

## **Speech of President José Manuel Barroso**

Dear President Daul,

Dear President Poettering,

Dear President Martens,

Dear Jaime Mayor Oreja,

Honourable Members,

Dear Commissioners,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me to this European Evening of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament.

I feel very honoured to be here and to have the chance to contribute to this important moment.

This conference today demonstrates the strength and identification of the EPP-ED Group with the values and priorities of our European project in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The launching of the Decalogue, the ten common priorities, is an excellent way to convey this message. I want to congratulate all those who contributed to this very important initiative.

All the priorities of the Decalogue fit into one message, which to me is crucial, and which is that Europe has to serve the citizens. What we stand for is a Citizens' Europe. A Europe of Citizens, a

Europe for Citizens. A Europe of freedom and solidarity.

- A Europe which unites our peoples through common values, namely freedom, the rule of law, the respect of human dignity and the promotion of solidarity.
- A competitive Europe which offers the best possible conditions for growth and employment, promoting a knowledge-based economy and innovation.
- A Europe that is committed to sustainable development and which is leading the world in the fight against climate change.

- A Europe which has the strength and the moral to offer support or shelter, where needed, be it in the context of global competition, energy security, food safety, or terrorist threat.
- A Europe that understands that the best way to protect its citizens is not by closing our doors towards others, but instead to make the others open up their own doors.
- A Europe that understands that the best way to promote and reinforce the legitimacy of its institutions is by respecting the democratic principles of transparency, accountability and subsidiarity. This is what the Lisbon Treaty stands for.

- And finally, a Europe which stands firm for its values globally, by projecting peace, stability and development to its neighbours and partners in the world.

This is how I see Europe can and should be at the service of its citizens. And I am proud to see that Europe is making substantial progress in all these respects. It starts with the Lisbon Treaty, and continues, to name but a few, with the renewed Lisbon Agenda for growth and jobs, the energy and climate package, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, Galileo, or very targeted but very close-to-the-citizens initiatives like roaming and cross-border payments.

And we still have important new work ahead of us, still before the end of this mandate, if you just allow me to mention the Small Business Act, mobility for researchers, access to broadband internet, a common approach to immigration policy.

2008 and 2009 are very important years for the European Parliament and also for the European Commission. We have a joint responsibility, together with our Member States, in bringing to a successful end as many pending and new initiatives as possible. At the same time we need to communicate our achievements to the people. That is what I call delivering on our Europe of

Results: A strong European Union producing concrete results for our citizens.

Thank you very much.