

SPEECH BY THE NEWLY-ELECTED CAPTAINS REGENT

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We would like to express our highest honour and respect for the message of good wishes addressed by His Excellency Emil Paul Tscherrig, Apostolic Nuncio, Dean of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps accredited to San Marino, which traditionally opens the Ceremony of Investiture of the newly elected Captains Regent.

This is a message that we will take to heart during our six-month mandate on account of its high values, intentions and call for full respect for institutional duties and the need to always place the citizens' good at the heart of public action.

Your Excellency, we are deeply grateful and thankful for the esteem and friendship that you have expressed to the Republic of San Marino and its highest Institutions. From your words, pronounced in your capacity as representative of the broadest international community, we draw further confidence and proactive impetus for a full assumption of responsibility in defence of collective interests.

We wish to start this solemn Ceremony by welcoming, with the highest satisfaction and esteem, also the diplomatic and consular representatives of States and multilateral Institutions, with which we have established an increasingly active collaboration and share global challenges, whose effects are felt more or less heavily by our Institutions and our Peoples.

We would like to express our gratitude, friendship and solidarity to each and every one of you, also for the most recent generous collaboration offered in the common fight against the pandemic, which has required and continues to require joint efforts to protect, together, our citizens and to accelerate the pace towards overcoming the emergency.

No country can call itself immune to the contagion, not only because of the serious health impact that has spared no one, but also because of the inevitable repercussions on the economy and on the resilience of welfare systems.

We firmly believe in the fruitful network of international relations, because of its potential to leave no one behind in accessing and benefiting from the measures globally taken to manage this new era of change and prospects.

With the same feelings of esteem and gratitude, we express our warmest welcome to an illustrious Guest, His Excellency Alojz Kavsca, President of the National Council of

the Republic of Slovenia, to whom the Republic of San Marino expresses its highest respect, for the important task that he is called to perform as Official Speaker of the Investiture Ceremony.

Since yesterday in San Marino to get to know more closely our ancient Republic and its Institutions, His Excellency Kovsca represents a friendly country, which is close to us and supportive at a bilateral and multilateral level. Even more so today, in the exercise of the mandate as President of the Council of the European Union, Slovenia is confirming its effective propensity towards the construction of a resilient and strategically autonomous Europe, in which our values and identities are protected and in which national cultures are not an obstacle to European culture, but rather its foundation.

We are deeply grateful to you, Mr President, for this and for your convinced and constant defence of the rule of law, of equal standards for all and of a Union based on respect for human dignity. We would like to express our gratitude also for the support we have received from you personally and from the Slovenian Institutions in the negotiations we are undertaking for an Association Agreement with the EU that promotes and protects our specificities and our current process.

Similarly, we renew our most cordial welcome to the Ambassador of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mercuri, to whom we are united by deep bonds of friendship and cooperation, both institutional and personal, corroborated by the realistic perception of the harmonious and fraternal development of our Institutions and our Peoples.

The start of your diplomatic mission, Mr. Ambassador, coincided with the beginning of the Coronavirus emergency, which inevitably required a closer and more constant cooperation between our Governments and our Institutions. Italy and San Marino were called upon to make common and mutual commitments to support the emergency phases of the pandemic, and now our two States are called upon to plan and deal with the management of the current and future effects.

Diplomatic activity has been a fixed point in the political and institutional relationship and has spared no effort in promptly meeting the compelling needs of citizens and families severely hit by illness, deep distress and the inevitable economic crisis.

We are sincerely grateful to you for your personal contribution, just as we are grateful to your Institutions, with which we have a direct relationship and a close dialogue. This is particularly true at this stage, when we are working above all to ensure that our citizens with valid vaccination certificates can exercise their rights and be guaranteed access to and movement within our respective territories.

Mr. Ambassador, we trust with confidence and with strong national interest in the proactive support of the friendly Italian nation, in the spirit that characterised the “historic” visit to Rome last May, crowned by the bilateral meeting between our Heads of State and marked by bilateral discussions between various executive officials. During this visit, some important bilateral agreements were signed, thus significantly relaunching cooperation at all levels.

The bilateral agreement on radio and television broadcasting signed only a few days ago in Rome between our Foreign Ministers also points in this direction.

In this spirit, we wish to instil new confidence in our citizens, in the firm belief that the Republic of San Marino, even in this particular moment, has been able to deploy the best intervention strategies for the safety of our community, through the priority and scrupulous defence of health, timely and widespread immunisation and the excellent maintenance of controls.

All of us will have to come out of this unexpected and sudden lesson in life stronger, offering our own contribution of ideas and concrete commitment, for the effective relaunch of our beautiful country, which now more than ever is expressing all its potential and has become even more attractive and unique after the lockdown.

We want to be at the side of our citizens, firmly supporting the development and enhancement of those sectors that have made us unique and competitive in recent decades, namely tourism, trade, entrepreneurship and local products and manufacturing.

In this direction, we will support incentive policies and public assistance to workers, young people and families intending to explore and engage in new investment opportunities. At the same time, we will pay the utmost attention and spare no effort to help all those who have suffered limitations in their ability to work, with heavy sacrifices and deep constraints borne by their families.

