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Président de la Commission européenne

**à l'occasion du 30^{ème} anniversaire du
PPE**

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Congrès PPE

Rome, le 30 mars 2006

Monsieur le Président,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je suis très heureux de me trouver aujourd’hui parmi vous. Je souhaite un heureux anniversaire et mes meilleurs vœux de succès au Parti populaire européen.

À trente ans, le PPE peut s’enorgueillir d’une belle vitalité. En trois décennies, le PPE a trouvé toute sa place dans le jeu démocratique européen : il est aujourd’hui le premier groupe au Parlement européen.

Aujourd’hui, à Rome, je ne peux m’empêcher de penser que dans un an, nous célébrerons le cinquantenaire de notre traité fondateur, le traité de Rome. Cet anniversaire sera, à n’en pas douter, frappé du sceau de nos valeurs : la dignité de la personne humaine, la liberté, la démocratie, la justice, et la solidarité.

Je veux parler des valeurs des pères fondateurs – Robert Schuman, Jean Monnet et Alcide de Gasperi. C'est bien ce dernier qui, en 1952, décrivait le projet européen en ces termes devant le Sénat italien:

"Si tratta di una coalizione di democrazie fondata sul principio della libertà. Questo è il nostro baluardo, questo è il nostro programma, questa la nostra lotta!"

Non seulement le PPE, mais l'Union européenne d'aujourd'hui tout entière en sont les héritiers. Après la deuxième guerre mondiale et la victoire sur le nazisme, nos valeurs ont vaincu le totalitarisme communiste et mis fin à la division de notre continent.

Notre Europe est unie et plurielle, ouverte sur le monde et humaine.

Par-delà nos origines différentes, ce qui nous rassemble, ce sont la liberté et les droits fondamentaux, la démocratie, le respect de la diversité, l'égalité des chances et la justice sociale. L'idée que l'Etat doit contrôler la vie de ses citoyens est la négation même de notre idée de l'Europe.

Cette Europe vit en paix. Cette paix nous permet de faire avancer notre ambition de progrès qui se construit jour après jour.

Aujourd’hui, la mondialisation brouille les repères et place les européens devant de nouvelles opportunités, mais aussi devant de nouveaux défis.

L'Europe était notre réponse, et l'Europe restera notre réponse. L'Europe est plus nécessaire que jamais : elle a une puissance qui peut se mesurer à l'échelle du monde, tout en offrant à nos valeurs la stabilité d'un point d'ancrage.

To preserve our values in this age of globalization, we need to modernize our policies.

As the President of the European Commission, I am committed to translate our values into policies, objectives into results, words into deeds.

This Commission is driving forward the reform agenda, but this is also a Commission which is listening to the people.

Last week, at the Spring European Summit, the political leaders of all 25 Member States have endorsed the objectives fixed according to the revised Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs. This strategy is without alternative if we want to generate new economic dynamism throughout Europe. The Commission will assume its full responsibility when assessing progress in early 2007 under the German Presidency.

At the same time, we will move forward our agenda for better regulation, in the respect of the principle of subsidiarity. Our citizens and our businesses don't want decisions to be taken very far away from them. Most of all, they want decisions that make their lives easier, not more complicated.

We all know that small and medium enterprises are the drivers of our growth. We need to roll out red carpet, not red tape for entrepreneurs. That is why we need to complete the internal market for services.

Our Europe is based on the respect of the four freedoms: free movement of people, goods, services and capital. The internal market is the basis of our political and social commitment. My Commission will fight all kinds of economic nationalism that are a threat to all what Europe represents.

My Commission is striving towards a Europe of projects, and of results.

We have developed a blueprint for an Energy Policy for Europe. Without it, Heads of Government would not have adopted last week a list of some 20 actions in the energy field which the Commission will start preparing in the coming months.

We are fully investing in the project of a European Institute of Technology. We must make sure that the best brains of Europe want to work for the benefit of Europe.

And what is crucially important: our work demonstrates that the enlarged Europe of 25 Member States, a Commission with 25 Commissioners and a European Parliament with more than 700 Members, is able to reach solutions also on the most difficult questions.

Europe has become bigger. My Commission's aim is to show that this enlarged Europe can fulfil the expectations of its citizens.

It is by developing this Europe of projects, and of results, that we will create the environment to settle the institutional questions that need be settled. We remain committed to the values and principles enshrined in the Constitutional Treaty signed by all Member States, here in Rome.

I nostri valori, il nostro progetto europeo e il nostro avvenire dipendono dal nostro impegno. Facciamo in modo che la determinazione che ci ha sorretto finora ci accompagni verso un'Europa capace di riflettere lo spirito dei padri fondatori.

Grazie.