

**WELCOME SPEECH
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**SIGNING CEREMONY OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
CYPRUS ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
AND
ERATOSTHENES CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2021

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to sign today the Memorandum of Understanding between the Eratosthenes Centre of Excellence and the Cyprus Energy Regulatory Authority; joined by academic partners from Greece and Germany.

Today's signed agreement sets a significant milestone for closer research collaboration among our organizations.

We would like to express our appreciation for this valuable and promising scientific collaboration. As a result, this will provide advantages and promote the activities of both organizations.

CERA's main objective is the development of an economically viable, safe, and efficient energy market, focusing on consumers, by putting them in the centre of the energy regulation, while at the same time safeguarding the environment, by promoting the use of Renewable Energy Sources.

The gradual transition to clean energy and a carbon-neutral economy is one of the greatest challenges of our time. This will be implemented through the co-operation of CERA and Eratosthenes Centre of Excellence in EU funded projects and other programs.

Through this collaboration we expect to focus on the creation of hot spot energy maps by using satellite data as well as the investigation on how the dust events affect the solar energy production and the best locations for wind farms and solar energy panels using satellite technologies.

The exchanged knowledge and information will lead to mutual scientific documentation and publications, to the organization of targeted workshops and training activities.

Scientists from the Eratosthenes Centre of Excellence will have the opportunity to be seconded at the premises of CERA aiming to simplify the communication and collaboration between the two entities in order to prepare, submit and work on mutual projects.

I am very pleased to witness the commitment of CERA and Eratosthenes Centre of Excellence to establish a closer collaboration.

I believe such collaboration is both timely and relevant and will benefit both the regulatory oversight as well as academic research.

Dr. Andreas Poulikkas
CERA Chairman