It is precisely on families that we must invest with farsightedness, by continuing to maintain high expectations of the family institution, so firmly rooted in our community, and solidly conceived and renewed in its socio-cultural structure and of society as a whole.

Today's reflections on the family considerably involve the problem of demographic decline and lead to promote birth rate increase, to provide extensive protection for mothers and fathers in the exercise of parenthood and in collateral duties and services, and to protect single mothers in the education, growth and training of their

children, so that they can be guaranteed the best possible conditions of assistance and support and are not left alone.

Our children are our resource and our light. Institutions are called upon to support their desire for training and affirmation, to promote assistance centres and to benefit from the many talents that our community has.

In this regard, we would like to emphasise the crucial and irreplaceable role of schools, which educate, train, promote inclusion and accompany the growth of the younger generations. It goes without saying that the resumption of school in presence - and we hope it will continue to be in presence - can make up for the period of distance learning, which has certainly ensured educational continuity, but has also generated inevitable difficulties. School has indeed an intrinsic value and identity as a place of education, social relations and respect, which is capable of creating active citizenship.

We are equally convinced of our duty - and of that of politicians in particular - to persuade and educate young people towards a correct awareness of the State. This is necessary to develop a sense of belonging and responsibility towards their own country, which is the driving force behind an effective cultural change that places young people back at the centre of working and political life and, therefore, at the centre of society as a whole. Only in this way will we be able to provide an entire generation of young people with renewed confidence and hope. The recent past has indeed contributed to disillusion and deprive them of the natural optimistic inclination towards the future.

We must give young people the keys to a necessary turnaround, so that the reasons for research, digitalisation and technological innovation, which are particularly dear to young people, can be combined with the need for policies to modernise the State and responsibly face global challenges.

The Republic's commitment to face the greatest planetary risks would realistically be in vain if it were isolated and not supported by a multilateral consultation system, which attributes equal dignity and value to the positions of individual States, aimed at achieving common objectives.

This is the sense of the convinced action that our country takes at an international level, raising its voice and fighting the deep gaps that still tear the planet apart.

We are deeply concerned about the alarm caused by climate change, well aware that it is imperative and urgent to find a common vision of the climate and of the

catastrophic consequences of insufficiently incisive policies by the international community.

In view of the COP 26 international conference to be held in Glasgow next November, San Marino strongly and clearly reiterates the position it has taken in the international context, fully supporting the most effective strategies to stop the dramatic environmental collapse, which is concretely threatening our lives and those of our children.

At the same time, the Republic cares about and intends to effectively protect and safeguard its environment and territory, by supporting the need for an ecological transition under the banner of the green economy and integrated sustainability policies. Ecological transition must therefore be at the heart of the political debate, triggering a process of change and a relaunch of the economy and productive sectors within an established and well-defined strategy, which focuses, always and in any case, on protection and respect for the environment.

The opening of EXPO 2020 in Dubai is also imminent, with the Republic participating with its own pavilion, in the wake of previous editions of the Universal Exhibition.

During this unprecedented global event, San Marino will share world challenges by bringing its history and art to Dubai, as well as its growing offer in terms of tourism and the entire country system.

We are proud of the virtuous process undertaken by our country, which seizes the opportunity of this majestic international scenario to exchange views, to dialogue and to affirm itself with authoritativeness and determination, relying on resources fully capable of remotely promoting an exclusive country. We are certain that in Dubai the general public will grasp the amenities of our territory, the historical importance of our walls and our innate welcoming propensity and peaceful coexistence, in a constant combination of past and present, tradition, innovation and modernity.

After a period dominated mainly by short-lived policies with a strong social impact, we are now ready to offer a new and beautiful page of concrete, hard-working and lasting commitment to our citizens. We call upon political forces, all together, majority and opposition, to be, now more than ever, inspired by the need to overcome the persistent critical situations, and not to get involved in debates only fuelled by the logic of mere expediency, in order to work, in a spirit of sacrifice and self-denial, for the restructuring of the country and the economic, social and employment relaunch of our community.

We will support, with conviction and determination, the fundamental process of reforms scheduled and under way during the next six months, which must be developed in synergy between the Government, the majority and opposition forces and the social partners. This process must be marked by the utmost clarity of roles and by the will to share together the system of rules and an appropriate reorganisation of the economic and social system.

Only through this exercise of high political responsibility will we be able to ensure sustainable growth for the country and to guarantee financial stability, progressive alignment with international standards and a secure future for our State.

In the context of this process - which we will oversee in our high role as guarantors of the democratic and constitutional order - we wish to recall the need for the reasons of frank, open and fair dialogue to always prevail, for the success of our political action and for the good of our democracy.

Today we feel a particularly strong duty, especially a moral duty, towards our citizens, namely to ensure that conditions of well-being are restored, so that all can return, as soon as possible, to a full recognition of their rights and to normality in their employment.

Our citizens, who are the real resource of our country, must be recognised as the absolute priority on the political agenda and the objective to be pursued in the measures that will be adopted for the construction of a positive community. It is therefore imperative to offer solutions that can re-establish the serenity necessary for the effective recovery of relations among citizens, political stakeholders and Institutions.

It is precisely through this solemn assumption of the highest institutional office that we wish to assure you, dear fellow citizens, that we will do our utmost to live up to the role we are about to play at your exclusive service.