

Mr Minister President,

Mr Mayor,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

I would like to thank you for welcoming me here today for the 50th anniversary of the Boot show.

It is a special moment because I am of course aware of what these fifty years represent in terms of effort and determination, as well as consistency in the commitment to promoting ocean-related boating activities.

But it is also a special moment for me because it brings back memories of my first visit here over twenty-five years ago.

I am delighted to be among you because I know the efforts that are undertaken to unite, involve and honor the various maritime stakeholders and various facets of the marine world.

Conservationists, recreational fishermen, boat owners, yachtsmen, sports, tourism professionals: we all have a common interest in protecting our oceans, in forging a sustainable relationship with them. Nothing will be gained by opposing one against the other and by believing that the requirements of some will go against the interests of others.

We share one ocean and we all need this ocean.

At a time when our seas are threatened by pollution, global warming, acidification, expansion of human settlements along the coast and the destruction of biodiversity, we all have to understand that we need to change our perception of the oceans, to change or approach in relation to what is a common resource.

Furthermore, this need stretches beyond the maritime professionals united here today. It concerns all of our contemporaries, whether they live in the coastal regions or not, whether they are concerned about the sea or not.

We all need to understand the irreplaceable role of the seas. We all need to harness our efforts to secure their future. And above all, we all need to act.

Understanding the irreplaceable role of the seas is one of the issues at stake during these meetings, and more broadly one of the key issues of our times. An issue for which I stress the importance and the role of the scientists.

Their knowledge needs to be shared. Such is the goal of many initiatives supported by my Foundation, with the aim of making our contemporaries fully aware of the need to protect our seas and, in this respect, I would like to mention the "sustainable yachting network" which it has just launched together with the Monaco Yacht Club and the organizers of the Monaco Yacht Show.

Spurring everyone into action is also the idea behind the Ocean Tribute Awards in which I am proud and delighted to have my Foundation involved.

Therefore I would like to say how pleased I am this evening to see this partnership focused on the long term, with the signature of this new agreement between my Foundation, the Boot show and the German Ocean Foundation.

Above all I would like to congratulate you for this wonderful anniversary, testimony to a so rightly deserved and precious success!

Thank you.