

JOINT STATEMENT

of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy and Montenegro

Pursuant to the Agreement among the Republic of Albania, the Hellenic Republic and the Italian Republic, relating to the Trans Adriatic Pipeline Project of February 13, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and Montenegro to Support and Cooperate in the Realization of the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) and the Ionian Adriatic Pipeline Project (IAP) of May 23, 2013;

Bearing in mind that projects like the Trans Adriatic Pipeline and the Ionian Adriatic Pipeline are in accordance with the interests of the Energy Community and the European Union objectives of diversification of transportation routes, providers and gas sources;

We, the Ministers gathered at a Meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia on June 12, 2013, once again, demonstrate our strong political commitment and full support to the **Trans Adriatic Pipeline**. The TAP pipeline is planned to transport Azerbaijani gas from Greece to Italy via Albania – as an integral part of the Southern Gas Corridor and in our view is commercially the most favorable option.

We, the Ministers also declared our full support to the **subsequent interconnection between the TAP and IAP**, allowing for the optimum gas supply for Southern Europe, and the region of South East Europe in particular. This, we believe, will contribute to the further strengthening of the region's energy stability, which is vital for its overall future development and prosperity.

We, the Ministers also discussed our respective commitments pertaining to development and operation of the TAP and IAP projects, as well as to the preparation of our markets for receiving Caspian gas.

Taking into consideration the importance that Azerbaijan and European Commission attach to the issues of distribution and diversification of energy sources within a wider European context, We, the Ministers, also acknowledge and welcome the presence of their highly esteemed representatives at today's gathering in Dubrovnik.

Dubrovnik, June 12, 2013