

*Monaco Blue Initiative  
Closing – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010*

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear friends,

First, I would like to thank you for your very fine work, your freedom of tone and your commitment.

Of course, this represents only the beginning of what I am certain will be an exciting, if long and complex undertaking.

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As we have been reminded throughout the day, the Planet's seas have already undergone dramatic situations that could be cause for despair. Global warming, threats to biodiversity and ecosystems, overexploitation, pollution: the main problems affecting our Planet seem to be concentrated in the oceans.

I would like nonetheless to highlight what, in this meeting, gives us reason to hope.

As some have emphasised today, major progress has already been accomplished or will be in the future.

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I am thinking in particular of the development of marine protected areas, something well known to Monaco where one of the first undersea reserves was created in the Mediterranean over thirty years ago, and the initiative to create one of the first protected areas at sea was taken at the end of the past decade.

I also believe in the exceptional mobilisation of experts, scientists, as well as public opinion, all of which should weigh on decision-makers. This mobilisation should be our strength.

.../...

This is why I have confidence in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, Dear friends,

For their grandeur, their vital elemental force, for the dreams they engender, the seas are among the last areas of our Planet that still remain partly unexplored, the last recollections of the purity of the world; they are also among the first victims of the devastation we inflict on our environment.

.../...

This is why it is so important to preserve them: for our material survival, of course, but also for our ability to mobilise our forces for a cause that surpasses us.

Were we to fail in defending them, this would mean that we have failed to defend a certain concept of humanity.

Thank you