

# ***1<sup>st</sup> Tirana Gas Pipelines Safety Workshop***

## ***“Safety: choice or necessity? Technical, economic & cultural approach”***

Dear Ambassador, distinctive guests and participants,

It is my pleasure to be here today and hold a speech regarding TAP project, its importance for our country, for the region and even more, as well as for the importance of the safety in the simple and complex meaning of the word considering the strategic importance of the investment in figures and in effects too.

This project has been always considered and estimated as an important benefit for Albania in some points of view:

1. Image building - Albania institutionally, politically and economically becomes important integral part of an international network, or community better defining it, in terms of economic collaboration, common institutional decision making, international and regional policy making, designing and projection, as well as technically and standards related collaboration and implementation in an international and regional level. In this regard, our contribution has been as important as all other partners' ones.
2. Image improvement related to the foreign direct investments climate in Albania, increasing attractiveness to other and more investments.
3. Regional strategic role increased of Albania due to the possible regional integration of TAP as possibility for the other Balkan countries too. I can mention here the importance TAP has in the future new project IAP since the very first stages to the completion of this project.
4. Impact TAP has had in acceleration of processes related the regulatory package for the gas sector, to the unbundling of Albpetrol and to the future development of gas market in Albania.
5. Direct and indirect economic and development effects - Considering what is more tangible, the economic aspect, Albania will host more than 900 million Euro of total investment, some thousands employees directly and indirectly involved and hired during the construction phase, by TAP and all operators involved in the project, important market developments in the local areas due to the increased presence of expatriate and other areas guests and employees. Increased local purchasing power due to increase in employment and other forms of incomes from the local actors involved in the project, immediate increase in the level of life and quality of living in the local area etc.
6. Improvement of local infrastructure as a result of the investments done by the project on the secondary infrastructure in service of the project development, which will touch also existing local infrastructure. Local under contractors involved in this works during the first stage of the project, but even during other stages as well.

7. Increased quality of the working force involved in the project impacting on the increased attractiveness to other investments in the future in the area and wider due to their better qualifications in skills.
8. Impact in the reinforcement of the recent practice of Corporate Social Responsibility implemented in some of the important projects developing in Albania, inducing a new behaviour with the environment, with the local community and the development in per se now and in the future in all the Albanian territory to be implemented by all the investors, domestic or foreign.

To continue with what we are here today for and an important crucial point, Safety, I want to emphasize that the standards established and to be implemented in this project will guarantee total safety to the local community, giving them the possibility to continue their common activities co-living with TAP, and by the other side, will be projected and designed implementing the best technology and operations in order to provide safe functioning of the pipeline and pump stations.

This also have its own technical, economic and cultural implications and benefits, as it will involve increased safety standards using the best technology and highly qualified operations by which local people employed in the project will taught and equipped, as it will impose higher standards in employees treatment, EU and best sector standards, and last but not least, it will induce and impose other cultural approaches to work, technology, management, investor/local-government and community relations and business culture/environment as well.

All these cannot in any case be considered as common benefits to the Albanian economy and market. In the contrary I can only say to TAP and all our partners in the project thank you and wish you hard work in the development and completion of the project.