

# ITALY AND TURKMENISTAN: SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIPS

## CULLIGAN ITALIANA S.P.A.

In 1998, the US-based Culligan International (parent company of Culligan Italiana) was selected to provide the water treatment services in Turkmenistan, installing more than \$200 million worth of services. These include the construction of desalination plants, refurbishing of pumping stations and ground water reclamation.

According to the Culligan Italiana web site, the Italian-Croatian company is responsible for a waterworks plant in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. This is confirmed on the Turkmenistan Embassy web site, which locates it more precisely in the village of Gyami.

In November 2004, the Turkmenistan State News Agency reported that a presentation ceremony of the Italian translation of Ruhnama, instigated by Culligan Italiana, had been held in Ashgabat. The company's representative Branko Janich delivered a speech at the event, stating that the Italian print of the Ruhnama was a significant event in the history of relations between Turkmenistan and Italy. According to Janich, the Ruhnama "marks a new stage on the way to the golden age of all humankind", and will take "a worthy place at homes and scientific libraries both in Italy and other countries where the Italian diaspora lives". Janich also referred to a Croatian translation being underway.

On February 8<sup>th</sup> 2005, a ceremony was held in Agrigento in Sicily to mark the book's publication. Numerous guests, including local officials, representatives of the state and of the mass media were reported to have gathered at Agrigento's Teatro Della Posta Vecchia. Speakers at the event noted that millions of Italian readers are looking forward to learning about the history of the ancient Turkmen nation. The producer and author Enzo Laretta was reported to have expressed his "deep admiration for the author of Ruhnama for his selfless labour that became for Italians a symbol of love for the Turkmen people and their imperishable spiritual roots." The professor of an educational establishment, in turn, expressed her wish to introduce Ruhnama into the school curriculum. "The book is an embodiment of wisdom", she said. "It brings the good and teaches it."

Culligan-Italiana also initiated the Italian translation of the Ruhnama's second volume, which was presented in Ashgabat in February 2006. Branko Janich, present at the event, stated that "The first volume of Ruhnama published in Italian has found millions of friends in our country who are waiting for an opportunity to read its sequel". In the Turkmen State News Agency's report, it was noted that both of the Italian translations, as well as the Croatian one, were made by Glauche Janich, Doctor of Sciences at the Padova University. 10 000 of the 11 000 copies of the book published were reportedly to be sent to Italy's cultural centres, libraries and higher educational establishments.

More information:

Culligan Italiana company website

<http://www.culligan.it/>

*Italian version of "Ruhnama" by Saparmurat Niyazov presented in Sicily*

[http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page\\_id=3&lang\\_id=en&elem\\_id=6096&type=event&highlight\\_words=italy&sort=date\\_desc](http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page_id=3&lang_id=en&elem_id=6096&type=event&highlight_words=italy&sort=date_desc)

*Turkmen leader's book "Ruhnama" translated into Italian*

[http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page\\_id=3&lang\\_id=en&elem\\_id=5508&type=event&highlight\\_words=italy&sort=date\\_desc](http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page_id=3&lang_id=en&elem_id=5508&type=event&highlight_words=italy&sort=date_desc)

*Culligan-Italiana Hosts Presentation of Second Volume of Ruhnama in Italian in Ashgabat*

<http://www.eurasianet.org/turkmenistan.project/index.php?page=wnb/editor/wnb20060306&lang=eng#2j>

*Culligan Will Supply Services to the Republic Turkmenistan*

<http://www.wateronline.com/article.mvc/Culligan-Will-Supply-Services-to-the-Republic-0001>

*Excerpt of a letter sent to Niyazov on behalf of Culligan Italiana*

[http://www.shadowofthehollybook.com/presskit\\_en.pdf](http://www.shadowofthehollybook.com/presskit_en.pdf)

## E.T.D. – EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT S.R.L.

In August 2004, the Italian company E.T.D. - European Technology Development S.r.l. (which represents the American company GE Infrastructure, Water, & Process Technologies) were awarded a contract to deliver desalination plant converting seawater into fresh water at the Turkmenbashi refinery, Turkmenistan.

