

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Chers amis,

Je suis particulièrement heureux de vous retrouver ici aujourd'hui pour cette troisième édition du forum euro-méditerranéen de l'efficacité énergétique.

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to our friends and partners of Johnson Control and the Climate Group, who have made this meeting possible, as well as their teams and those of my Foundation, who do their utmost all year long to make progress on what I consider to be the critically important issue of energy efficiency.

Year after year, this Forum proves its relevance and timeliness. Against a backdrop of so much uncertainty, few topics appear to unify as much as the one bringing us together today.

A backdrop, Ladies and Gentlemen, of widespread pessimism. Week in week out, month in month out, the main signals seem to converge, offering our world only a bleak outlook - concern and egoism, but also environmental degradation.

It is the economic crisis of course that undermines any dream of progress and social advancement that for centuries has been the foundation of our civilisation.

It is also the depletion of fossil energy resources, which shows the contradictions of a model that today struggles to renew itself and has led to a frenzied race to find new fossil resources that are known as "unconventional".

And above all it is the political difficulty of a world that is slow to address the major issues confronting it, in particular those that may jeopardise its own survival.

In this context, few actions seem capable of offering the world a positive plan that would be immediately beneficial. Energy efficiency is one of the few.

The major challenge of any action against climate change is indeed succeeding in developing an alternative growth model, one not based solely on the refusal of an old order and the condemnation of what for many years was at the root of our progress, and which many still need today.

In the bleak context I mentioned earlier, environmental commitment should serve as a vehicle for progress. Progress not only in terms of lifestyle and comfort, but also of principles. We

need to build a more balanced world which does not only offer material benefits. It should also allow for collective progress, whether it be political, philosophical or moral.

In this respect, energy efficiency has a special role to play, since it is located at the merging point of several essential requirements.

By enabling everyone to make savings without compromising on comfort, it basically fulfils the desire for individual progress, which is at the heart of both our economic and political model.

By offering concrete prospects to improve employment that cannot be relocated, energy efficiency also gives a collective dimension to such progress, one of a benefit shared at all levels of the production and consumer chain.

Finally, by giving substance to the hope of green, truly sustainable growth, energy efficiency above all gives an additional dimension to such progress: an ideal capable of transcending immediate interests in the name of higher awareness.

In doing so, energy efficiency not only enables us to improve the functioning of our economy, it also enables us to re-orientate the principles.

For the first time, Ladies and Gentlemen, we can see the perspective of immediate progress taking shape, which will result in a reduction of the human footprint on the environment. For the first time, we can change the very meaning of progress.

Of course, as you are all aware, such efforts will take time. I can see it here in Monaco, where the work implemented to promote energy efficiency is of course not enough to immediately reverse a model still largely based on ever-increasing energy expenditure.

But this long-term perspective should not stop us. On the contrary, by forcing each of us to look beyond the short-term, a break has already been made with the immediacy we suffer all too often. And it lays out a collective road map, which is undoubtedly what we need most in these times of doubt and egoism.

That is why I believe that we must not be afraid to tell the truth about energy efficiency, to draw attention to both its countless benefits and the efforts it requires. This is how we can convince our contemporaries to follow us along this path.

Comme l'a dit Confucius, "celui qui déplace une montagne commence par déplacer de petites pierres". Nous ne devons donc pas avoir peur des petites pierres que nous portons une à une ; elles feront les montagnes que nous appelons !

Je vous remercie.