

## **Doorstep by the Cypriot Minister of Communications and Works**

### **At the Filoxenia Center before the Ministerial Meeting**

Cyprus attaches great emphasis to the EU Integrated Maritime Policy and has placed it among the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency. To this respect, our aim in today's Informal Ministerial Meeting, is to adopt the "Limassol Declaration" which will mark a milestone for the future implementation and development of this important policy.

The EU Integrated Maritime Policy was initially launched in Lisbon in 2007. The Cyprus Presidency's goal is to re-energize and give momentum to this process which is a prerequisite for exploiting the full benefits of the European seas and oceans. Through this Declaration and in parallel to the Blue Growth initiative, we therefore aim to contribute to the objectives of Europe 2020 Strategy for Europe's economic recovery, sustainable growth and social cohesion.

I am looking forward to a fruitful and dynamic meeting where new impetus will be given to this far reaching, innovative and mostly essential policy.