php?pname=Article&art_id=333725&catid=13 [Date visit / recovery 13/08/2014]

¹⁰ <http://www.gazprom.com/about/> [Date visit / recovery 13/08/2014]

¹¹ http://www.eni.com/en_IT/company/company-profile/company-profile.shtml [Date visit / recovery 13/08/2014]

¹² <http://www.eni.com>, Published: 23/05/2014, CET 11:55. <<Eni: agreement signed with Gazprom on revision of gas supply terms>>[press-releases] On the website: http://www.eni.com/en_IT/attachments/media/press-release/2014/05/PR_Russia.pdf [Date visit / recovery 13/08/2014]

¹³ <http://rieas.gr/search?searchword=ukraine&searchphrase=all> [Date visit / recovery 13/08/2014]

¹⁴ By Kathy Lally and Will England, Published: March 4. <<Putin says he reserves right to protect Russians in Ukraine>>[e-journal/news] On the website: http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/putin-reserves-the-right-to-use-force-in-ukraine/2014/03/04/92d4ca70-a389-11e3-a5fa-55f0c77bf39c_story.html [Date visit / recovery 13/08/2014]

second thought, they decide it could work also all the way around and EU could find itself in a more difficult¹⁵ place with a possible lack of heat source and energy in general¹⁶.

Any Russian-Greek cooperation in the energy field would benefit both sides. Russia finally would be able to step its foot in the Mediterranean Sea having Greece as a stepping stone, as an energy collaborator and as an ally, not only in the energy field. That would make easier for Russia to close deals with countries that was "prohibitory" to get in touch with due to distance which was the reason that made Russian proposals not so competitive with other countries/ companies proposals.

Greece would benefit through the natural gas possible construction work, that would provide in a similar way the same employment opportunities as the TAP pipeline cause of the almost similarity of the development of such a project. Foreign policy between the two countries would be different and closer than today. For example with a well developed relationship Greece could avoid being sanctioned by Russia as far as the agricultural products is concerned. It's a huge blow for Greek producers, cause agricultural products the 41.5% it is exported to Russia¹⁷. The way Greece could defuse such tension would be by presenting the long term collaboration in which they both are. All the above that concern the South stream would happen as it is said as a "Plan B"¹⁸ for Russia and take the same geographical road as the TAP pipeline if the pressure to Bulgaria¹⁹ continues as it is²⁰.

Another benefit for Greece is that it could join in an unofficial alliance that exist in the present time which is between Russia and China²¹, Greece would be the marketing channel for both countries and there would be a strong triangle created in many ways: Geopolitical, Financial, Social, Strategic. An absolute interaction among them for their best interest. Russia is been said that will be the main provider of natural gas for China²² that makes the two countries look alike in many ways of interest. There are

¹⁵ newmoney.gr, Published: 24/07/2014 18:10. <<Putin says he reserves right to protect Russians in Ukraine>>[e-journal/news] On the website: <http://energypress.gr/news/fysiko-aerio/Giati-h-EE-den-prokeitai-na-labeli-sklihroteres-kyrwseis-kata-ths-Rwsias> [Date visit / recovery 15/08/2014]

¹⁶ By Matthew C. Klein, Published: MAR 5, 2014 1:15 PM EST. <<Russian Gas Can Be a Weapon for Europe>>[e-journal/news] On the website: <http://www.bloombergtv.com/articles/2014-03-05/russian-gas-can-be-a-weapon-for-europe> [Date visit / recovery 15/08/2014]

¹⁷ ekathimerini.com, Published: Thursday August 7, 2014 (20:45) T. <<Greece hopes local products escape Russian export embargo>>[e-journal/news] On the website: http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/_w_articles_ws1_1_07/08/2014_542020 [Date visit / recovery 15/08/2014]

¹⁸ <http://www.euractiv.com/>, Published: 28/05/2014 - 09:07. <<Barroso warns Bulgaria on South Stream>>[e-journal/news] On the website: <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/energy/barroso-warns-bulgaria-south-stream-302467> [Date visit / recovery 16/08/2014]

¹⁹ <http://kremlin.ru>, Published: 24 may 2014, 18:30 . <<Встреча с руководителями мировых информагентств>>[e-journal/news] On the website: <http://kremlin.ru/news/21090> [Date visit / recovery 16/08/2014]

²⁰ <http://www.euractiv.com>, Published: 19/08/2014 - 16:17. <<South Stream 'Plan B' opts for route through Greece and Turkey>>[e-journal/news] On the website: <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/energy/south-stream-plan-b-opts-route-through-greece-and-turkey-307839> [Date visit / recovery 16/08/2014]

²¹ Κωνσταντίνος Γρίβας, <<Η στρατιωτική άνοδος της Κίνας και η γεωπολιτική του πολέμου στην Μέση Ανατολή>> εκδόσεις : Λιβάνη , Αθήνα 2013.

