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"20 Years of Support for European Integration Studies:
From the Jean Monnet Action to the Jean Monnet Programme"

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Mesdames,

Messieurs,

Le moment est venu de clore cette conférence. La qualité des travaux et des échanges qui ont eu cours ces deux jours est extraordinaire.

Voilà vingt ans désormais, qu'au travers de l'Action Jean Monnet, se donne à voir et à vivre une Europe faite d'**ouverture** à la connaissance et au monde ; celle que Jean Monnet lui-même appelait de ses vœux.

- **Ouverture à la connaissance, d'abord.** Nous en sommes plus que jamais convaincus. L'ignorance est le terreau de la résistance à l'idée européenne tandis que la connaissance emporte la conviction. Ces deux jours de conférences nous l'ont donné à voir. L'Action Jean Monnet rapproche milieux académiques et corps diplomatique, fins lettrés et éminents scientifiques, administrateurs chevronnés et remarquables politiques. Elle les rassemble – autour du Projet européen - dans une même recherche de dialogue fructueux et d'échange critique.

- **Ouverture au monde, ensuite.** Avec ce 20^{ème} anniversaire, nous célébrons une Europe qui trouve son élan dans des relations extérieures dynamiques¹. L'Action Jean Monnet en est l'un des fers de lance, présente dans 62 pays et sur les cinq continents, soutenue par un travail académique et d'information d'une qualité et d'une vitalité remarquable. L'ouverture internationale de l'Action Jean Monnet est aussi relayée par d'autres programmes européens tels *Erasmus Mundus* ou *Tempus*. C'est une ligne de force de notre "Agenda pour la Culture" et la ligne d'horizon de l'Union.

Ces deux jours ont été d'une densité intellectuelle et humaine remarquable. Les interventions de trois orateurs hors pair concluront nos échanges... pour aujourd'hui, du moins.

Permettez-moi de vous les présenter en anglais...

Our first closing speaker is Professor José-Maria Gil-Robles who currently holds a Jean Monnet Chair at the Complutense University of Madrid and is the Director of its Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence.

Professor Gil-Robles has unsurpassable experience in European affairs: former President of the European Parliament; President of the Association of Former Members of the European Parliament; President of the Jean Monnet Foundation in Lausanne; and President of the European University Council for the Jean Monnet Programme.

Professor Gil-Robles, it is a pleasure to give you the floor.

¹ Avec plus d'une centaine de centres d'excellence (145), près de mille chaires (835) et deux mille modules et cours permanents "Jean Monnet" (2058), l'action Jean Monnet est présente sur cinq continents et 62 pays (27 EM et 35 autres pays).

[Speech by Mr Gil-Robles]

Our second speaker on the closing panel is Mrs. Kalypso Nicolaïdis.

One of today's most brilliant thinkers on European affairs, she is currently Professor of International Relations at Oxford University and Director of its Centre for European Studies. In 2009, she also holds the Ganshof van der Meersch Chair at the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Before her arrival at Oxford, Mrs. Nicolaïdis taught at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and held visiting professorships at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration and Sciences-Po in Paris and at the College of Europe in Bruges.

Currently, Mrs. Nicolaïdis is a member of the Reflection Group on the future of Europe led by Felipe Gonzalez.

Professor Nicolaïdis ...

[Speech by Mrs Nicolaïdis]

It is a particular pleasure for me to introduce, as our final closing speaker, Peter Balázs, Hungary's Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Professor Balázs has had an extraordinary career as a diplomat, politician and academic. A former State Secretary in the Ministries of Trade and Industry, and Foreign Affairs, he served as Hungarian Ambassador to Denmark, Germany and the European Union. Following accession, he was Hungary's first Commissioner, a post he held until November 2004.

Launching himself thereafter in academia, Peter Balázs held a Jean Monnet Chair at Budapest's Corvinus University; he became Professor at the Central European University, where he also founded and directed the EU Enlargement Centre. He was the invaluable co-organiser of the highly successful Conference on Intercultural Dialogue in the Balkans that we organised together in Croatia last year.

Mr Balázs, I am very grateful that you have made the time in your busy schedule to be with us today and am eager to hear your views.

[Speech by Mr Balázs]

Ladies and gentlemen, the views and positions that have filled this room in the past two days struck me for their intellectual honesty, boldness and brilliance. This is exactly what we need, now that Europe and the world are stepping into a new phase in history.

This corresponds to the message given by President Barroso, who chose our conference to present his programme for the next five years – and we should all be proud of it.

The current global recession is a turning point for the geopolitical balance in Europe and the world; when this crisis is over, we will not return to the *status quo ante*.

This is a tremendous opportunity for those who are nimble enough to adapt to the new situation. This is an opportunity for our Union to proceed along the road to integration and for Europe to strengthen its position on the international scene.

Europe is already a model to the world in many ways: President Barroso cited health care and the welfare state; but we can add other domains as well closer to the policies I deal with daily.

Many from around the world look up at Europe for its heritage and for the excellence of its cultural production. Many regard our united Europe as the single most important geopolitical innovation since the end of the war.

And just as well; because – half a century later – the Union is no longer a bold experiment; the beautiful idea is turning into a reality.

We've had our ups and downs – of course – but at the end of the day our Union is the only successful attempt at managing globalisation, albeit on a regional scale.

What does managing globalisation mean? If you ask me, it means channelling its forces so that they are made to serve our social, environmental, and cultural objectives.

No European country is large enough or strong enough to steer its own course; the Union is the only hope we have to determine our future in full autonomy. It is our only hope to defend our interests and uphold the values that are so dear to us.

Identifying these interests and values, debating them, and finding the best means to fight for their affirmation are some of the things the Jean Monnet network can do best.

I want to thank you again for your intellectual and political contribution to the European cause.

The success of this Conference confirms once again the outstanding quality of the work done in the Jean Monnet Programme, and your vital role as independent, critics, commentators and disseminators.

Above all, the Jean Monnet community is a living organism that continues to evolve; let me say a few words on the future.

First, I would like to assure you that you will continue to be a player in the EU's dialogue with its Eastern European neighbours.

The programme has been a real actor for change in this area – as we saw during the conference discussions on how Jean Monnet helped prepare central and eastern European countries for EU accession.

Building on this, I see scope for a renewed role for the programme within the Neighbourhood Policy and the recently launched Eastern Partnership (EaP).

Second, the programme has a major role to play in making the European Union's role as an international player better understood, by bringing knowledge about the European model around the world, as we did when we opened up Jean Monnet world-wide in 2001.

We can add to this understanding, and increase the impact of the programme even further, by extending it to countries not yet in the network, as well as through stronger cooperation between the Jean Monnet Centres and other venues of excellence world-wide.

And third, Europe continues to face challenges on many fronts. The Jean Monnet programme is an invaluable source of independent ideas and unique expertise. The EU will want to continue to draw on your inspiration to help us design the right kind of policies for the right kind of Europe.

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These are just some of the pointers we have for the future of Jean Monnet – a programme that can only grow in its twin role as public diplomacy and global think-tank of the Union.

I want to thank you all for your constructive engagement during these two days. I look forward to meeting you again as we continue to proceed along the path towards a Europe of solidarity, peace and prosperity.

Thank you.