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theLisboncouncil

making Europe fit for the future

Paul Hofheinz
President

The Honourable Herman Van Rompuy
President
European Council
Council of the European Union
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SECRETARIAT DU CONSEIL DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE	
SCE10 3314	
REQUÊTE:	24. 03. 2010
(Annexes)	
DEST. PRIN:	M. VAN DAELE
DEST. COP:	

8/7

22 March 2010

Dear President Van Rompuy,

It is my very great pleasure to invite you to deliver **The 2010 Robert Schuman Lecture** to the Lisbon Council in the **morning of Tuesday, 15 June 2010** in the **Residence Palace, Brussels**. Should you agree, the lecture will serve as the keynote address for the **Government of the Future Summit**, which the Lisbon Council will convene in Brussels that day. Alternatively, we can offer to host the Lecture on **Monday, 14 June at 18h00**.

You should know that the Government of the Future Summit will bring together top thought leaders and practitioners in the vital field of state transformation under the theme "**State Transformation in the Post-Crisis Era**." Towards that end, we have two excellent partners in this project: the **College of Europe** in Bruges and **Accenture**, the management consulting firm, both of whom serve together with us as founding partners of the **Government of the Future Centre**, a research centre set up inside the Lisbon Council to study ways of making our social systems more sustainable and our state institutions more responsive in the 21st century. With the help of these partner organisations, we have arranged for **students from the 2010 promotion of the College of Europe** to visit state agencies in four cities – Barcelona, Dublin, Oslo and Paris – where they will meet with leading civil servants, study problems and propose solutions. We will award prizes to the best student projects at the Government of the Future Summit, and later publish these case studies in a Lisbon Council policy brief. Ideally, after your remarks, **you would hand the prizes to the students**, which I know would mean very much to them and would strengthen their conviction to work for a European cause.

But there is a larger audience as well. We believe that the debate on state transformation hardly begins or ends in Brussels. To the contrary, it is in the member states where the extent of our ability to adapt our state institutions to modern challenges will be most severely tested. For that reason, we will focus as we always do on reaching out to top thought leaders outside of the Brussels beltway and on engaging top media from the EU member states, whom we would invite to your important speech. Our only request would be that you come with a strong vision (which I know you hold) and a strong message (which I know you have).

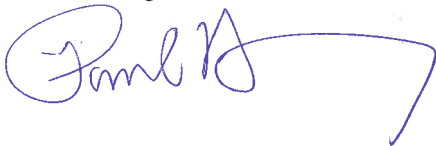
How would Robert Schuman respond to the challenges we face today? What would be the bold, innovative approach? What is the vision that will help us triumph in this post-crisis situation and make good on the promise that Europe holds?

Finally, I should tell you that the annual Robert Schuman Lecture is the flagship event in our **Founding Fathers Lecture Series**. Previous Robert Schuman Lecture laureates include José Manuel Barroso, Felipe Gonzalez, Wim Kok, Leszek Balcerowicz, and Angel Gurría (secretary general of the OECD). You can find more information about the Robert Schuman Lecture at:

<http://www.lisboncouncil.net/lecture-series/robert-schuman.html>

We are of course at your disposal to answer any additional questions that you might have. I hope very much that I will have the pleasure of welcoming you to the Residence Palace on either Monday, 14 June or Tuesday, 15 June 2010 for an important intervention at the Government of the Future Summit.

Kind regards.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Oel', followed by a long horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

c/c Matthias Oel