

## **Geopolitical Bulletin**

- USA arguably takes into serious account the specific features of Greece's pivot to the Middle East. Greece stays firmly engaged with Egypt, UAE, and their likeminded partners in the area. Given the Administration's shifting emphasis to East Asia, synergies between "Philia Forum" participants on the one hand and India on the other, would constitute an opening. Greece's remote stare on the Gulf and the Red Sea is not an overstretch. The country remains focused on the Aegean and the other basins of eastern Mediterranean, at this juncture the Libyan Sea. Greece is not remiss of the never hibernated challenges in the Balkans.
- Grandiose plans to dig Istanbul Canal will alter the geoeconomics and to a certain extent the geopolitics of north-eastern Mediterranean. This is going to be a trench, nobody coming from the plains of Thrace will be able to cross. The constants of Montreux Convention on the Straits, no matter hopes or concerns, will not be changed, but the grip of Turkey on the waterways linking Karadeniz with the Aegean will become tighter.

Decision makers will be inclined to refresh and review mutually beneficial plans directly connecting by rail and by road Black Sea Bulgarian port outlet of Burgas with Greek Aegean Sea port of Alexandroupolis, notwithstanding the Turk Stream pipeline which will run through the territory of Bulgaria, carrying Russian natural gas from Turkish Thrace all the way to the Baumgartnen hub at the gates of Vienna.

**Stravo of Amaseia**

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