

East Mediterranean: The New Natural Gas Frontier

Energy Institute
61 New Cavendish St, London
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Introductory remarks by **Mr. Costis Stambolis**
Chairman and Executive Director, IENE

□ East Mediterranean: The New Natural Gas Frontier

Good morning to everybody!

On behalf of the Energy Institute and its partner for this event, the Institute of Energy for SE Europe, let me first of all welcome you all to today's Colloquium which is focusing on the East Mediterranean Gas and also to wish you a useful and rewarding participation. We greatly appreciate your interest and involvement.

I particularly like to welcome our speakers, especially those who have travelled from abroad as to be with us today, and to say that we very much look forward to your presentations, comments and overall contribution.

Exploration and production activity in the area has grown almost exponentially over the last 10 years since the discovery of the Leviathan gas field in Israel, Aphrodite in Cyprus and more recently of the Zohr and Noor fields in Egypt. Proven gas reserves have grown impressively, beyond early expectations, while production is steadily expanding. Satisfaction of the region's gas demand remains a priority for both Israel and Egypt and the question of exporting surplus to world markets is now getting increasingly more attention.

A general remark from the chair, in view of the high level contributions and excellent presentations awaiting us, has to do with the great similarities now clearly visible between present day exploration activity in the East Mediterranean and those of the North Sea 40-50 years ago. Several years of early inactivity, then a series of important discoveries, followed by high concentration of interest by international and local companies, then delays in moving to the next phase and eventually a big production boom.

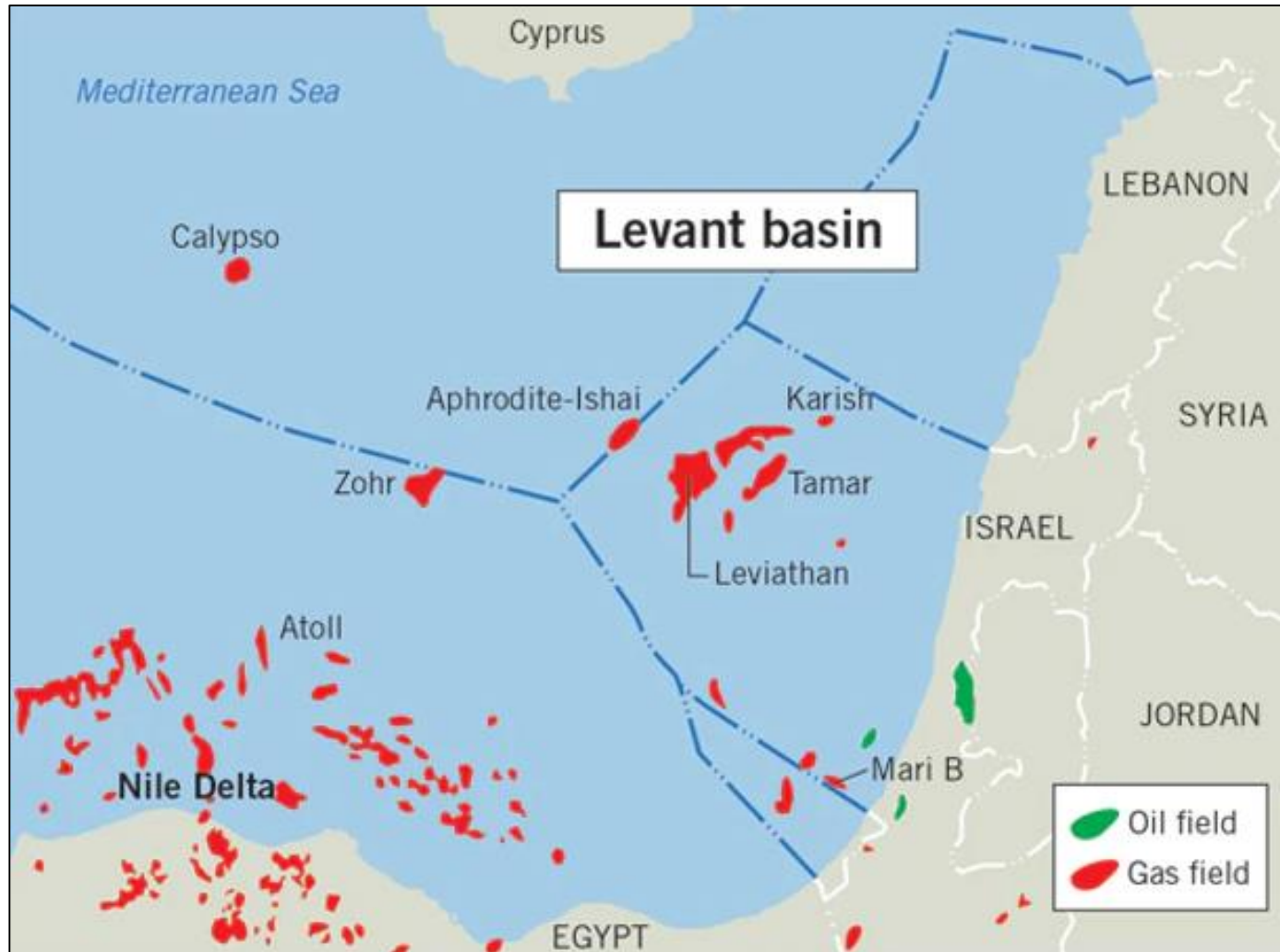
I must further point out that over the last 5 years or so a lot of misplaced optimism has been expressed by various quarters of the region's ability to become a major supplier and meet substantial part of European gas demand in the coming years. Indeed one of the key questions that today's event will be addressing is this very issue concerning the most advantageous export options. These and a host of other interesting points will be thoroughly discussed and analyzed in today's proceedings and therefore I wish to encourage everyone to engage with speakers and each other and to ask lots of questions to get most out of the day.

