

Discours de M. MAILLARD pour la remise des Palmes académiques à M. Fatih BIROL

IEA, 18 October 2006

Dear Fatih,

On behalf of the French Government I have the pleasure to celebrate granting of a French decoration to you.

This is a recognition of the superb job you have been doing since several years, with your team, in energy economics and especially at IEA for the World Energy Outlook. Concerning your high qualifications, I would like to mention that before IEA you have worked at the OPEC Secretariat which provided to you a good expertise on producer and consumer points of view. Since then I know that you have got several awards, for instance from the Russian Academy of Science, from the US Government or from the International Association for Energy Economics.

This award is called as “*Chevalier dans l’ordre des Palmes Académiques*”, which gives to you, Fatih, the opportunity of being a member of an old French order of knighthood in the academic field. Indeed, this order was created by Napoléon in 1808.

It is a way for France to highlight the importance of economic and strategic studies that provide guidelines and forward-looking framework for decision makers within Governments. The French Ministry of Industry has a long tradition in energy scenarios making but modelisation is subcontracted to external bodies such as universities. It is a great advantage for IEA to have in-house expertise so that member countries may benefit of it. It is one of the reasons why France granted a voluntary contribution to IEA for WEO 2006.

In conclusion, I thank you for all the excellent studies you have already performed in energy economics and I thank your team too - and the IEA secretariat as well - to support this activity. I encourage you and IEA to persevere in this direction, as a mediator between energy policy and energy economics. You can rely on my support and on the French delegations’ one to express our keen interest on it.

And to end these few words, I would like to congratulate you and I wish you the very best for the rest of your career, at IEA and elsewhere. I hope that you will keep a good remembrance of the appreciation made by France on your work.

Congratulation and thank you very much.