

Turkey as a European Energy Partner and the Challenge for European Security



TURKEY AND EUROPE

CHALLENGING PARTNERS

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EUROPEAN ENERGY
PARTNER AND THE
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EUROPEAN SECURITY**

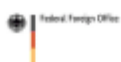
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Turkey, with its strategic location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, is one of

the key countries in the energy geopolitics of Eurasia. While it lacks substantial energy resources itself, Turkey's geographical position enables it to present itself as an energy bridge, corridor, center or hub in the region. It is estimated that 73% of proven oil reserves and 72% of proven gas reserves in the world are located in Turkey's neighborhood. This makes Turkey an important energy corridor for the European market, which accounted for almost 20% of all global oil consumption and 30% of global natural gas consumption in 2019 (BP Statistical Review of World Energy, 2020). Turkish policymakers have frequently made references to these geopolitical role conceptions, interchangeably, in order to highlight their country's strategic importance for consumers in Europe and producers in Asia since the end of the Cold War. This paper aims to explore and evaluate Turkey's changing role as a partner for the EU and possible challenges for European security in light of the latest developments, particularly the intensified competition between the EU and Turkey in the security fields.

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