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I would like to commend the “Energy Union Future Leaders Academy”, which is going to be hosted this year in Athens. This initiative has the potential of becoming not only an institution for the Southeastern European region but also a “beacon” of insight and inspiration for talented young individuals that have the willingness and potential to succeed within the energy sector.

It is clearer than ever that the "regional dimension" has become an integral component of modern energy policy. It is also the enabler for a more efficient, more sustainable, greener and overall better energy future for Europe and its citizens. It is a future which we should jointly work on and which we can achieve working together. This is exactly why I have been entrusted in the European Commission with the Energy Union project. To make this vision become reality, it requires determination and commitment of all stakeholders concerned both within and outside the EU. But above all, it requires human capital and wise leadership in order to make it happen.

This is why initiatives like the "Energy Union Future Leaders Academy" are important and deserve our support; they attract talented young individuals interested in energy acquainted with the benefits of the Energy Union and the policy tools to make it happen. We have to use all our energy to turn the “Best” into the “Leaders of Tomorrow” and this is what this Academy is exactly aiming at. The members of the Greek Energy Forum, who are organizing the Academy, are – as I have witnessed myself – already a very good example of the great potential that young people of the Southeastern European region show; I am therefore confident that the Academy will fulfill its mission.

Let me congratulate the Greek Energy Forum and the Energy & Environmental Policy Lab of the University of Piraeus for conceptualizing and hosting this endeavor. I recommend you all to consider applying to attend this unique series of insightful seminars and lectures.

Kind regards,

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