

Gala Dinner for the joint benefit of FPA2 and One Drop – Prelude to Formula-e – Monaco, 8th May 2015
Proposed address of H.S.H. the Prince

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

I would like to say how delighted I am to welcome you this evening to this magnificent dinner and the race it heralds.

Beyond the conviviality bringing us all together, beyond the pleasure of seeing you again, my dear Guy Laliberté, beyond even the striking convergence between our two foundations, I would like to focus here on the strength and relevance of an approach which is common to both of us and which, in its own way, embodies the Formula-e championship

The approach I am talking about is environmental protection: one which is not simply based on figures, reasoning and technique – although of course the latter are essential. It is the conviction that we will not be able to change the world by speaking *solely* to minds, we need to speak *also* to hearts.

While we need to convince, have certainties and effective solutions, it is also vital that we propose projects, hope and progress.

This is the whole meaning of the Formula-e championship which we will be enjoying tomorrow and for which the Principality of Monaco is proud to be hosting the first competition in Europe

At a time when the entire world faces the challenge of global change, one which concerns the majority of our travel, consumption, eating and quite simply living patterns, what is a more fitting symbol than this wonderful sports challenge? What is a finer example than this competition combining innovation and self-transcendence, technological excellence and the prospect of a better world, since it will be freed from carbon emissions and their consequences: pollution and global warming?

Such a perspective brings us together today and I know that it will be capable tomorrow of uniting as widely as possible all those who are concerned about our common future, all around the world.

I see it through the more than three hundred projects in which the Foundation has taken part since it was established, most often out in the field: change is under way. It now needs a decisive turn. A turn which will stem from the heart and determination of human-beings, and which will accompany their existence without hampering their aspirations.

This is the turn the Principality of Monaco has taken, like many other countries in the world, by reducing year after year its carbon emissions using innovative solutions.

This is what the One Drop Foundation is outlining with its original approach incorporating the artistic, economic and social dimensions of the water issue.

This is what my Foundation endeavours to promote, by taking action day after day for the benefit of men and women, as well as their environment across the five continents.

And this is what Formula-e, along with the prospects of the clean mobility it promises, will represent in the eyes of our contemporaries tomorrow.

I know that this dinner, combining conviviality with responsibility, will also contribute towards this.

That is why I am keen to thank you for being here this evening. And that is why I am keen to be here with you so that we can share this hope together.

Thank you.