

## **Welcome Address**

**By Mr. Costas Ioannou, given at the Seminar**

**“Energy after Peace in Ireland and Reunified Germany, Lessons  
for Cyprus”**

**Frederick University, Wednesday 4 November 2009**

**Mr Chairman,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to address this meeting and many thanks to the Reconstruction and Resettlement Council for organizing this very timely and interesting Seminar.

As you know, in the energy sector there is a clear recent trend towards the opening up of the markets and towards the “internationalization” and “globalization” of the industry. Traditional closed boundaries are opening up to a wider regional and international dimensions, a process which is directly applicable to Cyprus.

It is well known that, for example, the German reunification had a significant political, economic, social, and environmental impact.

In the case of Cyprus there are a number of related factors dictating the movement towards reunification and opening of the energy market, some of which include:

- upgrading of a unified electricity Transmission and Distribution network
- inspection of all power stations to assess whether they need to be modified or upgraded in order to establish their compliance with EU Directives, regarding emissions
- working out at complete “security of energy supply” programme, for the whole of the island
- estimating the total Natural Gas needs of Cyprus, which will be the primary fuel for electricity generation for the next 20 years
- re-evaluation and assessment of the long term electricity maximum demand forecast for Cyprus as a whole
- regulation and opening up of the electricity and gas markets
- introducing a Smart metering technology, according to EU directives for the whole of Cyprus
- facilitate the financing of energy infrastructure including interconnection projects for gas and electricity
- introduce and enhance competition in the energy market
- technological harmonization with the EU directives
- Identifying and developing opportunities for foreign investment and financing for big energy projects to facilitate economic growth and development.

In our effort to reunify the energy sector of Cyprus it will be wise to study closely the examples and the methods followed by other countries which underwent similar situations in order to be more efficient and productive and to avoid any mistakes.

**Thank you.**