

Med forbehold om endringer

Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland

SPEECH AT DINNER FOR THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN  
COMMUNITIES,

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Commissioners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you here at the Residence of Norway's ambassador and to this dinner.

Today, I have had the privilege of having a series of extremely interesting talks with the President of the Commission, Mr. Jacques Delors, as well as with most of the other members of the European Commission. In my capacity as Chairman of the World Commission on Environment and Development, I have also had the opportunity to present the World Commission's report to the European Commission as well as to representatives of the EFTA countries.

I am impressed by the will of the European Commission - under the dynamic leadership of its President - to further the process of European integration. We all know that you have a long and difficult task ahead of you and that years may pass before you have reached your goal. In this connection, I would like to reiterate that my Government fully supports your efforts towards the construction of a Europe playing an important role in world affairs.

This increasing role of the European Communities in world affairs is a great challenge to the Community as well as to its individual members. It also imposes a greater

responsibility in contributing to the solution of some major problems confronting us today; problems connected with the multilateral trade, with global development and not least the problems posed by our failures in the management of our environment. It is my hope that the World Commission report will contribute towards influencing the environmental policy of the European Communities as well as the policies of the individual member countries. If the Community adopts a common approach, I am convinced that Europe can make a major contribution towards solving this great challenge of our time.

I am happy to see that our commercial relations as well as our cooperation with the Community in other fields, have developed in a satisfactory way to mutual benefit and that a widening of the scope of our relations - in particular in the context of the EC-EFTA negotiating process - is taking place. My Government attaches great importance to this widening of our relations and will continue to make full use of all avenues of cooperation.

Last, but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the members of the Commission of the European Communities for the warm and friendly way in which you have received me. Commissioners, let me propose a toast to the future and prosperity of the European Community.