

Mr. Jacques DELORS (President of the Commission of the European Communities) (interpretation from the French): Mr. Chancellor, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen; Prime Minister Andreotti, as President of the European Council, has just emphasized the historic scope of the process undertaken within the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. He has shown how this process has contributed substantially to détente between the East and the West as well as to the promotion of human rights. Thus we may hope for the creation of a broad area of exchange and co-operation in the service of peace and world economic order which will be more just and more effective.

The European Community feels itself deeply involved in this exciting adventure which is so promising. It has done so and will continue to do so, relying on its own experience which had led 12 countries to live together in a closer fashion and to develop joint actions. If I speak of this experience it is because it is placed under the auspices of law and thus of common rules which are accepted by all in a voluntary way. It is also because the 12 Member Countries have been able to assess the positive results in every respect of these joint actions, both in the field of foreign policy as well as in the economic, monetary and social fields.

Carried forward by the advances already achieved, the Community has set new frontiers for itself which would lead it to a greater integration of domestic policies and greater effectiveness in its external action.

But I consider this development as inseparable from the prospects opened up by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and as concerning all participating countries without exception. Similarly, I consider these developments useful with respect to the organization of what is called henceforth "greater Europe", after the visible or invisible walls have been brought down which cut Europe in two.

It is in this spirit that we intend to serve the common cause.

Mr. Delors

Thus, it is within the framework of the European Community and with its active support that in a few months the unification of Germany has been carried out to our universal satisfaction.

At the same time the Community has concluded with the countries of Eastern and Central Europe a series of trade and co-operation agreements which will be followed by agreements of a new type called European Agreements in order to show their contribution to the building of this Greater Europe. These agreements will establish a regular political dialogue and, at the same time, contribute to promoting in these countries the success of the transition towards a modern economy, efficient and well integrated into the world economy.

Moreover, while continuing its task of co-ordinating projects for aid and assistance by 24 industrialized countries for the countries of Eastern and Central Europe, the European Commission has been preparing for some months to propose, in the same spirit, a co-operation and assistance programme with the Soviet Union, in the process which this country has undertaken towards a market economy and a pluralistic democratic society.

Similarly, the Community wishes to tighten the links which unite it to the countries of the European Free Trade Association through the establishment of a European Economic Area which will distribute to 19 countries the benefits of a broad economic area without frontiers

In this network of exchange and co-operation, the Community intends to neglect no partners. Thus it has woven for some time association agreements with Turkey, Cyprus and Malta. Similarly, going beyond the framework of this Conference, it is concerned to strengthen the ties already established with the countries of the Mediterranean.

I am convinced that this sort of fabric that is being woven by the Community with its various partners serves the general objectives of the CSCE and will contribute to its future successes. It is also to be placed in the prospect traced by the President of the French Republic, Mr. François Mitterrand, of a European Confederation.

Today, the force of the ideas contained in the Helsinki process, like the birth of the European Community, goes beyond our continent. It obliges us, in return, to be ourselves more consistent and more united.

But, it seems we must also consider another approach which is parallel to these bilateral agreements. It would consist in laying the concrete basis for co-operation in a specific field of activity. It is thus that the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Mr. Ruud Lubbers, had the merit of submitting a proposal offering great potentialities in a vital field for all countries, that of energy.

Indeed, the central objective of the energy policy would ensure the safety of supplies under conditions which would make it possible to increase the competitiveness of the economy and the well-being of our citizens while creating a stable and advantageous situation for energy producers.

A European Charter or Convention for energy could create a climate of confidence conducive to an optimal use of resources and their transport towards the places of consumption, both in the East and the West. It would contribute to a diversification of the sources of supply and would contribute to reducing tensions and imbalances in the international community. Finally, this project would take full and rational account of the environment.

The European Commission thus supports the Dutch initiative which would consist in inviting all the European countries to a conference with a view to drawing up such a Charter. The objective is not to establish cumbersome and bureaucratic machinery. It is just to establish a precise list of the principles and rules of the game which the countries will apply among themselves and with respect of the rest of the world.

This Charter would make it possible to have a framework within which would be discussed and then decided concrete ways and means of co-operation which would be adapted to each problem.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, history, our history, is made up of great designs - one of which is the Helsinki process - but also of pragmatic and concrete actions, giving positive effect to our actual interdependence, our feelings of solidarity and our wish to transcend them for the greater well-being of all. Thank you.