

Geopolitical Analysis: The Myth and Reality of Iranian Threats against European Energy Infrastructure

By Frank , 27 July 2026

Geopolitical Analysis: The Myth and Reality of Iranian Threats against European Energy Infrastructure



By Frank Dumon

In certain geopolitical channels and on Persian-language platforms, a concerning message is currently circulating. Iran would have drawn up a specific list of European energy infrastructure as potential targets. The reasoning put forward is that Ukraine, under President Zelensky, is acting as a European proxy army. According to this narrative, Kiev's actions would justify retaliation against European energy interests. For the attentive reader of *De Jakobijn*, it is essential to look beyond the superficial sensation. We must separate the factual core of these claims from geopolitical distortion.

Fact Check: What is true about the list?

The claim contains a mix of verified intelligence and speculation. On the one hand, it is a fact that Iran has repeatedly attempted to disrupt Western energy interests in the region. For instance, Azerbaijani security services recently foiled an Iranian plot targeting the strategic Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline. This pipeline is vital for Europe's energy supply and traditionally bypasses Russian territory.

On the other hand, the specific linkage that Iran chooses these targets because Zelensky would be a European proxy army is a geopolitical oversimplification. This reasoning does not align with Tehran's strategic doctrine. President Zelensky has pointed out that Russia shares intelligence with Iran on vulnerable infrastructure. He also warned that expertise from attacks on Ukraine's energy grid is being transferred to Tehran. The primary axis of the Iranian conflict remains focused on Israel, the United States, and their regional allies. The European Union is not the primary target of Iranian retaliation for Ukrainian policy.

The Real Vulnerability of the European Energy Architecture

Even if the Zelensky link in this specific context is a narrative construct, the list of mentioned infrastructure projects is by no means imaginary. It points to a real and growing vulnerability of the European energy architecture. The locations mentioned form the backbone of Europe's hasty attempt to become independent from Russian fossil fuels.

- **The Caucasian Corridor:** The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline and the Southern Gas Corridor have long been a thorn in Tehran's side. Iran sees its own regional influence threatened by these Western-oriented energy axes.
- **The Eastern Mediterranean:** Gas fields such as Leviathan in Israel and Zohr in Egypt have become strategic hubs. Any escalation between Iran and Israel brings these investments directly into the crosshairs.
- **LNG terminals and distribution:** Facilities like the Idku LNG terminal in Egypt have become crucial links for Europe's gas supply. Greek terminals in Revithoussa and Alexandroupolis are also playing an increasingly important role.

Europe as Collateral Damage in a Proxy War

The real lesson of this reporting does not lie in the fear of a direct Iranian attack on European soil. The lesson lies in the strategic position into which Europe has maneuvered itself. By fixating on replacing one dependency with another, Brussels has made itself potential collateral damage. Europe thus becomes a victim in a

conflict it does not control.

While European leaders invest morally and financially in a proxy war in Eastern Europe, they ignore the laws of geopolitics. Any escalation in the Persian Gulf or the South Caucasus has a direct impact on the European consumer and industry. Rising energy prices as a result of regional tensions are no longer an abstract risk. It is a harsh economic reality that undermines Europe's competitive position.

Conclusion: Vigilance without Panic

The circulating reports about an Iranian revenge list against European energy infrastructure should be approached with due skepticism. It is a narrative that mixes facts with an unsustainable causal reasoning. Yet this should not blind us to the underlying truth. Europe's energy infrastructure is spread across one of the most unstable regions in the world.

For policymakers and citizens, it is time to let go of naive convictions. We must recognize that we cannot support conflicts elsewhere without bearing the consequences ourselves. A cautious, realistic reassessment of our energy and foreign priorities is not a sign of weakness. It is a sign of necessary strategic maturity. The price of illusion is ultimately paid at the pump, on the energy bill, and in the crumbling industrial base of our continent.

Sources and Disclaimer

- **OC Media / Euronews:** Reporting on the Iranian Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) plot thwarted by Azerbaijani security services, aimed at sabotage of the strategic Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline and other locations in Baku. (*Reference: OC Media, "Azerbaijan says it foiled Iranian terror plot against BTC pipeline"*)
- **Middle East Monitor / Anadolu Agency:** Documentation of Iranian warnings that energy and critical infrastructure in the region will become "legitimate targets" if Iran's own facilities are attacked. (*Reference: Middle East Monitor, "Iran warns regional energy infrastructure will be 'legitimate targets'"*)
- **Kyiv Post:** Coverage of Ukrainian President Zelensky's warnings regarding the exchange of intelligence and expertise between Russia and Iran on vulnerable energy infrastructure. (*Reference: Kyiv Post, "Russia Provided Iran With Intelligence on Over 50..."*)
- **Deutsche Welle (DW) / Associated Press:** Analyses of the impact of regional tensions on Europe's energy supply and the need for the EU to develop alternative, resilient trade and energy routes. (*Reference: DW, "EU proposes steps to deal with energy crisis amid regional turmoil"*)

- **Caspian Post:** Monitoring of ongoing pressure on the oil sector in the region and the geopolitical implications for global energy prices and European dependence. (Reference: *Caspian Post*, "Iran Continues Attacks on Oil Infrastructure Amid Rising Fears")