

## Renewable Energy Opportunities in Turkey



Gov. George E. Pataki

New York's former Governor George Pataki, counsel at international law firm Chadbourne & Parke:

- “Turkey has great potential in the renewable energy sector.”
- “Western companies operating in the U.S. wind and solar energy sectors are keen on pursuing opportunities in Turkey.”
- “Domestic renewable energy will enhance the country’s geopolitical safety.”

NEW YORK (A.A) — 04.12.2010 — Former New York Governor George Pataki, currently counsel at the international law firm of Chadbourne & Parke, said that the Turkish renewable energy sector has significant potential.

Speaking at New York’s Rockefeller Plaza, the headquarters of the international law firm, which has about 500 attorneys and 12 offices including three in the U.S., Governor Pataki answered Anatolia news agency’s questions about renewable energy opportunities in Turkey and around the world.

Governor Pataki said that a successful panel on “Renewable Energy Opportunities in Turkey” was organized by the American Turkish Society and sponsored by Chadbourne & Parke and added that Turkey possessed significant potential in the renewable energy sector.

Noting the need to invest \$80 billion for energy generation within the next 10 years in Turkey, Pataki said, “as Turkey’s population grows, its economy is also expanding and it is securing a more important place among other countries. In this context, electricity generation is one of Turkey’s most significant problems.”

Governor Pataki emphasized that Turkey had significant hydroelectric, solar and wind energy potential, and said, “I know that Western companies operating in the U.S. wind and solar

energy sectors are keen on renewable energy opportunities in Turkey.”

Noting the similarities of the energy sectors in Turkey and the U.S., Pataki emphasized that Turkey imports 70% of its energy, especially natural gas, from Russia and Iran, while the U.S. similarly obtains almost 60% of its oil from external resources. “When I consider Turkey and the U.S. in this respect, I view renewable energy as a great opportunity from an economic, environmental and national security perspective,” Pataki said.

Governor Pataki mentioned that renewable energy resources would encourage economic growth, and that Turkey would benefit environmentally from such resources as these resources generate almost no carbon emissions.

Emphasizing the importance of renewable energy resources for national security, Pataki stated that, instead of depending on foreign resources for heating and electricity (such as the U.S.’s dependency on external sources for oil), developing and using domestic alternative energy resources enhances a country’s geopolitical safety.

Pataki said, “Turkey’s economy is growing and I am very optimistic about its future. While the U.S. still has work to do on advancing its clean energy production, Turkey would like to do the same. For that reason, we are experiencing a very exciting period.”

### Meeting with Prime Minister Erdoğan

Mentioning a meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan about 1.5 years ago in Istanbul’s Dolmabahçe Palace, Pataki said that he had a great conversation with the Prime Minister about Turkey’s future and global political issues. Pataki added that when he asked Prime Minister Erdoğan what the biggest issue he was facing as the Prime Minister of Turkey was, Erdoğan responded “energy,” and stated that Turkey needed its own resources to generate energy instead of depending on foreign countries.

Pataki mentioned that not only Turkey, but also countries like the U.S., Germany and other Central Europe nations were concerned about excessive dependence on Russian natural gas. He said, “But in Turkey you have these resources. You rank second in Europe for solar energy capacity. You have incredibly strong wind resources and geothermal energy opportunities on the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts. Moreover, the Turkish government has announced its support in initiating hydropower projects. All these will advance Turkey’s environmental adaptation, economic growth and lower dependence on foreign energy resources. For all these reasons, we are going through an exciting period and we have opportunities ahead.”

### Renewable Energy Law Draft

Governor Pataki, indicating that Turkey’s renewable energy law amendment is still in progress, said the amended law should provide sufficient incentives for investors to attract them to this sector. Pataki added that, during the process of amending the law, he hopes to see a discussion between the Turkish government and the global business community to identify the necessary steps for attracting investors into this field.

Emphasizing that Turkey can also become a major manufacturer of solar panels, Governor Pataki said, “Turkey is already a manufacturing country, so there is no reason for Turkey not to become a major manufacturer in the solar panel sector.”

In response to a question regarding the economic profitability of renewable energy resources, Governor Pataki said that in the renewable energy field, as seen specifically in the U.S. and Germany, government incentives are crucial in the initial phases, and that only with such support can the businesses function economically.

Pataki gave the example that the U.S. government can provide “cash assistance” for the 30% of the projects in the renewable energy sector, and federal loan guarantee for the 80% of the remaining part of the projects, thus reducing the overall costs. Pataki mentioned that with such government support, the energy produced from renewable resources in different states of the U.S. is thus priced reasonably, and that the solar energy

industry in Germany is economically advanced through similar incentives.

Pataki noted that while the Turkish government and parliament were aware of the necessities of providing such incentives, and while the renewable energy law of 2005 included certain incentives, certain investors did not find them to be satisfactory. Pataki further stated that he hoped to see the new draft of the law providing the necessary incentives to drive investments into Turkey, leading to the growth of the renewable energy sector.

Pataki said that he served as the Governor of New York for three consecutive terms for a total of twelve years, and after his service, he decided to join an international firm that had an active practice in the “renewable energy” industry, with global experience particularly in emerging markets, and that Chadbourne & Parke is especially strong in this business.

Governor Pataki stated that Ayşe Yüksel, head of Chadbourne & Parke’s “Turkey, Middle East and North Africa (Turkey/MENA) Group” was highly successful, that the firm had 5 Turkish lawyers, and that the firm was involved in important projects in Turkey.

In response to a question relating to the use of renewable energy resources in the struggle against global climate change, Pataki indicated that the use of such resources is a significant and positive step towards “a reduction in the dependency on the old and dirty technology.” Former Governor of New York said that while countries grow their economies and expand their energy resources, such countries and the international communities will benefit from the usage of zero-carbon emission energy options such as solar, wind, and other renewable energy resources.

Pataki also expressed that renewable energy resources help maintain a resource balance around the world, such that by using these new resources, the world can prevent certain countries from having a energy-exporting monopoly and earning excessive profits from the countries that lack the domestic energy resources.