



**Dr. Cenk PALA**

Dr. Cenk Pala is a prominent figure in both the Turkish energy security and the Southern Energy Corridor discussion in all respects, with vast industry experience in the Eurasian gas pipeline business.

He started his career as an academician on History of Economics and oil & energy economics at Gazi University between 1990 and 1997.

Having joined Turkey's BOTAS Petroleum Corporation in 1997, he was appointed Head of Strategy and Business Development at the company as of 2001.

He implemented pre-feasibility, feasibility, marketing, finance, legal studies and lobbying events of the several pipeline (mainly gas) projects including BTC Crude Oil P/L Project, Turkey-Greece (ITG) Natural Gas Pipeline Project, Turkey-Greece-Italy (IGI) Natural Gas Pipeline Project, Turkey-Austria (Nabucco) Natural Gas Pipeline Project, Trans Adriatic Pipeline Project, Iraq-Turkey Natural Gas Project, Arab Gas Pipeline Project — *Turkish Connection* and Samsun-Ceyhan Crude Oil By-pass Pipeline Project. He also represented BOTAS in the "Industry Advisory Panel" body of the Energy Charter in Brussels.

Between March 2008 and June 2013 Dr Pala worked for German gas company, E.ON Ruhrgas AG as General Manager and Board Member of the company's Turkish affiliate, based in Ankara. Dr. Pala was appointed as Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) Turkey Representative by shareholders as of January 2011 and served until June 2016.

Following the merger of E.ON with the Turkish conglomerate SABANCI, Dr Pala joined the JV entity, Enerjisa on June, 2013.

Dr. Pala joined Gazprom affiliate South Stream Transport BV as Government Affairs Coordinator for TurkStream Project in Jan. 2017 and stayed with Gazprom till Sept. 2018.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> of Oct. 2018 Dr. Pala joined EQUINOR Turkey BV as Deputy Country Manager. His main responsibility is coordination of stakeholder management and external relations under EQUINOR's Thrace upstream activity and possible renewable energy investments in Turkey.

Currently, he is coordinating ERSAN Oil Refinery's (only onshore private refinery investment in TR) talks with potential partners, investors and financial institutions.

He is a prolific speaker at international conferences on the energy sector and also academician published numerous works on energy economics, history of oil, oil crises and seven sisters, regional and global pipeline politics, the global oil and gas sector.

Dr. Pala holds a BA Degree in Economics from Gazi University, and M.Sc. & Ph.D. degrees in Economics from Hacettepe University.

He is married and has two children.