

Med forbehold om endringer

PRIME MINISTER GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND'S SPEECH AT DINNER GIVEN
BY MR. JACQUES DELORS, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Chateau Val Duchesse, 4 May 1987

Mr. President,

Let me express my sincere thanks for a most cordial reception in such a splendid setting, and for the warm words of welcome that you have extended to my delegation and myself. I am grateful to have this early opportunity to pay an official revisit to the Commission in order to continue the very fruitful and inspiring discussions that we had in Oslo last autumn. I am very much looking forward to the exchange of views with you, Mr. President, and other members of the Commission. Our talks will be most useful to me - especially in view of the fact that my Government in a few weeks time will present to Parliament a White Paper on Norway's relations with the European Communities and European Cooperation.

As you will know, Mr. President, I have come to Brussels for two purposes, both equally important.

My first task is to renew and deepen the political and personal contacts that we established last year for practical results to be obtained in the further development of the bilateral relations between Norway and the European Communities. The development of these relations is a great challenge to my country in the coming years, in both economic and political terms. The Community's internal developments, its increasing international role, and in particular the leadership it exercises in European matters - are all of genuine importance to my country. I consider it a major task for my Government to meet this challenge in a constructive and forwardlooking manner.

The need for a Europe which can be economically better organized, in which technology and research is better coordinated, and which can exert more political influence, is clear to all of us.

During your visit to Norway I had the occasion to inform you of the increasing awareness in the Norwegian public of the importance of European matters and European cooperation. This renewed consciousness, which my Government seeks to stimulate, encompasses all major aspects of the Community's efforts, including political cooperation. I should therefore like to reiterate my Government's desire to cooperate with you as closely as possible.

There are very few problems in our bilateral relations. This is no doubt a reflection of the range and efficiency of our present state of cooperation. In my opinion, we ought to capitalize upon this fortunate situation at our talks tomorrow by concentrating more on the middle- and longer-term prospects for our relations, both in the bilateral context and in the framework of the follow-up of the Luxembourg Declaration.

Mr. President,

Let me then turn to the second part of my mission, namely the presentation of the Report from the World Commission on Environment and Development. The Report, which we now present to the world public, has been entitled "Our Common Future". It is a unique document. It has been formulated by people of a highly differing background and experience who, through a broad political process of analysis and discussion, have established a farreaching consensus across traditional lines of division in world politics.

"Our Common Future" is not a scientific report. I believe it should be taken seriously not only for the new insights it provides into environment and economics, but for its analysis of the ways in which policies and practices can

and must change. The Report calls for a new era of economic growth, with a content that enhances the resource base rather than degrades it. We know that new and sustainable growth does not need to be environmentally degrading; that growth, in fact, can create the capacity to solve environmental problems, that growth is the only way that mass poverty can be overcome. And without growth, how can we provide for twice the present population some time in the next century, when we cannot provide for everybody today?

The Report does not present a final blueprint for new policies. It is a challenging agenda for change which is offered to governments, organizations and institutions, governmental and non-governmental. I welcome the opportunity to discuss those ideas with you tomorrow.

With these words, Mr. President, let me again thank you for the opportunity to continue our discussions here in Brussels, and for this delicious meal. Let us raise our glasses for a further development of mutually beneficial cooperation between Norway and the European Communities.