And last but not least I wish to thank my dear friend and colleague Charles Ellinas for not only encouraging but also for helping a great deal in organising this event. Charles's involvement, especially in the early stages of organization, was crucial to say the least. Charles and myself shared the view that it is high time to move the whole discussion of developing East Med gas to London, one of the important global oil and gas centers. Where a lot of expertise is to be found, money can be raised and financial and economic options can be reviewed away from local antagonisms and political interests.

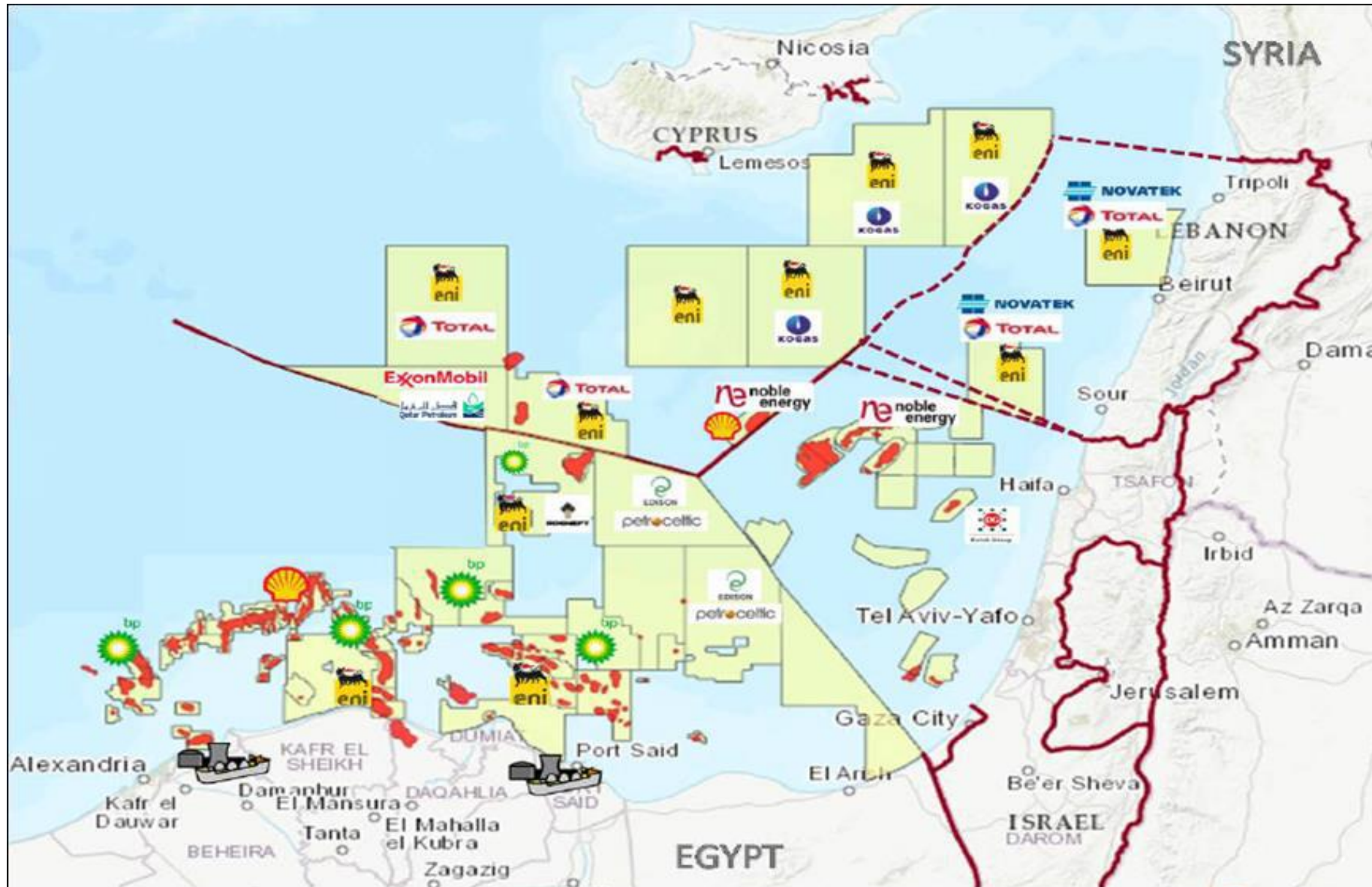
Finally a big thank you to all EI staff who very conscientiously and consistently worked hard to enable the realization of the event.

