
Nigeria complicates Trans Sahara NGP project

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WSJ reported that a military coup in Niger is creating uncertainty on plans to build a Trans Saharan natural gas pipeline.

Mr Chakib Khelil minister for Energy and Mines of Nigeria said that because of the situation in Niger, it's not at the same stage as it was before for the pipeline.

Last year, Niger signed an agreement with Nigeria and Algeria to build the USD 10 billion Trans Sahara natural gas pipeline, Africa's most costly pipeline and a cornerstone of Europe's strategy to diversify its energy supply. But Niger's military on February 18 overthrew President Mr Mamadou Tandja and appointed Major Salou Djibo as new head of state. When built, the 4,500 kilometers pipeline will transport gas from Nigeria through Niger and to Algeria's Mediterranean coast to be shipped to Europe, supplying as much as 6% of its needs.

Mr Chakib said that but despite the change in regime in Niger, I am sure they will be supportive. He added that the project's design is well advanced. However, he is also concerned of militant attacks on oil and gas infrastructure.

(Sourced from WSJ)

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