



The Baku Ceyhan Campaign  
Box 210, 266 Banbury Road  
Oxford OX2 7DL  
Tel 01865 200 550  
Email [baku@gn.apc.org](mailto:baku@gn.apc.org)  
Web [www.baku.org.uk](http://www.baku.org.uk)

Dear Statoil employee,

It's not your fault. We know it's tough working for an oil company; irritating protestors banging on about pollution all the time, accusations of corruption and climate change dogging your work. Lots of these criticisms seem unfair; perhaps the environmentalists don't realise the benefits pipeline projects bring to host countries. Certainly that's what your bosses tell you, especially at Statoil, which, they like to emphasise, has much higher standards than other multinationals.

So it might come as a bit of a shock to you to hear the full details about the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline project, which is to run from Azerbaijan through Georgia to Turkey. You probably know that Statoil is one of the biggest shareholders in the BTC consortium, and the equal largest shareholder in the parallel BTE gas pipeline.

But perhaps you didn't know that:

- The legal contracts for BTC override any conflicting laws in the host countries (apart from the constitution). If new laws are passed, the host countries have to pay potentially billions in compensation. They exempt the BTC consortium from any new laws for the next 40 to 60 years, effectively putting the pipeline route under the control of multinational oil companies.
- The pipeline goes through Georgia's foremost national park and under the mineral springs that provide one of Georgia's most important exports, Borjomi mineral water. When the Georgian environment minister said this would violate national law, she was detained by the president until 3am until she agreed to ratify the route.
- In Turkey, the route passes through Kurdish areas devastated by war. Because the Turkish government is violently opposed to granting rights to the Kurds, the thousands of pages of environmental and social impact assessments do not mention the Kurds or human rights once. The BTC consortium refuses to accept that the Kurds are an indigenous people. In Turkey, the security will be conducted by the gendarmerie, whose human rights record is so horrific they were ordered to disband by the Council of Europe.
- There are allegations of tens of millions of dollars' worth of corruption relating to BTC in all three countries. In all three countries the benefits of the project will be enjoyed only by elites; ordinary people will share only the environmental and social burdens.

We are part of a group of over 70 international NGOs who have raised serious concerns about the BTC project. You can find out more about us and BTC at [www.baku.org.uk](http://www.baku.org.uk)

Even if you aren't worried as a Statoil employee, you should be worried as a taxpayer. The BTC consortium needs at least \$1.5 billion in what John Browne, CEO of BP (the lead company in BTC) has called "free public money". We challenged BP to come to a public debate in the House of Lords; since they want our cash, the least they can do is to explain why. Sadly, they declined.

Talk to your colleagues; see what they think. Write or email senior management; what is Statoil doing in a deal like this? What about our reputational risk? Raise it in a union meeting. Alternatively, contact us, either by email at [baku@gn.apc.org](mailto:baku@gn.apc.org), or by filling in the form below.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,  
Anders Lustgarten  
Baku Ceyhan Campaign.

Do you believe a responsible company should actively seek to avoid complying with local laws by (in the words of the BTC project lawyers) going “above or around them by using a treaty”?

BP and Statoil have said there is no need for a public subsidy for the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, but are still applying for \$1.5 billion anyway. Do you think they need or deserve this subsidy?

Do you think a government should be able to delay approval of a project if it is concerned about the project’s environmental impact?

Do you ever feel under pressure to tell company managers what you think they want to hear?

Do you think Statoil’s involvement in the BTC pipeline conflicts with the company’s brand?

Do you have any other comments? Would you like to be kept informed of the campaign’s activities?

Your job or division in Statoil (optional) (eg “engineer”, “finance”, “gas marketing” etc):

Name (optional):

Email (optional):