

Mr. Jean AUSSEIL (Minister of State, Monaco) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, I would like, if I may, to start by joining the previous speakers in offering our hosts our heartfelt gratitude, as is their due, for their cordial welcome, which is in the spirit of a long tradition of international hospitality.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the Executive Secretariat for their efficiency and all the facilities placed at our disposal.

Mr. Chairman, fifteen years have passed since that day in Helsinki when thirty-five Heads of State or Government set their seal upon the desire of their countries to place their future relations on a new footing based on trust and reason.

This act of faith in the future took place during a period of tension generated by the division of Europe into two blocs, which seemed at the time to be opposed in every respect, and above all by their fundamental beliefs.

There was, of course, some reason to think that the process to which we had committed ourselves might lead to greater understanding and hence to some favourable developments in a situation that had been till then, to say the least, frozen.

But how could any of us have ever imagined that we would be gathered here today in 1990, in Paris, in this capital city which has seen the emergence throughout history of so many ideas and concepts of universal value, to celebrate the birth of a new Europe resulting from a peaceful revolution?

The Principality of Monaco, which has always supported a liberal trend in international relations, could only rejoice to see the collapse at last, under irresistible popular pressure, of the many walls put up after the Second World War to cut off one half of the Continent from the other. We were

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satisfied to see basic human values, to which we are so deeply committed, finally recognized by States which had for so long turned their backs on them. And in the knowledge that the security of small countries depends upon the wisdom of the large ones, Monaco duly welcomed the fact that mistrust and tension had been replaced by a more peaceful political climate.

The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe made a decisive contribution to these positive results by providing an opportunity and a forum for a broad confrontation of ideas, leading to ever greater trust.

As a result of the historic event of German reunification, there are no longer thirty-five of us here today, but thirty-four, who meet to renew our 1975 undertaking and to give it a new dimension, more relevant to the context of a Europe which has been so deeply transformed by recent upheavals.

It remains only for the Principality of Monaco to confirm its sincere commitment to the process begun in Helsinki. We welcome the Paris Summit as an important stage on the route which we set out upon fifteen years ago. Monaco will spare no effort to support current progress towards a democratic, peaceful and united Europe.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman