

ADRESS BY HER EXCELLENCY MARIE-LOUISE COLEIRO PRECA, PRESIDENT OF MALTA DURING THE CONFERENCE ON “SECURITY OF GAS SUPPLY: THE ROLE OF GAS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION”. UPPER BARRAKKA GARDENS, VALLETTA. THURSDAY 11 JULY 2014.

Vice president, Günther Oettinger

Honorary Ministers,

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

It is certainly an honour for Malta to welcome eminent Ministers from the European Union member states and North Africa, as well as distinguished partners in the energy industry, to participate in what has been described as the ‘Malta Energy Conference’.

Malta is once again fulfilling its important role as the hub of the Mediterranean, this time to ensure a healthy energy supply for the region. We are proud to

co-host the conference, together with The European Union and Cyprus.

It gives me great pleasure to see all of you gathered here today with a common aim; that of securing an adequate energy supply for the Mediterranean region.

This brings a sense of greater cooperation between countries in the Mediterranean, North Africa and mainland Europe.

The sense of cooperation augurs well for the future of the Mediterranean and its people; people that are so diverse from one another, yet rich in culture and solidarity with one another.

I have faith that your discussions here in Malta will chart the way forward on how developments in the Mediterranean can enhance and ensure the supply of adequate and cleaner energy for our region, and indeed for the whole of Europe.

Malta provides the perfect strategic opportunity to be at the heart of an energy hub. This is further enhanced by the commitment shown by Malta to act as a catalyst between nations of the Mediterranean for the wellbeing of their peoples.

I am delighted to note that together, you are discussing a cleaner alternative for energy. Cleaner energy will promise a healthier environment for us all. Clean energy will ensure an environment that is healthy for our children and families, and indeed for our society.

I wish you all a successful conference and a pleasant stay in our beautiful island.