

Closing remarks by the Speaker of the House of Representatives

Your Excellency,

We greatly appreciate your visiting the Netherlands, and our Parliament in particular. We hope that you enjoy your stay in the Netherlands and that you will have fruitful talks here.

Your Excellency,

Without a doubt, Europe has changed since the conclusion of the Treaty of Rome in nineteen fifty-seven (1957). What has not changed, however, is the commitment of Italy and the Netherlands, two of the founding fathers of the EU, to the European project based on common values and objectives. Please allow me to pay tribute to your personal dedication to Europe and the public duties you performed during a great part of your life. In various positions - as a national politician, as a Member of the European Parliament, as a scholar and author - you have advocated European cooperation, bridging national cultural and political differences and stimulating the historic process of peace and democracy on the European continent. It is the 'Spirit of Rome' that you are bolstering and that has inspired and will continue to inspire past, current and future generations to follow up on the achievements of the past, thereby seeking solutions for the challenges of today.

It is truly a great honour for us to enjoy your presence and to exchange views with you. We are very grateful for your visit to our Parliament, Your Excellency.