

**Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism of the Republic of Cyprus**



Dr. Stelios Himonas

Curriculum Vitae (C.V.)

EDUCATION:

PhD in Electrical Engineering, December 1989
State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, New York, USA

Master of Science in Electrical Engineering, December 1986
State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, New York, USA

Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering, May 1985
State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, New York, USA

EXPERIENCE:

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Cyprus (04/13 – present)

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Cyprus (04/12 – 04/13)

Director of Department of Electronic Communications
Ministry of Communications and Works, Cyprus (1/03 – 03/12)

Director of Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications and Works, Cyprus (2/00 – 12/02)

Senior Telecommunications Officer
Ministry of Communications and Works, Cyprus (1/98 – 2/00)

Professor
Department of Computer Engineering, Intercollege, Cyprus (9/97 – 1/98)

Associate Professor with Tenure
Department of Electrical Engineering
New York Institute of Technology, New York, USA (9/94 – 9/97)

Assistant Professor
Department of Electrical Engineering
New York Institute of Technology, New York, USA (9/89 – 8/94)

Visiting Research Scientist – Multimedia Communications
Bell Communications Research (Bellcore), New Jersey, USA (5/94 – 7/97)

RESEARCH:

Author of 35 research papers in refereed journals and conference proceedings

HONORS:

Member of Sigma Xi Research Honor Society

Member of Eta Kappa Nu Electrical Engineering Honor Society

Member of the New York Academy of Sciences

Who is Who in the World

Who is Who in American Education

Who is Who Among Human Services Professionals

Who is Who in the East

ACTIVITIES:

Digital Champion of Cyprus (10/12 – present)

Appointment by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus

Member of the Board

Research Promotion Foundation (12/09 – 03/12)

Vice Chairman CEPT/ECC (06/11 – 04/12)

Chairman CEPT/ECC/WGRA (05/06 – 12/12)

Member of the Board

Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (8/00 – 7/03)

Reviewer of research papers submitted for publication to IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems (USA), IEE Proceedings-F (UK) (1989 – 1997)

**Address by Dr. Stelios Himonas,
Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism**

Dear Minister,
your Excellency the ambassador of France,
Honorable guests,
Learned Speakers, Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you for the opportunity to address this very important and useful conference on the Cyber security of Oil and Natural gas industry.

The discovery of the Aphrodite gas field in Block 12 in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus, in late 2011 by the US based Noble Energy has confirmed a new reality on the Eastern Mediterranean's role as a supplier of natural gas in world markets.

The EEZ of three countries in the region, Egypt, Israel and Cyprus do have significant proven deposits. The exploration programs of major oil companies, such as ENI and Total, that have been awarded additional exploration licenses in the EEZ of Cyprus in February, foretell with much confidence that additional discoveries can be announced in the next couple of years. Cyprus, an EU member state, being located at the crossroads of three continents– Europe, Africa and Asia, being close to one of the major international energy routes through the Suez Canal, and now hosting the potential for energy exports, offers some unique advantages for developing a significant hydrocarbons industry.

The issue of security in such a critical industry is of priority second to none. Compromised cyber security could have catastrophic consequences. All stakeholders should ensure that such an event remains a very unlikely possibility.

The infrastructure that could be located in Cyprus includes a natural gas liquefaction plant, offshore exploration or production platforms and subsea pipelines. Projects of Common Interest that have been initially approved by the European Commission include an electricity interconnection between Israel, Cyprus and Greece, also known as the EuroAsia Interconnector, a natural gas subsea pipeline from the eastern Mediterranean to Greece and Europe and, an LNG storage facility. A major oil products terminal is currently under construction by the international VTTI and there seems to be interest for more. Cyber attacks on global critical energy infrastructure are increasing in both frequency and sophistication making them more difficult to detect and defend against. This can lead to costly outages and potentially catastrophic events.

The cyber attack against Saudi Aramco, the state owned company of Saudi Arabia, in 2012, which was aimed at interrupting crude oil and gas supplies, highlighted the devastating impacts a single computer virus could have had in global markets. Energy developments in the Eastern Mediterranean, require the protection of the critical energy infrastructure. The computer, telecommunication, control and security industry have a major role in establishing such a protection.

The Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism wishes you, the participants in this conference, every success in your deliberations. We look forward to receiving any conclusions and recommendations. Thank you all for your attention.