

**Address by the Mayor of Limassol, Mr Andreas Christou at the official opening of the Cyprus Investment Conference and Exhibition – Best Invest Cyprus. Four Seasons Hotel – 19/10/2015**

On behalf of the Limassol Municipality I would like to warmly welcome you all and wish you a pleasant stay in our city.

We are really very honored that Limassol was chosen to host the Cyprus Investment Conference & Exhibition Best Invest Cyprus.

As you are probably well aware the Municipality of Limassol was established in 1878 and is the largest one in Cyprus. Our city since then has progressed into one of the most important commercial ports in the Mediterranean, as well as one of the greatest maritime, tourist, commercial and service centres in the wider region.

Limassol is today the business, financial and shipping centre of Cyprus with a large number of local and international companies surrounded by a further network of hotels, restaurants and other venues for entertainment and leisure. Today our city is the largest ship-management centre in the European Union and the fifth worldwide with three (3) Universities, the Cyprus University of Technology and two (2) English speaking private ones.

Limassol has a long and extensive history, as the first settlements of the city were established some 4000 years ago. Today is a multinational, cosmopolitan city as well as a popular tourist destination.

Limassol is additionally well known for a long cultural tradition. Visitors have the opportunity to experience a variety of cultural or other activities. In addition, they can visit museums and other archaeological locations around the city, which is an astonishing combination of ancient, Frankish, Byzantine, Ottoman and modern influence.

The Limassol Carnival, the Wine Festival, the Ballet Festival are some of the most popular events organized by the Municipality for many many years.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Distinguished guests,

Limassol and all of Cyprus, despite the crisis, remain open and welcoming to all. The comparative advantages of our island are still there and continue to be based on our people, our history and traditions as well as on the experience and knowledge gained during the past years.

It is certain that by detecting hydrocarbon deposits at the Cyprus GEZ, these potentials gain a different dimension.

I would like once again to welcome you and to thank Mrs Natalia Kardash and her team for the excellent preparation and for the invitation to be with you today.

I wish you every success to your work!