

4th International Seminar on Energy and Shipping, IENE/Posidonia
Metropolitan, Friday 8 June 2018, 12.30-16.30 (Seminar Room Central)

Opening Remarks by Costis Stambolis, Executive Director of IENE

Dear Participants, Dear IENE Members,

May I first all welcome you to Posidonia and to this year's "Energy & Shipping Seminar". This is the fourth time that our Institute, this time in cooperation and with the support of Posidonia, is organising this unique event.

Indeed this is a unique event in that it is aiming to link two hugely important sectors of the global economy, the one on Energy and the other one on Shipping. In this direction we have secured the participation of some high calibre speakers, who are active market players in both energy and shipping.

May I also add that this year's Seminar is fully in tune with the general technical themes of Posidonia 2018, since clean fuels and LNG are global shipping's hottest topics. As the International Maritime Organization (IMO) 2020 deadline for a global sulphur limit in fuel oil used on board ships is fast approaching the transition of shipping to cleaner fuels is acquiring a new urgency.

The future of maritime transport is inescapably linked with the welfare of people and the planet. This is why a global approach on decarbonization and environmental sustainability is very much a hot topic at Posidonia 2018, where shipbuilders, engine manufacturers and scrubber providers showcase their clean fuel plans and strategies vying to attract the attention of shipowners and fleet operators.

Eleven prominent speakers from the oil and gas sector, from the shipping sector and maritime law from Greece and abroad are participating as speakers and panelists in today's seminar.

May I therefore extend my warmest welcome to all our speakers and panelists and may I now invite the chairman of IENE, Mr. John Chadjivassiliade, to take the floor.