

## Letter from President Tusk to President Delors<sup>1</sup>

Brussels, 4 July 2015

Dear Mister Delors, (Dear Jacques)

It is with profound gratitude and respect for your crucial role in the realisation of the construction of the European Union as it exists today that the European Council, gathered together on June 25, has decided to award you the title of Honorary Citizen of Europe.

My proposal to recognize your action at the service of Europe was approved with unanimity. To all members of the European Council, the choice was clear: you are the worthy successor to our first generation of founding fathers.

Your achievements are many and your messages extol solidarity. They will guide us in overcoming the challenges that the European Union faces once again. The conclusion of the speech you delivered at the beginning of your third mandate as President of the European Commission in 1993 remains true to this day: “Yes indeed: it is high time to sow the seeds of hope.”

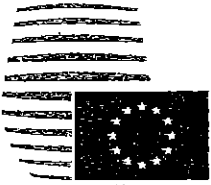
Finally, we wish you happiness and good health for your 90th birthday and the many more to come.

Donald Tusk

M. Jacques Delors,  
Honorary Citizen of Europe

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<sup>1</sup> Letter translated from French by Emmett Strickland, Jacques Delors Institute



Conseil européen  
Le Président

Bruxelles,

JUL 14 2015

Cher Monsieur Delors,

*Cher Jacques,*

C'est avec une profonde gratitude et estime pour votre rôle crucial dans la réalisation de la construction de l'Union européenne telle qu'elle existe aujourd'hui que le Conseil européen, réuni le 25 juin, a décidé de vous décerner le titre de "*Citoyen d'honneur de l'Europe*".

Ma proposition de faire reconnaître votre action au service de l'Europe a été approuvée à l'unanimité. Pour tous les membres du Conseil européen, c'était une évidence: vous êtes le digne successeur de la première génération de nos pères fondateurs.

Vos réalisations sont nombreuses, vos messages prônent la solidarité. Ils nous guideront dans la résolution des défis que rencontre à nouveau l'Union européenne. La conclusion de votre discours en 1993, à l'aube de votre troisième mandat comme président de la Commission européenne, reste d'actualité: "Oui, vraiment, il est temps de replacer la fleur Espérance au milieu du jardin européen".

Enfin, nous vous souhaitons santé et bonheur pour votre 90ème anniversaire et bien d'autres à venir.

Donald Tusk

Monsieur Jacques Delors  
Citoyen d'honneur de l'Europe

In a world where wars and violence remain unfortunately banal, the European Union has remained a Union of peace and prosperity for the last 65 years. This has happened thanks to the will and intuition of our founding fathers such as Jean Monnet, Robert Schuman, Paul-Henri Spaak or Alcide De Gasperi. They knew that peace needed concrete realizations and political content in order to create a *de facto* solidarity. This also is Jacques Delors' conviction and commitment.

His whole life actually merges into his full commitment to the European construction: as a member of the European Parliament first, as a French Minister in charge of economy and finance, as the longest serving President of the European Commission, then and now as one of the most respected figures of the European debate.

This man of vision and action draws his energy for Europe from his deep spiritual and human values. The triptych "Competition that stimulates, cooperation that strengthens, and solidarity that unites" is Jacques Delors' defined European cornerstone. He understood deeply the profound nature of our common construction, encapsulated in his concept of a "Federation of Nation States".

From 1985 to 1995, during his terms as president of the Commission, the European Communities, then the European Union, accomplished historical achievements: the Single European Act, the Maastricht treaty, the Economic and Monetary Union, the development of the structural funds and the creation of the Cohesion fund, the European citizenship, the Erasmus programme, the European social charter, the membership of Portugal and Spain, then of Austria, Sweden and Finland, the launching of the enlargement process following the fall of the Berlin Wall...

All these developments have profoundly shaped our contemporary European Union. In this sense, it is true to say that Jacques Delors really is a founding father of the European Union of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This true European statesman set new hopes and goals to the European project and brought it from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Today, we, the Heads of State or Government of the European Union and the President of the European Commission, offer him our sincere gratitude and our heartfelt appreciation.

The European Council has therefore decided that  
the former President of the European Commission Jacques Delors  
is to be awarded the title of

"Honorary Citizen of Europe".

Brussels, 25 June 2015