Biography

Dr. Fatih Birol
Chief Economist
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Dr. Fatih Birol is the Chief Economist of the International Energy Agency in Paris. He is responsible for the IEA’s flagship *World Energy Outlook* publication, which is recognized as the most authoritative source of strategic analysis of global energy markets. He is also the founder and chair of the IEA Energy Business Council, which provides a forum to enhance cooperation between government and industry.

Dr. Birol has been named by Forbes Magazine among the most powerful people in terms of influence on the world’s energy scene. He is the Chairman of the World Economic Forum’s (Davos) Energy Advisory Board and has served as a member of the UN Secretary-General’s ‘High-level Group on Sustainable Energy for All’. He is the recipient of numerous awards from government and industry for his contribution to energy and climate economics. In 2013, he received the Japanese Emperor’s Order of the Rising Sun, the country’s highest honour. He has also been decorated by the governments of Austria (Golden Honour Medal), France (Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques), Germany (Federal Cross of Merit), Iraq, Italy (Order of Merit of the Republic), the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden (Order of the Polar Star), Turkey, the United States and the Russian Academy of Sciences. He is a past winner of the International Association of Energy Economics’ award for outstanding contribution to the profession.

Prior to joining the IEA in 1995, Dr. Birol worked at the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna. A Turkish citizen, Dr. Birol was born in Ankara in 1958. He earned a BSc degree in power engineering from the Technical University of Istanbul. He received his MSc and PhD in energy economics from the Technical University of Vienna. In 2013, Dr. Birol was awarded a Doctorate of Science *honoris causa* by Imperial College London. He was made an honorary life member of Galatasaray Football Club in 2013.