

## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

**By the Executive Director of IENE  
Mr. Costis Stambolis**

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ambassadors of Greece and Bulgaria

Dear Delegates,

Ladies and Gentleman,

On behalf of the “Institute of Energy for SE Europe” – IENE, let me first of all welcome you all to today’s event which we are most happy to be organizing here in Sofia.

As many of you already know this Workshop is being held as part of a broader study by IENE which examines **SE Europe’s Energy Outlook** and which our Institute has been conducting now over the last 18 months in order to assess current developments and future prospects in all aspects of the region’s energy market. Of paramount importance in this overall examination is the electricity sector which appears to be the most advanced in terms of market integration and compliance with EU standards and nearer to the goal of the single market.

SE Europe and the Balkans in particular, including Romania, Bulgaria and Greece, have over the last ten years overcome major hurdles and have advanced tremendously in their efforts to open up their electricity markets and in the process have attracted (and will be attracting even more) investments in required infrastructure.

So far a lot of attention has been paid to natural gas as the driving force fuel (as we’ve seen from the international conference that Bulgaria’s President Parvanov convened in Sofia only 3 weeks ago) together with solid fuels and the need to contain CO<sub>2</sub>, as part of an overall strategy driven by Climate Change Considerations.

On the other hand Nuclear Energy, which already provides a significant part of the East Balkan’s power has not received proportionate attention although its contribution in curbing Greenhouse gas emissions on a long term basis appears to be much greater. At the same time considerable infrastructure work is under development in Bulgaria, but also in Romania, and plans are in progress for the introduction of nuclear energy for power generation in Turkey and Albania.

It is for these reasons that our Institute decided to organize this one day Workshop in this time juncture in order to examine the true role and prospects of the Nuclear Energy Option in our geographical area.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thanks to the excellent collaboration we had with our colleagues in Bulgaria and Romania and of course from Greece we have put together a very interesting programme of presentations with excellent speakers and panelists, which I am sure will raise several key questions and will lead to a fruitful discussion. There are some changes in the name of speakers as you will see from the new programme which we

have circulated, but otherwise the sequence of presentations and the programme of the Workshop remain as originally planned.

May I wish you all a good day and hopefully by the end of it we shall all be a little wiser.