

**DATE: 16.11.07**

## **EU interested in Turkmen gas imports**

European Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs emphasized the European Union's high interest in Turkmen natural gas supplies at a meeting with Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

As the Ashgabat correspondent of Turkmenistan.ru reports, Andris Piebalgs stressed the EU's long-term interest in cooperation with Turkmenistan. He noted that along with political stability that Turkmenistan enjoys owing in many respects to its policy of neutrality the country has proved a reliable and responsible partner. As of today, such European business giants as BP and Shell have expressed readiness to establish long-term partnership with Turkmenistan, the EU commissioner said.

Andris Piebalgs also said he is going to make a full use of his current visit with a view to promoting the EU business interests in Turkmenistan. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, in turn, highly estimated a dialogue with the European partners and noted that today this dialogue got more specific content having confirmed in practice Turkmenistan's multifaceted foreign economic strategy.

**The head of state also noted that as of now Turkmenistan has established mutually beneficial cooperation with a number of well-known European companies and cited the successful long-term cooperation with Belgian company Enx Process Engineering S.A., which is successfully working in Turkmenistan since 2002.**

Source: Turkmen State News Agency (TDH) / Newspaper Neutral Turkmenistan