

## **Energy Security in SE Europe and the Role of LNG**

### **IENE International Workshop**

Apollo Divani Hotel, Athens, July 4-5,2017

Opening Remarks by Costis Stambolis, Executive Director, IENE

Dear Delegates,

First of all I want to say how happy I am, together with my colleagues at IENE, that we are eventually organizing this ground breaking international seminar and the opportunity we have to host you in this exquisite location. We are indeed grateful to all speakers and panelists especially the ones who have travelled from abroad, for making this extra effort to be with us today.

As you are all aware this Workshop is a highly focused affair conducted at expert level with the aim of (a) review the current situation of Energy Security in Europe and SE Europe, and (b) explore the role of LNG in terms of enhancing energy security in our region in order to facilitate the discussion IENE has prepared a background paper entitled **“Trends in Global LNG Industry:Special Focus on SE Europe”**, copy of which you will find in your Workshop Folder. An electronic version of this paper will also be send to you shortly.

The availability and provision of adequate gas storage capacity has over the last few years emerged as a key factor for enhancing energy security in SE Europe. According to a latest IENE study, total underground gas storage (UGS) capacity in SE European countries, currently estimated at 13,64 bcm, is just enough to cover periodic peaks but is not regarded as adequate for planning purposes and for securing long term security in the various countries' energy systems. In this respect LNG has lately been identified as a suitable alternative which can successfully augment grid demands during prolonged peak demand periods. Today only Greece and Turkey in SE Europe use LNG to complement the operation of their national gas systems while a number of new projects are in the offing. We shall be reviewing then in the present Workshop drawing upon the expertise of our invited speakers and panelists.

In addition the present Workshop will examine the whole energy security situation in SE Europe placing special emphasis on the role of LNG. Top energy security and LNG experts from the region and beyond are among us and will join us for a wide-ranging review of the present situation but will also discuss energy demand and technology prospects and forecasts. This 1 ½ day intensive

Workshop aims towards providing the latest information and analysis on the critical issue of regional energy security and the increasingly important role of LNG.

As I conclude these short remarks and before we embark on the main part of our proceedings I wish on behalf of IENE to express our warm thanks to the following three companies for supporting this event:

- M & M Gas
- Hellenic Gas Transmission System Operator (DESFA)
- Public Gas Corporation (DEPA)

Without the help and active involvement of the management of these leading gas companies IENE would not have been able to convene this important event.