



Opening Remarks - Prof. Yannis Maniatis, MEP, Vice Chair – Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, Member ITRE, former Minister of Environment, Energy & Climate Change

In his speech, Mr. Yiannis. Maniatis referred to Greece’s role in the energy markets of Southeastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean. He highlighted significant gaps in key electricity interconnection infrastructure, as well as delays in the implementation of European regulations by Western Balkan countries, which contribute to the partial isolation of the region from the rest of the EU markets and lead to higher prices.

Furthermore, he emphasized the need to strengthen the capacity of new natural gas infrastructure, stressing the primary importance of addressing regulatory challenges that hinder the full utilization of the Vertical Gas Corridor. He called on the European Union to increase the available resources for the region and to contribute to resolving regulatory issues.

Finally, he proposed that Greece take initiatives to develop electricity interconnections with neighboring countries, so that it can export its substantial production of green energy, and to fully utilize the Vertical Gas Corridor, in order to enhance its geopolitical and economic role in the region.