

**2<sup>nd</sup> International Seminar “Energy and Shipping”**  
**Athens, Wednesday, March 6, 2013**  
**I.N. Desypris, Chairman IENE**

Your excellency Minister Mr Mousouroulis, esteemed speakers and representatives from shipping and energy industry, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this second international seminar on energy and shipping.

The idea behind the organization of such a seminar is the acknowledgement that maritime transport is of vital importance for many countries’ energy sufficiency and security of supply.

Without maritime transportation of oil, LNG, coal and other energy products, industrialized countries economies would be hindered from properly functioning.

Maritime transportation is a very significant constituent of world economy. It offers economies of scale and sustainable and efficient trade functioning, on global scale.

On the other hand new technologies and innovations on ships themselves have increased their own fuel efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

Greece being a traditional naval country, respects and promotes maritime entrepreneurship, and I am sure that the Minister will talk about that. After all a very significant share of maritime transport worldwide is controlled by Greek companies or belong to Greek interests.

With these thoughts, may I welcome you all and wish you a productive seminar.