

Concluding Remarks by IENE' s Chairman Costis Stambolis

And so we reached the end of two intensive days of presentations and discussions concerning the current situation and future of energy in our part of the world.

With the help of 52 moderators, speakers and panelists from 18 different countries and international and regional organisations we covered a lot of ground focusing mainly on energy policy and markets. Technologies were also discussed, especially the ones concerning electricity storage and hydrogen, but they did not form the backbone of our deliberations.

Although this year's event was carried out under unusual circumstances, exclusively online, and without any physical presence or interaction between speakers, moderators and the audience, with the exception of some technical hitches, the conference programme was kept almost to the letter and its proceedings were followed closely by more than 100 attendees in addition to speakers and panelists

I do not wish to talk about success as the event did not actually flow as smoothly as we would have wished and had planned. Nevertheless I believe that that in the narrow space of 2 days we managed to cover a lot of ground with considerable new input from most of the countries in the region and a wide ranging discussion on key aspects of the booming energy markets- oil and gas, electricity.

Commenting on the last marathon session of the "Energy Dialogue", which was dedicated to the geopolitics of energy, I have to admit that it attracted much wider interest than I had anticipated as it provided the opportunity for the expression of highly diverse viewpoints and also touched upon the few but intense conflicts and tensions in our region. Taking into consideration the deliberations of this last session but also input from all other sessions it seems that the ground is now ripe for IENE to delve further and examine a number of topical, even controversial, energy related issues by organising a series of dedicated webinars. More on that will become known early next year.

Concluding I would say that one thing became clear to me. By convening this year, once again, the SEE Energy Dialogue, we managed to keep alive and well this regional institution with its highly diverse network of individuals and companies. Let us build upon this achievement and plan for a more substantial and real life event sometime next year or thereafter.

As we come to the end I wish once again to sincerely thank all our sponsors and supporters who, despite the present restricted promotional opportunities, they not only backed enthusiastically this event but provided much comfort to the conference organising team with their commitment and encouragement. Thank you all and especially a big thank you to my dedicated colleagues at IENE offices and beyond.