

Monsieur le Président,  
Excellences,  
Mesdames et Messieurs,  
Chers amis,

Je suis heureux de vous retrouver aujourd'hui à Monaco pour la cette assemblée exécutive du World Energy Council.

It is a pleasure for me to be able to share a few moments with you to touch upon issues that are at the heart of my action, both as Head of the Monegasque State and my Foundation.

It is also an honour to see Monaco hosting such an important event. For the Principality, your presence here is part of a longstanding commitment in the energy sector.

Finally, I am glad to see that the topics you deal with attract a large audience, reflected by the presence among you of high-ranking officials from various countries within the energy sector.

We all know that: every civilisation is founded on an energy model whose repercussions extend far beyond their direct economic impact. Feudalism was inextricably dependent on the use of human muscular strength, just as the use of coal, electricity, oil and gas has had or still has a direct impact on the political, but also philosophical systems, for their development.

That's what makes the current energy transition so fascinating. But it's also what makes it so difficult. What is being proposed to the world is in fact nothing less than a radical change in its working, its values and its hierarchies. It is no wonder then that the obstacles are so many - whether they are due to inertia in practices or resistance from vested interests, often legitimate.

All across the world, wherever my travels happen to take me, especially for my environmental action, I go and meet people. I therefore know how difficult it is to change the things on which their lifestyle is based, particularly when the economic crisis weakens each of us, when the future appears so grim.

That is why your role is to go one step further and propose new solutions to the world - this should be at the heart of any approach concerning our relationship with energy. As such, I appreciated that your discussions focused on the correlation between the three essential requirements: security, accessibility, and above all respect for the environment. It is by marking out such paths and looking at things globally that we can change them.

Nobody has ever set about radically changing his/her way of living, producing, consuming or travelling in the name of numerical argument, however implacable. No calculation has sufficient strength to call into question an age-old development model and the values that go with it.

And this is all the more true in that the energy transition, with the current state of technology, does not appear to necessarily go hand in hand with an immediate increase in comfort or in purchasing power for all of us. Moreover, we can see this every day in the determination with which humanity is clinging on to oil, including unconventional, regardless of the cost of its extraction and its environmental impact...

Therefore although it is justified and necessary to convince everyone of the urgency of an energy change, this will not be enough, unless we also are allowed to dream.

If whole countries need to be persuaded, it will be through the mobilisation of motivations other than benefits, which by nature are uncertain, as they are not immediately perceptible.

If billions of individuals are to be involved, it will be by inventing new practices, related to different production and distribution methods, which themselves can be full of significance in terms of economic and social organisation.

If humankind has to be mobilised, it will be in the name of a technological dream to reach greater heights of achievement and progress; a dream that renewable energies, for example, are now capable of realising, since they have an effect on people's lives.

But above all, it will be by promoting the solidarity needed to unite humankind, across borders and generations. This is the ultimate logic of the transition we have instigated: to combat global warming which poses a threat to the living conditions of our children and our grandchildren.

Even though the dangers of global warming now seem obvious, we must continue to alert and mobilise our contemporaries about its reality as widely as possible.

This does not preclude, quite on the contrary, our duty to pursue the demanding innovative and inventive work by which you are motivated. Because finding energy solutions that are abundant, safe and sustainable is the primary condition for fundamental change.

But this technical requirement should not obliterate the need to mobilise consciences and hearts.

It is with this in mind that we take action, including awareness efforts, in Monaco and elsewhere. This action concerns energy efficiency, which we will discuss in detail here tomorrow, clean mobility, for which you saw the applications implemented in Monaco on Tuesday, and the development of innovative energies. In this respect, I am pleased that the partnership Monaco has developed with ITER allowed you to see a presentation of this fascinating project, which takes us down the paths of the dream I mentioned a few moments ago.

Through all these projects, the actions of my Government and my Foundation are focused on the need to convince and mobilise civil society.

Faced with the difficulty of propelling nations and international organisations forward, too often weighed down by complex decision-making processes and specific interests, such commitment from both civil society and economic circles has been an essential lever for years.

When reason encounters its limitations, it is human passion that allows us to move forward.

I therefore hope that the WEC will be able to carry messages beyond the circles of the initiated or professional networks. Because it is also beyond these circles that the future of everyone depends.

Comme l'a dit le grand cinéaste japonais Akira Kurosawa, « l'homme a du génie lorsqu'il rêve ». Et je ne peux pas croire que l'invention d'une énergie nouvelle, capable de rivaliser avec le feu, ne nous fasse pas rêver et nous laisse sans génie...

Je vous remercie.