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Agenda items 14, 17 (a), 19 (h), 22 (a), 23 (b) and 24 (b)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

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Sustainable development: ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

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Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

Eradication of poverty and other development issues: industrial development cooperation

Letter dated 18 February 2021 from the Permanent Representatives of Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Italy and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to inform you about an event of historic significance – the launch of full-fledged operation of the 878 km-long Trans-Adriatic Pipeline on 31 December 2020.

As a key component of the 3,500 km-long Southern Gas Corridor, the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline facilitates the direct and cost-effective transmission of affordable and low-carbon energy supplies from the Caspian Sea to Europe – the largest natural gas importer in the world. The Southern Gas Corridor is set to play an outstanding role in the diversification of gas supply sources and the enhancement of energy security in Europe. As an energy superhighway, the Corridor is highly beneficial for suppliers, consumers and transit countries and is transforming into an important factor for the stability of the European gas market.

For the first time in history, natural gas from the giant Shah Deniz field in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea has been delivered to three States members of the European Union, namely Italy, Bulgaria and Greece. Consequently, the launching of the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline is a landmark as the first transportation of volumes of natural gas from a new source into Europe in decades.



The current operational capacity of the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline is 10 billion cubic metres of natural gas annually. With the second phase of the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline to be open in the summer of 2021, its operational capacity can double to 20 billion cubic metres per year.

Since 2013, the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline, as one of Europe's key energy infrastructure projects, has been recognized four times by the European Union as a project of common interest under the trans-European energy infrastructure initiative. On the occasion of the launch of the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline, the European Commission stated that the Pipeline would improve the energy security of Europe and diversify the gas supply, particularly in Italy, Greece and Bulgaria, as well as in the South-East European region.

It is worth mentioning that the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline incorporated 11 Sustainable Development Goals (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15) that are applicable to its operations into its business practices and sustainability programme. By providing access to safe, secure, sustainable and affordable gas volumes, the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline will help to connect the economies in Europe that run mostly on coal with those functioning on renewables and clean energy. Moreover, it will serve as a critical source for low-carbon hydrogen production in the transition of the energy sector, ultimately supporting the European Union's long-term objectives in achieving climate neutrality in line with the Paris Agreement.

In conclusion, as a commercially robust, technologically state-of-the-art and environmentally sound project, the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline will contribute to enhancing peace, stability and prosperity in the countries along its route and throughout the whole value chain, as well as in the wider Eurasian region.

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 14, 17 (a), 19 (h), 22 (a), 23 (b) and 24 (b).

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