

**The war in Ukraine may be a new opportunity for the East Mediterranean  
- opinion**

The EU decision to reduce dependence on Russian oil and gas has created the need for alternative sources, and the East Mediterranean was “discovered.”

By Oded Eran, Shimon Stein / July 17, 2022

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has triggered several unexpected results. Among them is the renewed interest, mostly in Europe, in the south-eastern Mediterranean (which is part of the Southern Neighborhood of the EU). It is this region that the European Union and NATO have always viewed as part of their strategic environment, but failed to translate into a concrete action plan.

The 1991 Madrid Conference and the 1995 Barcelona process created hopes for regional cooperation, with Europe as its linchpin. But these hopes were soon abandoned as the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations failed to produce a comprehensive agreement, and Europe became preoccupied with the ramifications of the Soviet Union’s collapse.

The EU decision in the wake of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine to reduce dependence on Russian oil and gas has created the need for alternative sources, and the East Mediterranean was “discovered.” The total quantity of natural gas produced by Israel and Egypt that is available for export may reach quite rapidly 20 billion cubic meters.

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**Oded Eran** and **Shimon Stein** are senior researchers at the **Institute for National Security Studies**, and were respectively Israel’s ambassador to the EU and Germany.

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