

*Lancement de la branche allemande
de la Fondation Prince Albert II
Allocution de SAS le Prince*

Sehr geehrter Herr Ministerpräsident,
sehr geehrter Herr Oberbürgermeister,
Meine sehr verehrten Damen und Herren,
liebe Freunde,

Noch vor wenigen Tagen war ich in der Antarktis, in der spannungsgeladenen Atmosphäre der Forschungsstationen, wo Wissenschaftler monatelang Tag und Nacht die Veränderungen unseres Planeten erforschen, um deren Mechanismen zu begreifen und die weitere Entwicklung zu ermessen.

After returning to our temperate latitudes, I am pleased, as I see you gathered here today, that they are not alone in their combat.

There are among those who are concerned with environmental issues a community and a harmony that extend far beyond borders and oceans, beyond disciplines and specialities. What brings us here today, Ladies and Gentlemen, is also what unites us with those who are working in the silence of the polar reaches at this very moment.

What brings us here today is the certainty not only that we must take action to preserve our planet, but also that we can do so. Yes, faced with an imminent catastrophe whose premises are already perceptible from the North Sea to the Antarctic shores, action is possible. It has already started.

In saying this, I am thinking of the United States of America of course, which now inspires great hope.

Barack Obama's election and the first measures taken by his administration are proof that environmental

concerns are now shared on both sides of the Atlantic. And the scale of the resources promised, the scope of the measures announced and the quality of the staff empowered bode well for this huge country's capacity for initiative without which our mobilization, however resolute, will always remain incomplete, given the daunting challenges we face.

Despite the hopes it has raised, the new face of America should not let us forget that others started taking action long ago. I would like to pay special tribute to Germany, in particular, for its pioneering role for years, and to Angela Merkel, who is a model in this area.

With 313 billion euros invested in renewable energy by 2020, the ambitious Climate Package adopted last summer is testimony to this inventive groundbreaking commitment.

This law is part of a profound process: in 2007, renewable energy sources already enabled Germany to save 115 million metric tons in carbon dioxide emissions, the result of a consistent effort shared on all levels of society.

A few days ago, the launch in Bonn of IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency) is further proof of Germany's determination to find sustainable solutions for our planet's problems.

And this determination covers a very broad field: back from Antarctica, I would like to congratulate your country for its scientific achievements for the Poles. Indeed, Germany is at the origin of nearly 60% of the projects in the 2007-2009 International Polar Year, through its universities, research institutions, museums and other federal organizations.

All these initiatives, Ladies and Gentlemen, illustrate your country's advance. This is why I am so pleased that my Foundation is expanding today thanks to this German branch that will enable us to build up and intensify the fruitful ties we already have here.

Of these ties, I would like highlight the contacts and partnerships set up with the *Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt*, the Regional Conservation Foundation of Saxony, the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, whose initiative on climate has received support from My Foundation for the second year and, as from today, the E.ON Group, with which we just signed a partnership for the supply of carbon credits.

And I am also thinking of partnerships that remain to be devised to meet the challenges that cross international borders and require true global solidarity. Such solidarity must be developed on all levels.

Obviously, governments maintain an indispensable capacity as prime movers. On its own level, the Principality of Monaco is involved in many projects, near and far, actively participating in international talk on the fight against global warming.

But governments are not alone. The scientific community has already drawn the contours of this solidarity. The twenty-two polar stations I just visited represent fifteen countries and pool intellects from even more origins, all working towards a single goal, despite their inevitable divergent interests.

To support and reinforce the action of governments and scientists, we must also mobilize civil society. This is what we are undertaking today.

After those already established on the other side of the Atlantic in the US and Canada, and in Europe,

France, the UK and Switzerland, this new branch will contribute, I feel certain, to undertaking many initiatives in three areas of action I set for My Foundation: the fight against climate change, preservation of biodiversity and sustainable water management.

These ambitious goals cannot be achieved by my Foundation alone. It will need the talent and intelligence of each one of you. It will also need all the alliances and partnerships it can form with German initiatives.

This is why I'm delighted to see you open a new page in its history today.