

Address by the Mayor of Limassol Mr. Nicos Nicolaides at the annual dinner of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (Cyprus Branch) – ICS, Columbia Plaza, on July 1st, 2017 at 20.30 hours

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure and an honor for me to be invited to address the Annual Dinner of the ICS, the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (Cyprus Branch). And I would like to express my thanks and my appreciation to the Chairman of ICS-Cyprus, Mr. Demetris Constantinides and of course to the International Chairman of ICS-Cyprus, Mr. Michalis Taliotis.

This is note the first time I attend events organized by the ICS-Cyprus. As a minister of Communications and Works and as a Member of the Parliament, I have had the opportunity to attend, on several occasions in the past, important events organized by your Institution. It is however, the first time I am present as the Mayor of Limassol. And I would like, *as* the Mayor of Limassol, *on* behalf of the city of Limassol, to express our appreciation for your presence in Limassol, for your work and for your contribution to the economic growth of our city.

It is a well-established fact that our city is the business and financial center of Cyprus. The economic activity of our city 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, energy and other sectors. But, it is an undeniable fact, that what characterizes, what defines and makes Limassol a city of excellence is its shipping industry.

Being the largest ship-management center in the European Union and the fifth worldwide, Limassol is faced with a great challenge:

Not only to keep the prestigious status, but to aim even higher. All the prerequisites to achieve this goal are here: An excellent track record, new developments in the port infrastructure, new opportunities in the natural gas and the energy sector in general.

But the most important prerequisite, the most precious element of Limassol's shipping success story is none other than its people. All the professionals, who work hard every day in order to keep our shipping industry at the top stairs of the international ladder. The ICS Cyprus and its members are of course a key factor in this effort. And for this we are grateful.

Once more thank you for giving me the chance to be here, and let me wish you every success in your professional endeavors.

NN / MCH