²² <http://www.e-go.gr>, Published: 13:34 21/5_ << Συμφώνησαν Κίνα - Ρωσία για το φυσικό αέριο>>[e-journal/news] On the website: <http://www.e-go.gr/news/article.asp?catid=17827&subid=2&pubid=129734618> [Date visit / recovery 16/08/2014]

also rumors that there is an ongoing debate about Russian-Indian collaboration in the energy, education, science and technology matters.

“Our defense cooperation continues to be strong, and we expect that Russia will remain a key defense partner for India as we move into a stage of joint design, development, and production of key defense platforms.” The Prime Minister stressed²³.

That would make the possible alliance even stronger and strategically more secure in many ways. And also it would be new markets opening for Greece agricultural products and possible exportable products and Indian economy shouldn't be underestimated because it is the 10th in the world by nominal GDP.

It might sound irrelevant but tourism is also a vital point for Greek economy cause if we consider the stats²⁴ according to data that were released by the Association of Greek Tourism Enterprises (SETE) and the Bank of Greece, tourism might just be the main contributor to Greek economy and a field of rising competitiveness at global level²⁵. Tourism is the actual 18% of year GDP and almost employs 1million people in a country that consist of 11 million people. So considering all these we could say that tourism is also a field of clash between interests. We see that cause of the collapsing of Russian tour operators and the cancellations of Russian arrivals²⁶.

But EU want just stand still in a possible change of Greece's interest and an actual double-cross on EU policy. A serious problem caused by the cooperation between Greece and Russia in the energy field would be that definitely EU would change the attitude towards her. And to be honest after the latest events and the talks that been going on for the effort to reduce the taxes and in general the pressure being forced on the Greek people suck a cross would only make the negotiations over the depth even harder²⁷.

We shouldn't forget that EU is close with Washington and it wouldn't sound strange if even the United States of America would react to such change. If we take good look in the past till now we would realize that mostly after WWII there are theories as the one of Mr. Spykman called Rimland²⁸ that claim that though alliance it would be possible to limit the descent of Russia to Mediterian Sea.

On the basis of what was stated before we must again consider what all this could lead to as a result to Greece. Previous partners can create an unstable situation in issues

²³By Bhargavi Kerur , Published: October 22, 2013 13:36 IST. <<India, Russia to Collaborate on Energy, Education, Science and Technology>>[e-journal/news] On the website: <http://www.ibtimes.co.in/india-russia-to-collaborate-on-energy-education-science-and-technology-5158049> [Date visit / recovery 16/08/2014]

²⁴ SETE , Published: on May 17, 2012. <<India, Russia to Collaborate on Energy, Education, Science and Technology>>[e-journal/news] On the website : <http://www.slideshare.net/setegreece/sete2012final> [Date visit / recovery 16/08/2014]

²⁵ Hellenic Republic - Greece in the USA , Published: Wednesday 24 September 2014. <<For a Sustainable Tourism Industry>>[e-journal/news] On the website: <http://www.mfa.gr/usa/en/about-greece/tourism/for-sustainable-tourism-industry.html> [Date visit / recovery 18/08/2014]

²⁶ Iefimerida , Published: 6-8-2014. <<Γιατί καταρρέουν οι Ρώσοι tour operators>>[e-journal/news] On the website: <http://www.e-radio.gr/blog/post.asp?uid=28372> [Date visit/recovery 18/08/2014]

²⁷ Του ΔΗΜΗΤΡΗ ΤΣΙΟΥΦΟΥ , Published: 16/9/2014. <<ΤΟΝ ΚΙΝΔΥΝΟ ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΔΙΧΑΣΜΟΥ ΕΠΙΣΗΜΑΙΝΕΙ Ο ΕΥΑΓΓ. ΒΕΝΙΖΕΛΟΣ Αισιοδοξία στο Μαξίμου για τις διαπραγματεύσεις με την τρόικα>>[e-journal/news] On the website: <http://www.imerisia.gr/article.asp?catid=26516&subid=2&pubid=113348209> [Date visit/recovery 18/08/2014]

²⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_J._Spykman [Date visit/recovery December 2008]

related to domestic and foreign policy of Greece, just to cause make Greece not a good partner for cooperation.

Also issues that are vulnerable for the country would get in the center attention and there would be forces exercising economic pressures or simply creating an artificial chain reaction in social reaction for example cause of the tense climate in Greece of the prosperity is something easily achieved and also anything that involves Greek-Turkey relations it's a very sensitive issue and could be approached by many sides and aspects such as the Cyprus matter that still stands as a problem without solution after the Turkish invasion, also people say that a motivated turbulence in manipulated minority population of Thrace is also possible just because Greece is not paying as much attention as needed in this matter.

