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INAUGURATION LETTER 2022

Dear All,

When speaking to young people, we relive our own youth. We recall the long-gone memories which trace back to the dreamy age of the High School years.

It has been a long time since. However, that time is still stirring and alive, held together by dreams and expectations, uncertainty and plenty of energy.

When the journey starts, the road ahead seems very long (distant in space and time), quite steep, and always uphill. To climb towards mountains and beyond them, to perceive (seemingly unsurmountable) peaks and to overcome them, to sweep through pathless valleys and find the way, one's own way, which is as unique as one's own life.

Do not be afraid of the future, but rather build on it with self-respect and respect for others. Do not be anxious to become, what is important is to live for the day, being oneself with balance and being able to keep such balance, enjoying your daily life without waiting for something that might happen while you are busy planning "*something else*". Future is built one-step at a time with awareness and by respecting everyone's time.



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*B*e determined in assuming your responsibilities and conscious of what this means. Be compassionate in your solidarity, steadfast in your hope and stern guardians of freedom. More importantly: never underestimate the value of freedom, and never take it for granted, as an acquired given fact of history. Always think of freedom as a conquest, because that is exactly what it is. Great and noble men fought for it through the centuries and sacrificed themselves for noble ideals to the benefit of future generations.

*F*reedom will set you free. It will make you free to be(come) complete individuals, to (be able to) shape your critical sense and civic-mindedness and to select good teachers for yourselves.

*Y*ou will identify good teachers IF

They will talk to you of independence and autonomy within the confines of laws and rules,

They will help you to think “*beyond*”, unexplored regions of the mind and soul,

They will encourage you to be curious, indomitable, to “*stay hungry*” for the future, in the continuous stupor of listening and in the wonder of vivifying dialogue.

*B*e good students. Our common home, Europe, has need of good citizens and passionate minds.



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This journey together also serves this purpose, to be part of the future so that one day, a long time from now you may say:

"I was there.

I always strived to create a better future.

I acted with loyalty, dignity, and honor.

I always behaved as a man should.

I am deserving of our Fathers' highest teachings in the signs that have shaped our minds and written in our souls.

And this I acknowledge with great humility".

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8 September 2022