



Introductory Remarks by the Chairman of IENE, Costis Stambolis

Your Excellency Ambassador Kamisti,
Dear IENE Partners,
Dear energy colleagues in Albania,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Today is a great day for our organisation, the Institute of Energy for South East Europe, the IENE, as we find ourselves in beautiful Albania, this pleasant day at the end of May, for the third Tirana Energy Forum. Let me remind you that we have organised two similar energy events here, back in 2008 and 2016 backed at the time, on both occasions, by Greece's Public Power Corporation (PPC)

Last year, in January 2023 I was most happy to pay a visit, together with my colleague Costas Theofylactos, to the Polytechnic University of Tirana for the presentation of IENE's seminal study the SEE Energy Outlook. A memorable occasion which we very much enjoyed. In addition to that event our energy links with Albania have continued over the years with frequent visits by Albanian colleagues to our various conferences and their participation also to our major publication, the SEE Energy Outlook.

Now, the 3d Tirana Energy Forum is convened once again by IENE, this time under the auspices and with the support of a group of companies and organisations which have good working links with the government of Albania and with Albanian energy companies. More specifically this Forum is being supported by the Athens based KG Law Firm, the EnsCo energy trading company and by Greece's Independent Power Transmission Operator (IPTO) On behalf of IENE I sincerely thank them for their valuable help.

This is the right time to organise once again the Tirana Energy Forum as the country over the last 18 months or so has entered into a steep economic development curve as a result of bold administrative and tax reforms, continuous investment, mostly from abroad, a pro business government policy and the exploitation of business opportunities by the private sector.

The energy sector is in many respects leading the way to economic and business development in Albanian as it will be clearly shown through the various addresses and presentations by our group of distinguished speakers and moderators.

In this context the 3d Tirana Energy Forum will provide an excellent overview of what is happening today in Albania's energy sector by covering a wide area of activity, including energy policy, hydrocarbon exploration and production, power generation, transmission and distribution, electricity markets, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.

Without further ado let me invite to the floor my dear friend and colleague Shkelqim Bozgo, with whom IENE and myself worked closely in organising today's event.