



**ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΝΑΥΤΙΛΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΙΓΑΙΟΥ**

6, March 2013

**Address by the Minister of Shipping, Maritime Affairs & the Aegean,  
Kostis MOUSSOUROULIS**

**IENE Conference  
Energy and Shipping**

Mr Chairman of IENE and Speakers,

Distinguished Guests from the energy and shipping communities,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Due to several obligations, it is unfortunately not possible for me to attend, however it is with great pleasure that I address the second International Seminar of IENE for Energy and Shipping, in the premises of the Eugenideion Foundation.

Shipping is of course a sector of supremacy for our country. The shipping business is an extrovert sector of our economy, an international field of activities, where professionalism and vision are required.

Energy on the other hand, is a very promising field for development in our region of the world. Energy has many interconnections with shipping, as it is at the same time a supplier and a client of the shipping industry.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Speaking not only as the Minister for Shipping, but also as a former Secretary General in the Ministry for Development responsible for energy, I am aware of the importance of both sectors and I strongly believe that they indeed stand to mutually benefit from synergies, that should be encouraged. Developments in the international markets, as well as in our neighbourhood, provide plenty of opportunities.

On the Government's part, initiatives are undertaken in order to support these sectors, with measures of legislative, administrative or practical nature. We are facing major challenges, such as the improvement of the business and investment environment, the creation of jobs and the rationalisation of the public sector in order to support these highly specialised, technical industries.

Furthermore, shipping is taking steps to follow energy efficiency developments, for both financial and environmental reasons. According to data provided by the IMO and ICS, the energy efficiency of ship engines has increased almost by 25% in the last 30 years, while the carbon footprint of cargo vessels is less than half of the land transport

equivalent and almost 20 times less than that of air transport. We are also closely following IMO and EU developments concerning reduced fuel consumption and gas emissions.

Engineers are already combining with new technologies on ships, the technological demands of the energy sector, pioneering new directions for both sectors that redraw the global map and traditional routes and make new plans feasible.

Shipping is the key transportation means for energy sources such as coal, oil and gas; with the transportation of gas in particular rising significantly, resulting in new related shipping investments. According to the predictions of shipping index analysts, increases in LPG transportation for instance and in the total transport capability of LPG carriers are forecast, by 4,7% in 2013 and 4,9% in 2014 and the transport capability of LPG carriers increased by 1,7% last year. Whereas LNG is concerned, LNG imports are continuously significant throughout the European Union -despite the economic crisis- due to new gas infrastructure investments, terminals and pipelines, new gas-fired power units, as well as increased penetration of natural gas in the domestic markets.

Both sectors are currently faced with challenges as well as opportunities.

Greece, an entryway into the European Union, with a strong maritime industry and a potential logistics and energy hub, has the opportunity to build on these assets in order to contribute to the country's new production and growth model, to the GDP, to employment.

The Greek government as a whole and the Ministry of Shipping, Maritime Affairs and the Aegean in particular, are working with dedication towards this goal: to navigate our country quickly and safely out of the crisis. Our policies are designed to facilitate and achieve this. We should all align our commitment to strengthening our position in the sectors where great potential lies.

Energy and Shipping are a combined *power* that can inspire us and help us look with optimism into the future.

I wish the Seminar procedures every success.

Thank you.