

## Address given by Jacques Delors at the signing of Portugal's Treaty of Accession to the European Communities (Lisbon, 12 June 1985)

**Caption:** On 12 June 1985, at the signing, in Lisbon, of Portugal's Treaty of Accession to the European Communities, Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, delivers an address in which he emphasises the historic significance of the accession of a free and democratic Portugal to the European Communities.

**Source:** Bulletin of the European Communities. June 1985, No 6. Luxembourg: Office for official publications of the European Communities.

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**Publication date:** 23/10/2012

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[...]

We are pleased to welcome our Portuguese friends and also proud to receive this pledge of their confidence in a future that henceforth will be shared. During the accession negotiations, which appeared long because they were difficult and of great importance, we came to respect ... the determination and skill of your country's delegation, the tenacity and farsightedness of your Minister, Mr. Ernâni Rodrigues Lopes, to whom I would like to pay tribute. I would like to extend my congratulations to the Italian Presidency of the Council.

[...]

The result we have achieved after eight years of effort appears to me a fair one and provides a solid foundation for the development of cooperation and greater solidarity. We would like to be in a position to say that the path we are to follow is one of assured prosperity for our enlarged Community, at present hard hit by unemployment. But we are facing a deep and continuing recession – let us not try to hide the facts. What we can affirm, however, is that a successful outcome can be achieved only through a reinforced Europe in which each can find the grounds for hope and more effective action. We shall survive together or we shall founder singly.

After some fifty years of relative isolation, a newly free and democratic Portugal has joined us to build a stronger and more united Europe. I know better than anyone what tremendous efforts your country has made to reorganize its economy and modernize its structures. That is why I have argued that a spirit of solidarity should imbue the conditions for Portugal's entry into the Community.

[...]

Made up of six countries at the outset, the Community has gradually been enlarged so that today it embraces much of Europe. And let us lay a wager that what is commonly called the 'Old Continent' will surprise the world in future centuries by its innovation, its creativity and its modernity.

This is the wish I am formulating on this historic day. Europe happily no longer has an imperial role. It has a message of peace and freedom to offer the world and a prayer to address to its children: that they remain faithful to the teachings drawn from a history of mixed drama and glory leading to the victory of democracy, which can never be taken for granted.

May they be the pioneers of a new renaissance, a common culture drawing its richness from the spring of our differences?

There is a strong and real desire for the reunion of the people of Europe. And not only within our common frontiers, but on the part of nations that do not want to be locked into rigid blocs or want to explore wider relations with the industrial powers. In other words, those nations of America, Africa and Asia which see us as European rather than Italian, German, Portuguese or whatever. We need to find a way of responding to their appeals. But to do this, people like us - politicians, leaders from the economic and social spheres - must express our desire and our determination to respond. There are still too many immediate considerations blocking the way and obscuring the goal we need to reach.

Confronted as we are with profound changes in our society, and with economic and monetary disorder in the world, we are nevertheless called upon to act and to meet the challenges facing us.

So this solemn day when Portuguese democracy is rejoining the Community family is also in this sense a hopeful beginning. The voyager glimpsing the Cabo da Roca, the most westerly point of our continent, will know in future that he is approaching not just a country but a Community - Europe, called forth by

necessity, the trend of history and our common destiny.