More information:

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E.T.D. company website  
<http://www.etdevelop.com>

*Contracts for Delivery of Equipment Awarded to Italian and Canadian Companies*  
<http://www.eurasianet.org/turkmenistan.project/index.php?page=wnb/wnb040813&lang=eng>

### ENI S.P.A.

In November, 2007 Italian energy giant ENI SpA agreed to buy UK-based oil producer Burren Energy for £1.736bn (\$3.58bn). ENI agreed to pay £12.30 per share for the firm, which has operations in Turkmenistan, Congo, Egypt and Yemen. The deal increases ENI's output in Congo and gives it a presence in Turkmenistan, a country with "increasingly attractive" growth potential, it said.

In February 2008, the Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko proposed that the European Union and Ukraine join a project for a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan via the Caspian Sea, South Caucasus, and Black Sea to Ukraine and EU territory. Tymoshenko termed this concept "White Stream" when presenting it to top EU officials during her January 28-29 visit to Brussels. Several European engineers who had formerly worked for the Italian ENI/Saipem on the construction of the world's deepest seabed pipeline, Blue Stream, are said to participate in GUEU's White Stream project.

In April 2008, a controversy ensued in which Turkmenistan denied entry visas to managers from ENI SpA, even as the Central Asian country campaigned to attract foreign investors after decades of self-imposed isolation. According to people familiar with the situation, denying the visas was due to Turkmen authorities' discontent on not being consulted about the takeover. The move was a blow to ENI's plans to become a big player in Turkmenistan.

More information:

ENI SpA company website  
[http://www.eni.it/en\\_IT/home.html](http://www.eni.it/en_IT/home.html)

*ENI seals Burren Energy takeover*  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/7121144.stm>

*Turkmenistan Denies Visas to ENI Managers*  
[http://www.watan.ru/eng/view.php?nomer=1719&razd=new\\_nov\\_en&pg=1](http://www.watan.ru/eng/view.php?nomer=1719&razd=new_nov_en&pg=1)

*Trans-Black Sea Pipeline: Another Chance for Georgia and Europe*  
[http://www.jamestown.org/edm/article.php?article\\_id=2372768](http://www.jamestown.org/edm/article.php?article_id=2372768)

### INDUSTRIE TECHNOFRIGO DELL'ORTO S.P.A.

The Italian company Industrie Technofrigo Dell'Orto S.p.A. (part of the German Industrial Group GEA) works in the gas compression field. They built the Naip gas-processing complex, the first in the country, in Zaunghuz Karakum, Turkmenistan. The plant was put into operation in 1998 and has an annual capacity of 15,000 tonnes. The Naip gas processing complex operates on the basis of rich resources of the Zaunguz Karakum desert. Since putting the Naip complex into operation, others have been constructed near the site by other companies and liquefied gas production has reached 350 thousand tons - over 40 thousand tons more than it was planned.

More information:

Technofrigo company website  
<http://www.technofrigo.it/>

*Lebap: gas-processing capacities increase*  
<http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/en/?idr=6&id=080716a>

*Turkmenistan increases liquefied gas production*  
[http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page\\_id=3&lang\\_id=en&elem\\_id=8353&type=event&highlight\\_words=italian&sort=date\\_desc](http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page_id=3&lang_id=en&elem_id=8353&type=event&highlight_words=italian&sort=date_desc)

*Not only to pipe...*  
[http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page\\_id=5&lang\\_id=en&elem\\_id=5594&type=event&highlight\\_words=italian&sort=date\\_desc](http://www.turkmenistan.ru/?page_id=5&lang_id=en&elem_id=5594&type=event&highlight_words=italian&sort=date_desc)