



Introductory Remarks by C.Stambolis

Good afternoon to everybody from Athens

May I first of all warmly welcome you to this special workshop which our Institute, IENE, is organizing today in order to examine latest developments and thinking I in the area of energy storage.

An area of huge interest if we are to judge from the great response by both speakers and participants with 400 registrations so far, and the number is still rising as I am being told.

As variable energy sources become more widely available and their input into the grid appears to be constantly rising in many countries and especially in Europe the crucial role of energy storage is becoming all apparent. Although penetration by RES in the grid is highly differentiated between different countries the overall trend is quite clear and common as national energy policies and the economies at large, at least in Europe, are now geared for much higher participation in the power generation energy mix.

In today's Workshop we are taking a broad view of latest developments but we shall also be examining technology options for now and the not too distant future including battery storage and pumped storage. We shall also examine the highly important legal and regulatory issues and we shall review a number of interesting case studies.

I shall waste no more time and go straight to our first speaker, Dr. Athanasios Dragoumas , chairman of Greece's Regulatory Energy Authority