

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

First of all I would like to welcome you to Monaco, and more particularly to the Villa Girasole, the headquarters of my Foundation launched in 2006 to address environmental issues.

The topics bringing you together today seem to echo those we deal with here. I know that the parallel may, at first sight, seem surprising, between companies - some of which are highly profitable - and a non profit organization.

However, I believe that we share the same vision with regard to fundamentals.

Like you, we are working to ensure we are able to pass on to our children the heritage we have received - I am of course referring to Nature. Like you, we are more concerned about the long term than the changing tide of current events. And, like you, we are working for something greater than our own individual existence.

In this respect, I believe that we are sensitive to the same malfunctions of our world and that in our own way we are both endeavoring to mitigate them.

I am aware of the key role played by family businesses with regard to philanthropy and this point is crucial for me. Our world more than ever needs these private initiatives, which help alleviate suffering and redress any imbalances.

But, over and above these acts of charity, I am also aware of the importance, for the entire economy, of the values you uphold - those of a healthy balance between profitability and responsibility, between the present and the future.

As such, I believe that the green economy, to which I devote a significant part of my action, could well represent a particularly rewarding prospect for all of us.

Against the excesses of an economy too often predatory of the environment, the green economy is today a responsible and attractive prospect.

It alone enables us to reconcile the interests of our contemporaries with those of our children.

It alone enables us to offer our world scope for hope and sustainable progress, accessible to as many people as possible.

Above all, it gives us hope that the multiple disasters that inaction reserves for us can be avoided. I am thinking especially of climate change, the dangers of which were very recently pointed out to us by IPCC experts.

That is why I believe it is essential for us all to devote our energy and resources today to this new growth - clean, sustainable, fair and low carbon.

Proving that progress is still possible, creating a healthier future for our children and most of all reconciling humanity with our natural environment - Ladies and Gentlemen, such are the tasks incumbent upon our era.

Because of their importance, because of the values they uphold and because of their influence, the companies that you represent have a very special role to play here.

I hope that I can count on your sense of responsibility and your commitment.

I wish you an agreeable stay and fruitful discussions during this retreat. I am convinced that you will be able to catch a positive glimpse on what our country can offer in terms of business opportunities, services and quality of life and that this first meeting will be one of many lasting over the next years.

Thank you.