

INVESTITURE CEREMONY OF THE CAPTAINS REGENT

(San Marino, Palazzo Valloni, 1st October 2023)

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY-DEAN, AMBASSADOR OF ITALY H.E. SERGIO MERCURI

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Your Excellencies the newly-elected Captains Regent Filippo Tamagnini and Gaetano Troina,

Your Excellency Luca Beccari, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Economic Cooperation and Telecommunications,

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Mr. Duarte Pacheco, Official Speaker,

Distinguished Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The cyclical nature of the turnover of the highest institution of the Republic of San Marino brings us together again today for this Investiture Ceremony full of meaning and substance. Due to the absence of the Dean, Apostolic Nuncio and Cardinal Paul Tscherrig, I have been invited today to make a quick analysis of the last six months in connection with the next six months.

First of all, I would like to express to Your Excellencies the best wishes for a prosperous mandate on behalf of the members of the accredited diplomatic and consular corps gathered here today, as well as on behalf of the President of the Italian Republic, who we know will soon be received here on an official visit.

Today we are once again gathered as witnesses of the vast network of external relations wisely developed with our respective countries by the Most Serene Republic of San Marino. This country has always been attentive to balancing the affirmation of its centuries-old identity with a far-sighted work of communication and exchange with the entire world, from which the international community also benefits.

With this in mind, we welcome the ongoing efforts of this Republic to further strengthen this solid network of relations through the Association Agreement with the European Union, which is present and open to dialogue.

I am sure that the outcome of this process and the efforts made will enrich this population and its social and economic components and, at the same time, the many other communities with which it is in contact. Your Excellencies the Captains Regent, this negotiating process of association enjoys widespread support in our continent and we are confident that its conclusion is now close.

At the global level, the recent UN General Assembly in New York and the SDG Summit saw once again the participation of San Marino, aware of the common goal of reforming the multilateral system.

This is essential for the affirmation of those values and principles that transcend the continental geographical dimension and unite us all in the family of states, in the face of so many serious violations of peace and security, of which the invasion of Ukraine was the most striking example. The ability to welcome and integrate those seeking refuge or even just foreign workers is a distinctive feature of which San Marino can rightfully be proud.

Indeed, such harmony with the principles of the United Nations System is in line with the founding elements of this Republic.

We find them already summarised in the original narration of the journey of the Saint Marino from the Dalmatian coast to the upper Adriatic coast and then to the hinterland of this peninsula.

The principles of solidarity, industriousness and respect for human dignity are the basis of civil coexistence and were then transposed into the modern vision of international law. Such principles are indeed emblematically included in the Early Middle Ages Manuscript of this work kept in Turin - but with numerous ties to European territories - and which we hope to bring and exhibit here soon for the first time in its history.

We therefore hope that Their Excellencies the Captains Regent can protect such founding values of the oldest Republic in the face of internal and external challenges - with increasingly blurred boundaries even for large States - and we wish them a fruitful work in the interest of the citizens of the Most Serene Republic of San Marino.