Presentation of the current state of partners and data eliciting the best possible option for Greece to choose between the two poles of alliance.

A total compare of the two cases is not possible because the South stream pipeline has not made public any of stats that would prove what would be the changes and the privileges of attempting such collaboration. There will be presented only the facts that we must consider important for any partnership. Also there will be no selection but a motivation for everyone to think and decide which could be the possible best partner and what would be the effects of it.

Europe is in the worst phase due to the weaker members of financial difficulty in which Greece is also part of, but there are also more countries in EU that slow down involvement and as a result the whole set of alliances is getting weaker.

Even the United States are under pressure with the government ongoing reduction of military expenses. And definitely is not the one that rules the world chessboard right now as Zbigniew Brzezinski said in his book²⁹. Some people call USA as a paper tiger³⁰ as cause day by day the ones world power is now fading away in many aspects and fields. Some people even say that the economy of the USA is in such bad condition³¹ that only a huge war at the scale of a WW3 would erase the depth use is in³². There is also one thing that makes things even harder for the US and it is the great percentage of American counterparts has bought the Chinese state and actual holding the economy of the United States in its hands³³.

²⁹ Zbigniew Brzezinski, <<The Grand Chessboard>>, publisher: Basic Books, 1997

³⁰ <https://www.marxists.org>, Published: July 14, 1956. <<U.S. IMPERIALISM IS A PAPER TIGER>>[e-journal/news] On the website: https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-5/mswv5_52.htm[Date visit/recovery 19/08/2014]

³¹ By ED KOCH, Published: 12/02/2010 00:0. <<Is the US just a paper tiger?>>[e-journal/news] On the website: <http://www.ipost.com/Opinion/Op-Ed-Contributors/Is-the-US-just-a-paper-tiger>[Date visit/recovery 20/08/2014]

³² <http://www.apocalypsejohn.com>, Published: 2014. <<Κινέζοι και Ρώσοι αναλυτές: Να ετοιμαστούν για έναν επερχόμενο Γ' ΠΠ' Κίνα και Ρωσία με αντίπαλο τις ΗΠΑ>>[e-journal/news] On the website: http://www.apocalypsejohn.com/2014/09/kinezoi-kai-rwsoi-analytes-blepoun-g-pp-enantion-twn-hpa.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+apocalypsejohn%2FvGVE+%28ApocalypseJohn.com%29 [Date visit/recovery 20/08/2014]

³³ Κωνσταντίνος Γρίβας, <<Η στρατιωτική άνοδος της Κίνας και η γεωπολιτική του πολέμου στην Μέση Ανατολή>> εκδόσεις : Λιβάνη , Αθήνα 2013.

Russia on the other hand has opposed diplomatically and lifted heights towards Europe and America after the recent events in Ukraine and responds with boycott to the boycott of the Europe and USA messing with their economy³⁴ by messing with energy supplies and risking its own stability mentioning the Russian economy because Russia is supplying the hole EU so the loss would be great for Russia too.

Concluding Remarks

After a browsing in international affairs and a rough presentation of potential partners in energy matters should keep everyone able to understand the gravity of the miscible Greece in these. Also everyone should stand carefully and consider on which side interests should be Greece standing in for its own good. It is now obvious that the direct involvement of Greece in such matters only benefits would produce for the domestic and foreign policy.

It is now time for Greece to stop behaving like a large satellite around EU countries and understand the vital position that she got in the Euro zone and the Western alliance in general, and benefit of it. And if this is not possible or easy to accomplish then Greece should probably reconsider very seriously in which alliance should belong to. Because let's not forget that there are no friendships between countries but interests that are followed by a strong power of will and foreign policy combined with military power.

Greece is maybe the best case scenario as a possible partner for anyone. And that is the point that is needed to be taken advantage of. Greece could become the central point to provide energy highways to west, north and south of its own geographical position. By such means there is given the privilege of almost unlimited expand of the future partner and his energy spread plans and a high importance network that could be formed.

Due to the political circumstances and the prosperity that Greek people is now going through, such a deal is like the shine in the end of the cave that could help Greece catch a breath. I as a proud Greek wish that my country will rise up to the best possible choice for my countrymen and a better future for my nation. Greece has been through much and I believe it is just tested once again and will rise up once again to its former glory. And claim a place and the respect that she deserves among other countries.

³⁴ By Patrice Hill, Published: Monday, September 15, 2014. <<Russia sanctions risk lasting damage to Europe's shaky economy>>[e-journal/news] On the website:<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/sep/15/russia-sanctions-risk-return-to-recession-for-euro/?page=all> [Date visit/recovery 22/08/2014]