

# **POLAND AND TURKMENISTAN: SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIPS**

## **POLISH TRANSLATION OF THE RUHNAMA**

An article on the Polish translation of Ruhnama can be found from both the Turkmenistan State News Agency website and the Watan website.

In October 2003 a Polish delegation visited Turkmenistan and presented president Niyazov with the first copies of the Ruhnama book published in Poland. They also presented Niyazov with a warrior's sword, followed by a speech: "This [sword] is usually given to true patriots and great warlords because it symbolizes the struggle for fatherland and independence. It has an inscription: Fatherland and Dignity. We honour you as a great leader and only a man like you deserves this sword".

In his response speech, president Niyazov stated that Turkmenistan's relations with Poland will develop in a dynamic way.

More information:

*First copies of "Rukhnama" in Polish and Ukrainian languages presented to Niyazov*

[http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page\\_id=3&lang\\_id=en&elem\\_id=4761&type=event&highlight\\_words=polish&sort=date\\_desc](http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page_id=3&lang_id=en&elem_id=4761&type=event&highlight_words=polish&sort=date_desc)

*Watan: Turkmenistan not ready for democracy – Niyazov*

[http://www.watan.ru/eng/view.php?nomer=166&razd=new\\_nov\\_en&pg=77](http://www.watan.ru/eng/view.php?nomer=166&razd=new_nov_en&pg=77)

## **PGNiG (POGC)**

The state-owned gas monopoly PGNiG has studied the possibility of building a link to Turkmenistan on the planned Nabucco gas pipeline, which aims to bring gas from the Caspian Sea region to central Europe. The Nabucco gas pipeline is backed by the European Union, and is due to start operating in 2013.

The new gas link would bring natural gas from Iran and Turkmenistan to the European Union, and would therefore reduce the current reliance on Russian gas. As the Polish energy need rises, the pipeline is hoped to provide cheaper gas as well as a release from the dependency with the Russian gas giant Gazprom.

Currently PGNiG has a contract with the Russian-Austrian joint venture, RosUkrEnergo, which acts as an intermediary for supplies of Turkmen gas to Poland.

More information:

PGNiG company website

<http://www.pgnig.pl/>

*PGNiG Eyes Link To Nabucco*

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/News/Articles/200804/PGNiG\\_Eyes\\_Link\\_To\\_Nabucco\\_10087.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/News/Articles/200804/PGNiG_Eyes_Link_To_Nabucco_10087.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1)

*EU secures Turkmenistan gas deal*

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7347051.stm>

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*Gazprom studies situation around Turkmen gas supplies to Poland*

[http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page\\_id=3&lang\\_id=en&elem\\_id=4791&type=event&highlight\\_words=polish&sort=date\\_desc](http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page_id=3&lang_id=en&elem_id=4791&type=event&highlight_words=polish&sort=date_desc)

### **FURTHER CONNECTIONS (from the Turkmenistan State News Agency)**

The Polish president Leh Kachinski held a meeting with the president Berdymuhammedov in September 2007, and invited each other to pay official visits to Ashgabat and Warsaw accordingly. Kachinski stated that Poland follows the transformations taking place in Turkmenistan with interest, and both presidents expressed their aspirations of developing bilateral cooperation.

In April 2007 the Polish ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland, Maciej Lang, held a meeting with Berdymuhammedov and expressed his country's increased interest in establishing comprehensive cooperation with Turkmenistan, which would be aided by the opening of a Polish Embassy in Ashgabat. Lang also stressed his country's interest in expanding partnership both in economic and humanitarian spheres, and that Poland's big businessmen are interested in Turkmenistan.

In November 2007 the international 'Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan' conference was held in Ashgabat, to which there were participants from all over the world. Turkmenistan is seeking to increase its oil and gas production, and therefore invited foreign partners to cooperate. Poland was represented at the conference by the secretary of state and head of the chancellery of the Polish president, Robert Draba, who held talks with the Turkmen vice prime minister for oil and gas sector Tachberdi Tagyyev.

More information:

*Turkmenistan, Poland to speed up interstate relations*

[http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page\\_id=3&lang\\_id=en&elem\\_id=11158&type=event&highlight\\_words=poland&sort=date\\_desc](http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page_id=3&lang_id=en&elem_id=11158&type=event&highlight_words=poland&sort=date_desc)

*Polish Ambassador accredited in Turkmenistan*

[http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page\\_id=3&lang\\_id=en&elem\\_id=9864&type=event&highlight\\_words=polish&sort=date\\_desc](http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page_id=3&lang_id=en&elem_id=9864&type=event&highlight_words=polish&sort=date_desc)

*International oil and gas conference begins in Ashgabat*

[http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page\\_id=3&lang\\_id=en&elem\\_id=11592&type=event&highlight\\_words=poland&sort=date\\_desc](http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page_id=3&lang_id=en&elem_id=11592&type=event&highlight_words=poland&sort=date_desc)