

Speech on the behalf of the Institute of European Democrats
**The Eastern Mediterranean Sea Today: Security, Political and Economic
Dynamics**

Nicosia, 5 October 2013
Giulia Massotti

As I am the fourth person to take the floor, I will skip the protocol.

Distinguished guests,
Dear friends,

It is with great pleasure that I am here today and it is also a privilege to address such a distinguished audience on the behalf of the Institute of European Democrats, its Board of Directors and its Director Luca Bader. We are glad to organize today this interesting conference in cooperation with our friends from Evropaiko Komma.

The Institute of European Democrats is a political foundation at the European level, based in Brussels since its establishment, in 2007.

Like all other so-called *political foundations at the European level*, the Institute of European Democrats has been established under the drive of the European institutions and is directly funded by the European Parliament in order to serve as a political think tank. As *political think tanks*, political foundations back the political parties to which they are affiliated. The Institute of European Democrats is affiliated to the European Democratic Party, which gathers at the EU level national parties from more than ¼ EU Member States sharing the same pro-European values and views on Europe.

In order to contribute to develop a political debate at the EU level, where alternative policies confront each other, the IED organized conferences and seminars where politicians, experts, EU and national officials, academics and others can discuss critically. The majority of our events are organised in the EU Member States (like today, in the beautiful Cyprus) instead of Brussels, in order to bring the European debate closer to the EU citizens and in order to do what Mr. Syllouris mentioned before, that is to address national and transnational issues from the European perspective and hopefully to find European solutions and common approaches to national and transnational problems and needs.

This is the reason why we, as IED, are here today: to discuss an issue that has important drawbacks and strategic implications on the geopolitical dynamics of the Eastern Mediterranean sea with a European perspective.

I am sure that this objective will be successfully achieved in particular thanks to the precious contributions of our speakers coming from abroad to help us broaden our focus and to tackle the issue in its complexity. And, of course, thanks to our co-

organizers, our friends from Evropaiko Komma that I would like to thank on the behalf of the Institute of European Democrats for the excellent organization.

It is always a pleasure to be in such a wonderful country in the company of such good friends. One year ago, we met here to approach for the first time together this particular issue. Today, we meet again for the follow-up of the previous analysis and we add the temporal perspective to our reflections. The Institute is already looking forward to the third chapter of this observation and it has already planned a further follow-up in its programme for the next year.

I look forward to hearing all contributions and the debate, then.

Thank you.

Giulia Massotti