PROPOSED IRAQ-TURKEY PIPELINE TO EXPAND OIL TRADE

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The construction of a new pipeline running parallel to the existing Iraq-Turkey crude oil pipeline is expected to pave the way for greater oil trade through Turkey's southern port of Ceyhan in the Mediterranean Sea.

Last week saw a host of important meetings between Turkey and Iraq with Turkey's Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Dönmez's visit to Baghdad where he met with Iraq's Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi, Oil Minister Thamer Ghadhban and Electricity Minister Luay al-Khateeb.

During the meetings, among the variety of energy projects discussed was the extension to the existing Iraq-Turkey Crude Oil Pipeline, also known as the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline. Ghadhban conveyed the Iraqi Oil Ministry's intention to construct a new oil pipeline to carry Iraq's crude oil from Kirkuk to the Turkish border on the old route, with the Iraqi government's approval.

Dönmez responded positively to this proposal and said the new parallel pipeline, which would stretch almost 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) from Kirkuk to Ceyhan, would be in a position to carry oil resources not only from the north of Iraq but also from other regions.

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