Without further ado I would now like to move to our first speaker Mathios Rigas, the CEO of Energean company.

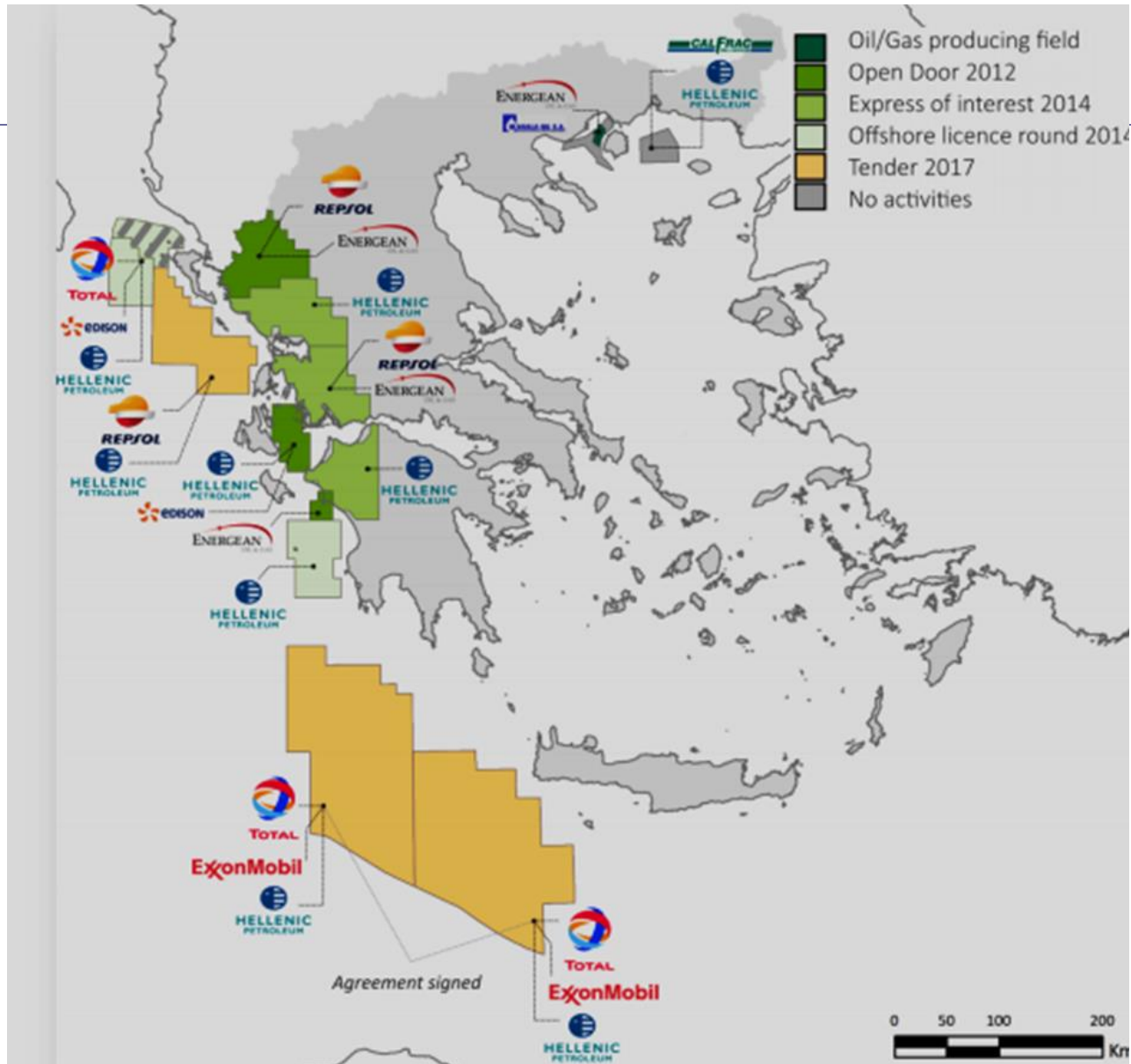
The East Mediterranean Gas Resources



The East Mediterranean Exploration Blocks



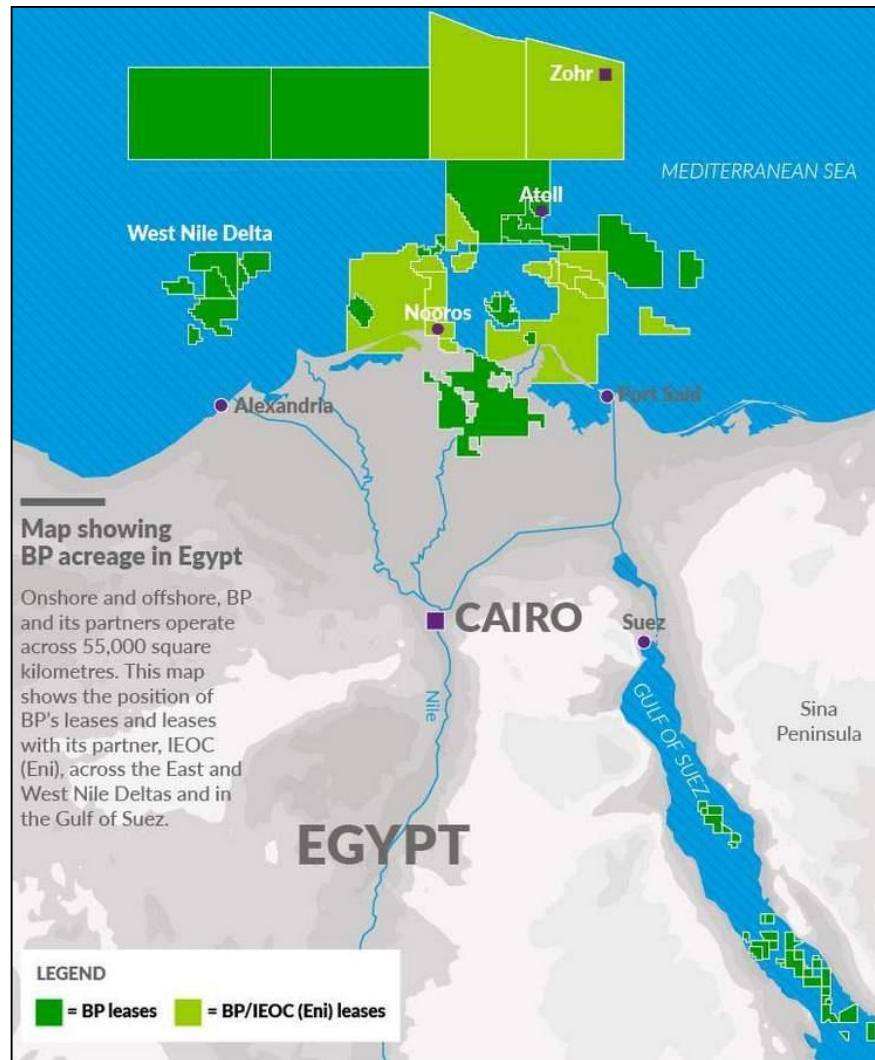
Hydrocarbon Activities in Greece



Recent Gas Discoveries in Offshore Eastern Mediterranean Could Provide an Alternative Gas Supply to Europe



Hydrocarbon Activities in Egypt



An Expanded South Gas Corridor



NB.: The TANAP has been completed, while TAP, Turkish Stream, BRUA and IGB are under construction. The IAP, the IGI Poseidon in connection with East Med pipeline and the Vertical Corridor and the IGF are still in the study phase. Blue Stream and Trans Balkan are existing pipelines.



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**Thank you for
your attention**

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