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## EBR funds four new Turkish wind farms



The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), which also owns a 15.98% in Akfen Renewables, has provided a financing package worth US\$102 million (TRY 657 million) for the clean energy projects. Of this total, US\$50 million will be for the wind power projects and the US\$52 million remainder for the solar PV facilities.

Akfen Renewables is investing in four wind farms: the 99MW Üçpınar, 26MW Kocalar and 51MW Hasanoba projects in the north-western province of Çanakkale, and the 66MW Denizli site in the south-western part of the province.

Each project is listed as having completed licensing on the developer's website. The solar PV plants, meanwhile, will have a combined capacity of 85MW.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 03 October – Nationaal Export Event, 1931 Congress Center, Den Bosch
- 4 October – Adviesgesprek @ Sugar City, Halfweg, NL -- Strategic & Tax Advice Turkey

Kayril Karabeyoglu, CEO of Akfen Renewables, said the four wind farms – and nine solar PV projects – would help the developer towards a target of having 1GW of installed capacity by 2020.

Akfen Renewables does not appear to have any operational wind farms, according to the list of assets on its website. It does, however, have nearly 30 wind farms in development across Turkey, of which the four EBRD-funded projects are the most advanced.

## Turkey signs agriculture, oil exploration deals with Sudan

Turkey and Sudan have signed a \$100 million oil exploration deal and an agreement allocating thousands of square miles of Sudanese agricultural land for investment by Turkish companies, Turkey's agriculture and forestry ministry said on Sept. 11.

The two countries have strengthened ties and agreed in December, when Recep Tayyip Erdoğan made the first visit to Khartoum by a Turkish president, to gradually increase trade to \$10 billion a year.

The Turkish ministry said Sudan had designated 780,500 hectares (3,000 square miles) of land for investment by private Turkish companies, saying it would "provide security of food supply for Turkey, Sudan and third countries".

The Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) and Sudan's Ministry of Petroleum and Gas also signed an oil field development agreement, which would initially lead to an investment of up to \$100 million, Turkey's Agriculture and Forestry Minister Bekir Pakdemirli said in a statement.

The ministry gave no details about the nature or location of the investment, but Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency quoted Pakdemirli as saying it was an exploration agreement.

Turkey's Ziraat Participation Bank will also open a branch in Khartoum to strengthen and ease financial ties, and customs procedures for machines and equipment imported from Turkey to Sudan, the ministry said.

A year ago, the United States lifted a trade embargo and other penalties that had cut Sudan off from much of the global financial system, but Khartoum's economy is in crisis, battered by shortages of hard currency and basic food.

A decision to reduce bread subsidies, leading to a doubling in prices, led to rare nationwide protests earlier this year.

On Sept. 9, President Omar al-Bashir dissolved the government and promised a leaner administration to address the crisis. Turkey, which has strained ties with regional powers Egypt and Saudi Arabia, has boosted investments in Sudan recently.

It plans to rebuild a ruined Ottoman port city on Sudan's Red Sea coast and construct a naval dock to maintain civilian and military vessels which was agreed upon between the two sides during Erdoğan's visit to Khartoum.

The other agreements signed during Erdoğan's visit included Turkish investment to build Khartoum's planned new airport and private sector investments in cotton production, electricity generation and building grain silos and meat slaughterhouses.

## Turkish lira crisis stirs concerns with Irish cattle exporters



Turkish Lira devaluation against the US dollar is raising concerns for Irish cattle exporters who were betting on this market development. Turkish Lira has tumbled over 40% over the USD since the beginning of the year and the country's economic outlook presents certain signs of a recession in the following months.

The Turkish Government announced its preference for approximately 500,000 young cattle to be imported annually for further feeding by Turkish farmers but that volume could drop any time due to the uncertainty present in this market and poor economic conditions.

"The main issue is the weakness of the Turkish lira. When Ireland started sending animals there in autumn 2016, the exchange rate was €1 to 3.2 lira, as opposed to over 4.2 lira last autumn, and up to 7 lira now.

Understandably, the knock-on impact on food price inflation will be significant for consumers whose earnings in lira are unlikely to rise to fully compensate for these fluctuations. Other competitors supplying livestock to Turkey will also be faced with the same challenge. However, it is likely that customers will be highly priced sensitive in their buying", explained Joe Burke, beef and livestock manager with Bord Bia

Turkish livestock imports are conducted through the state agency ESK and not directly to private buyers, as Irish exporters would want. Nevertheless, livestock exports to Turkey are down by 20% by now, with only 9,000 weanlings delivered to this market.

## **Anthrax-infected cattle imports from Brazil worry local breeders in Ankara**

Just before the Islamic holiday Eid al-Adha or the “Feast of Sacrifice” authorities have found that 4,000 cattle imported from Brazil for Turkey’s Meat and Milk Institution are infected with anthrax and were kept in a farm facility in the Gölbaşı district of the capital Ankara.

Animal sales have been stopped in the Ahiboz and Günalan neighborhoods that are just three kilometers away from the farm where the affected cattle are kept.

Local breeders in the Gölbaşı district are angry, asking how the authorities allowed those “infected animals” to enter the country in the first place. They said their business have also been affected.

However, the Forestry and Agriculture Ministry said as a rule, all animals imported into the country are quarantined at a specific site and tests are run on those animals for 21 days to make sure they do not have any diseases before they are allowed to be sold on the market.

Following the findings, 60 animals from the herd were killed and the farm was placed under quarantine.

Animal sales were stopped in neighborhoods at three kilometers range of proximity to the farm and veterinarians from the Forestry and Agriculture Ministry vaccinated 10,000 cattle against anthrax in the neighborhoods near the affected farm.

Following the case in Ankara, a family in Sivas was hospitalized over anthrax infection after they reported they ate their infected animal.



One facility in Istanbul’s Silivri district has been quarantined after six people were admitted to a hospital over suspicions they were infected with anthrax, following similar cases in Ankara and the eastern province of Sivas during the “Feast of Sacrifice.”

“Some 48 people, who were contacted with an animal suspected to be infected by anthrax, were asked to go to hospitals for medical examinations and tests. After necessary inspections, only six people were inspected to develop skin lesions [related to anthrax infection],” Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said in a written statement on Sept. 2.

Following the inspections, the Balaban and Şancaktepe neighborhoods of Silivri district were quarantined and 3,500 animals were vaccinated as a precaution, the Forestry and Agriculture Ministry said. The ministries ensured that the districts are put under quarantine and six people that were suspected to be infected are discharged from hospital after necessary treatments.

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