

# Biography

## Dr. Fatih Birol

### Executive Director

### International Energy Agency, Paris



Fatih Birol took office as the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency on 1 September 2015.

Dr. Birol joined the IEA in 1995, and his selection as the seventh Executive Director to lead the Paris-based Agency marked one of the rare occasions that the head of an international organisation has been selected from within its ranks. Prior to becoming Executive Director, he most recently held the positions of Chief Economist and Director of Global Energy Economics, with responsibilities that included directing the Agency's flagship *World Energy Outlook* publication. He is also the founder and chair of the IEA Energy Business Council, which provides a forum to enhance co-operation among decision-makers in the highest levels of government and industry.

Named by *Forbes* magazine among the most powerful people in terms of influence on the world's energy scene, Dr. Birol 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 served in the Secretariat of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna, an experience which gives him a unique perspective on the producer-consumer relationship. 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.