

SPEECH by Mr Jaime Mayor Oreja

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ten Priorities for the European People's Party and European Democrats constitute the effort which the Members of this Group have made ahead of next year's European elections.

Not only are we 288 Europeans and 288 parliamentarians;

We are the only Europeans and parliamentary politicians who have an historical opportunity - it's UNIQUE.

We listen to each other.

We get together and we work together, practically every week of the year.

Not only is this a privilege, a fact, or even just another opportunity; above all it is a challenge, a commitment and a hope, an aim, a goal that we should know how to value.

We are ending our present mandate being not only the most numerous political group, but also more united, most closely linked, with more initiative and a more definite political dimension.

This is, and must be, our main contribution to the European Union, to consolidate the real Europe in the coming years.

The Europe that Europeans need.

Facing the real problems that Europeans share, as opposed to an excessively virtual Europe.

Despite the extraordinary progress that the Group has made, thanks to good friends like President Pöttering and President Martens among others, we must and WILL continue to progress with Joseph Daul as Chairman, as a real political group.

The more political our Group becomes, and the more cohesion the EPP-ED Group enjoys, the better Europe will become.

Other than its main obligations and very important legislative tasks, the EPP-ED Group knows that the EU will only be united if European political groups are reliable and essential pillars, as in all democracies.

We cannot expect anything from Europeans, European political groups, or any other institutions of the Union, if OUR Group is not at the vanguard and positively setting an example.

An example, starting with ourselves.

The EU needs to strengthen the concept of political teams, starting with ourselves. On this point, I would like to point out the excellent work that our colleague James Elles is doing with the European Ideas Network.

Ten priorities - let's not just talk about them - let's realise them, which will mean hard political effort, true values and sticking to our convictions.

This means intense, hard work within the horizontal working groups, which will start up immediately.

Ten priorities that remind us that throughout the history of the European Union, freedom and solidarity have been our success, but at the same time it continues to be a challenge which requires a constant update and reevaluation of our values, principles and own beliefs.

It is as important now as it was at the moment of its creation.

Therefore, I would like to end my speech by reminding you that this task is our responsibility.

The responsibility of each and every one of the parliamentarians.

Participation. Participation of each and every one of us.
This is the key element to our success.

I am sure that we will rise to the occasion.

Thank you very much for your attention

I would now like to present a video in which we demonstrate these ten priorities.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation for the services provided and the civil servants of our Group, coordinated exemplarily by Christine Detourbet.