



**Press Release**  
**Book Launch « The Future of Natural Gas. Markets and Geopolitics »**

By OCP Policy Center and Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

OCP Policy Center and Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), in cooperation with the [European Energy Review \(EER\)](#) are pleased to launch their joint book entitled « The Future of Natural Gas. Markets and Geopolitics ».

The project is the fruit of the collaboration between both think tanks and also experts from other prestigious institutions such as the The Clingendale International Energy Programme, the Atlantic Council, Sciences Po, Cambridge University, El Cano institute, CSIS, among the many.

The book is comprised of 11 chapters, presented below, that analyze, geographically, the current and future trends of the gas markets development. In this publication, the authors note, to name a few:

- In a changing energy market, gas has witnessed a significant evolution, with rising market shares, thanks to technological advancements in upstream and midstream operations.
- In this context, production and consumption patterns have changed, consequently altering traditional importer/exporter relations. In this sense, the geopolitics of gas has influenced the relations among states, and vice versa.
- Many obstacles stand in the way of the gas industry attaining its full potential: complex system of infrastructure (prompting the need for flexible infrastructure), technologies and processes necessary to extract, process, store, transport and distribute.
- The expansion of gas in the global energy mix is also justified by environmental and climate policies agreed at the international level. Given its low carbon content when compared to conventional energy sources, the natural gas sector has become an alternative at worst, and a substitute at best. In addition, it has the flexibility required to cope with the intermittency of renewable energies assuming adequate regulatory frameworks are put in place.
- Africa is emerging as a potential first line actor in the global gas sector. However, if is faced with significant entry barriers, and if technology and investments do not follow, the continent may not be able to benefit from the advantages of the natural gas sector.

The book will be officially launched today in Rabat during an [international seminar](#) with the authors, private sector representatives and other Moroccan, European and international stakeholders. The seminar will be attended by the Moroccan Minister of Energy, Mines, Water, and the Environment who will deliver a keynote speech.

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### **About OCP Policy Center**

The OCP Policy Center is a Moroccan policy-oriented think tank striving to promote knowledge sharing and to contribute to an enriched reflection on key economic and international relations issues. By offering a southern perspective on major regional and global strategic challenges facing developing and emerging countries, the OCP Policy Center aims to provide a meaningful policy-making contribution through its four research programs: Agriculture, Environment and Food Security, Economic and Social Development, Commodity Economics and Finance, Geopolitics and International Relations. On this basis, we are actively engaged in public policy analysis and consultation while promoting international cooperation for the development of countries in the southern hemisphere. In this regard, the OCP Policy Center aims to be an incubator of ideas and a source of forward thinking for proposed actions on public policies within emerging economies, and more broadly for all stakeholders engaged in the national and regional growth and development process. For this purpose, the Think Tank relies on independent research and a solid network of internal and external leading research fellows.

### **About Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)**

A non-profit organization, IAI was founded in 1965 by Altiero Spinelli, its first director. The Institute aims to promote understanding of international politics through research, promotion of political ideas and strategies, dissemination of knowledge and education in the field of foreign policy. IAI main research sectors are: European institutions and policies; Italian foreign policy; trends in the global economy and internationalization processes in Italy; the mediterranean and the Middle East; energy; defence economy and policy; and transatlantic relations.