

Address by the Mayor of Limassol Mr. Nicos Nicolaides at the "Maritime Cyprus 2017" Shipping Conference: "Yesterday's World, Tomorrow's Today" titled "Limassol as a maritime and energy hub", on Wednesday, October 11th 2017 at 09.30 hours at Evagoras Lanitis Centre

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Limassol Municipality, I warmly welcome you to our city for the Cyprus Maritime 2017. This year's Maritime coincides with the 5th anniversary of the signing of The "Limassol Declaration", on October 8, 2012, a declaration which was considered as a milestone for the development of an EU Integrated Maritime Policy by proposing a marine and maritime agenda to back the Europe 2020 strategy aiming at creating growth and jobs.

I would like to thank the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works and the Department of Merchant Shipping for choosing, once again, Limassol to host the Cyprus Maritime, a prestigious international event. Our congratulations also go to the co-organizers, the Cyprus Shipping Chamber and the Cyprus Union of Ship-owners.

Allow me to take this opportunity to say a few words about our city and our plans for the nearest future.

Limassol is a city of progress, of new opportunities, new people, new ideas. Besides being a world – renowned shipping center, our city is the business and financial capital of Cyprus. Limassol's economic activity is characterized by versatility and a dynamic development that stretches throughout a wide spectrum of sectors, from services, the manufacturing industry, tourism, the building sector and many other areas. Limassol has all the prerequisites to aim even higher as a business center. An excellent geographic position, a port under a new commercial operation, top quality human resources, a 20-kilometre- accessible- beachfront, 2 marinas, 3 universities, excellent infrastructure, best-quality accommodation and entertainment facilities, and many more elements which combine top features for an attractive destination for investment and progress.

There are a number of impressive projects under way or under planning, starting from the high-rise buildings along the seaside area, the new casino resort, the uplifting of the western urban areas and the regeneration of the area between the Limassol Marina and the New Port, a project which is an *unprecedented* redevelopment that will reshape the city's character and will create huge investment opportunities.

On top of all these, there is the energy sector, a prospect which can elevate the future of Limassol even higher. The discovery of hydrocarbons in Cyprus's Exclusive

Economic Zone places a primary challenge on Cyprus: to develop into an important energy hub in the Mediterranean.

Our City Limassol- declares its strong and unlimited support to the Government's and private sector's initiatives aiming at this target. The City Council supports all efforts for the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons. For this reason the Municipality embraces all initiatives towards this direction, from the recent upgrade of the Limassol port services to the efforts aiming to substantially increase and upgrade the available local human resources. We have no doubt that all these efforts will create the necessary incentives for more international companies to establish their presence in our City. Needless to say that the municipality will safeguard and ensure that all city infrastructure developments are aligned with helping the achievement of these goals, and at the same time maintaining the highest environmental standards.

Dear guests,

In conclusion, I would like to underline that the Limassol Municipality has open doors for proposals and ideas which can further enhance economic development and business activities in Cyprus and Limassol in particular. As we have been doing all these years, we are ready, in practical terms, to support new ideas and new business initiatives.

Once again I congratulate you for an outstanding from all aspects Maritime!