



**SLOVENSKO PANEVROPSKO GIBANJE**

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Poštovani Predsenik Panevropske Unije Hrvatske, gospodine Barišić,  
Poštovani Predsednik, gospodine Ježić,  
Cher President, Monsieur Terrenoire,  
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me congratulate you, dear Croatian Paneuropean friends and all the Croats! Today is your day! You have done a great work in the last decade and we are here today to acknowledge your success!

Vukovar: I was a high school student in Italy during the war period. At that time I was sitting on a safe »west-country« sofa and still as young, inexperienced and political virgin boy was astonished watching the international passivity on television every day. In those days, I could not imagine that I would be so disgusted by the post Cold War international environment to deeply engage myself in politics passing through our Paneuropean movement to find the way together with my colleagues to raise our voice in favor of the only project that can guarantee us peace and stability fighting against the lack of vision and for good politics!

We are living today a deep crisis of leadership as well as vision. Today, we do not have a Count Kalergi or a De Gasperi or a Schumann on the horizon and the European Union is surviving day by day without any clear, defined path.

I never thought that I would ever formally attend the Croatian accession to the EU right here in Vukovar, a symbolic city that reminds us also that on the Danube at the Vienna Congress one of the first International Organizations was created exactly to coordinate the use of this wonderful river that is a long bridge, connection, between ten different European countries. But today is a special day in two respects: exactly 90 years ago Gavrilo Princip killed the Austro-Hungarian Archduke in Sarajevo. Exactly today our Serbian friends also received from Brussels the green light for joining our European family in the future.

Compliments and good luck, Mr. Mitić!

The moment is special. The air today is full of hope, satisfaction and magnitude but, remember, when my Slovenia joined the EU only a few years ago everything was different! The European Union was the best place in the world, the economy was growing and Slovenia was the winner of the so called transition. Slovenia was recommended as the lighthouse for all the future candidate states. Today we can see that things change very fast. Better not to be the winner at the beginning of the run but the winner at finish!



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Welcome to chaos! You are joining the EU too late to share at the beginning the common wealth or a positive mood. You are entering an EU that is not the promised land but an EU that is close to collapse. Paradoxically, the European Union will need you more than you will need the European Union. It is really the right time to misuse the quote of John Fitzgerald Kennedy: do not ask what the EU can do for you, but what you can do for the EU! You will have to help us immediately to find new answers, new solutions, new perspectives and new energy!

Pursuing your aims, targets, efforts, please be certain, that you can count on the Slovenian Paneuropean Movement's support and on our friendship! As the Croatian Paneuropean Union you worked for your country until today, but from now on you have to change the point of view: you must work for Europe!

Today we are all Croatian; tomorrow we will all be European. Let me quote Otto von Habsburg: European Communities were not the European Union; the European Union is still not what we are pursuing: Europe!

Let us do our job and god blesses us!