



Press Release
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Prague Summit - "Southern Corridor - new Silk Road"

"Southern Corridor - new Silk Road" Summit, that is an important initiative, held in Prague today. The centre-piece of the Southern Corridor is deeper co-operation on energy. The participated countries and institutions were brought together by a common vision and common determination.

The participants of the Southern Corridor Summit Mirek Topolánek, President of the European Council, Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mikhail Saakashvili, President of Georgia, Abdullah Gül, President of Turkey, Sameh Fahmy, Minister of Petroleum of the Arab Republic of Egypt signed the Declaration (*full text of the Declaration see attached*). They expressed their political support to the realization of the Southern Corridor as an important and mutually beneficial initiative, which will lead to the promotion of common prosperity, stability and security of all countries involved. "We acknowledge that infrastructure projects which interconnect the countries along the Southern Corridor will act as a catalyst for further co-operation in other areas. The successful cooperation in the field of energy will encourage investments also in transport area. The development of transport infrastructure, including for energy, will lead to an intensification of people-to-people contact, which is the fundamental prerequisite to further social, economic and political cooperation in the whole region", the participants said in the Declaration.

The countries signed the Declaration said they agreed to give necessary political support and, where possible, technical and financial assistance to the construction of the Southern Corridor, including the Trans-Caspian energy transportation projects, in order to support the diversification of energy sources, markets and transport routes. "We attain the energy security of all parties including consumer and transit states, such as Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan, on the basis of commercial agreements that are in line with the Parties' international commitments", the Declaration reads.

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, also attended the "Southern Corridor-New Silk Road" Summit (*edited summary of Solana's remarks at the Summit see attached*).