

Address by Giulio Andreotti (12 June 1985)

Caption: On 12 June 1985, at the time of Spain's accession to the European Economic Community (EEC), the Council President-in-Office, Giulio Andreotti, welcomes Spain's involvement in Europe.

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[...]

The Community of Ten is being transformed into a Community of Twelve. Unchanging in that it remains faithful to the principles which brought it into being, the Community will at the same time be different – richer in humankind, experience, ideas and resources.

In this sense there will be no question within the Community of old and new members, since from now onwards we shall be all new members of a profoundly rejuvenated body. However, and it is well that we should be fully aware of this, we shall also have to face together new problems.

[...]

The long-standing links that Spain maintains with Latin America and the positive collaboration even before accession on the occasion of the San José Conference represent an asset for all of us. Nor must we forget, for geographical, historical and cultural reasons, Spain's Mediterranean aspect, which will bring the European Community's boundaries closer to this cradle of civilization which needs so badly to regain balance and peace.

[...]

The developments associated with enlargement must be first and foremost qualitative in nature, and in this sense Spain can inject the enthusiasm and vitality which were aptly attested to by the words of the Prime Minister, Mr González, when he affirmed that “from the outset, Spain wishes to play an active role in building the future”... The Spanish people bring to the European Community and to its process of political and economic integration a highly motivated public opinion which has followed with great interest and involvement the proceedings of the accession negotiations. This swells the rank of those, unfortunately much fewer than are needed, who strive in our countries to further the cause of European unity.

European integration calls for a constant commitment, without concessions but also without undue pessimism. It is absolutely essential to bring home to our peoples the reality of Europe through appropriate behaviour by our governments. Only the can our action give young people hope and confidence in the future.

[...]

New resources lie ahead but also new challenges and certainly further tensions. We must not fear these tensions; frequently they act as a stimulus, provided they do not proliferate unnecessarily or degenerate into sterile conflicts.

The way in which these third enlargement negotiations have proceeded and been concluded seems to me, in this respect, exemplary. The complexity and the importance of the chapters into which they were divided provided incentives for a balanced solution, in a spirit of understanding of mutual requirements and the safeguarding of fundamental interest. We shall have to preserve and, if possible, further consolidate that same spirit that enabled us to obtain positive results.

[...]