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TOWARDS A FLOURISHING  
SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION THROUGH  
THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN  
ACADEMIC NETWORK (EMAN)

*Dear Friends, Distinguished members of the Euro-Mediterranean scientific community, honourable scholars and colleagues.*

*Your Excellency, Aleksandar Bogdanović, Minister of Culture, Government of Montenegro,*

*Honourable Professors Dragan K. Vukčević, President, and Professor Ljubiša Stanković, Vice-president of the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts (CANU),*

*Honourable Mayor of the City of Bar, Mr. Dušan Raičević,*

*Honorable Vice-Presidents of the Euro-Mediterranean Academic Network, Professors Yohanan Friedmann from the Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities and Professor Yehia Zaky from the Bibliotheca Alexandrina from Egypt,*

*Honourable Professor Nexhat Daci, President of the Kosovo Academy of Sciences and Arts,*

*Honourable Professor Ahmet Nuri Yurdusev, Vice-President of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA),*

*Honourable and dear representatives from the Academies of Sciences, Humanities or Technologies from: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Spain and Turkey.*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

It is my pleasure to greet you all with my heartfelt feelings and respect. It is really a great privilege to address you all, esteemed ladies and gentlemen, on the occasion of a significant moment in the history of our scientific and cultural cooperation, the opening of our EMAN Forum and this important symposium under the title: “Culture, Technology and Humanism”, organized here, in the city of Bar, in Montenegro.

Montenegro is certainly one of the most beautiful parts of the Mediterranean. The sea and high mountains it has been named after, living in perfect harmony, have created a very special landscape and culture. We cannot but agree with the words of Lord George Gordon Byron who once describing Montenegro said: “At the moment of the creation of our planet, the most beautiful merging of land and sea occurred at the Montenegrin seaside.”

In my capacity as President of EMAN but also as Secretary-General of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, I am very pleased to let you know that the Croatian Academy is linked to Montenegro and its people in many important ways. Two members of our Academy — two great Croatian men — created two lasting monuments for the Montenegrins: our sculptor Ivan Meštrović built the fascinating mausoleum of Duke Petar Petrović II Njegoš on the top of the Lovćen mountain, whereas our poet Ivan Mažuranić wrote his long epic poem *Smrt Smail-age Čengića* (*The Death of Smail Aga*), which celebrates the bravery and heroism of the Montenegrins during their centuries long fight for freedom.

The first printed word in Montenegro appeared a long time ago. Thirty-eight years after the Gutenberg’s Bible in 1493, the first printing house in the Balkans began its operation, while only six years later the same happened in Montenegro! A year later, the first book — Oktoih (Octoechos) — was printed. All of this led subsequently to the development of literature in Montenegro. Thanks to Andrija Zmajević, a Baroque poet and theologian, to Petar I and Petar II Petrović Njegoš, who was one of the greatest Montenegrin philosophers and statesmen, as well as to Duke Marko Miljanov and Stefan Mitrov Ljubiša, the Montenegrin literature has made its way into the world heritage.

A member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Baltazar Bogišić, a Croatian law expert, wrote in 1888 *Opšti imovinski zakonik Knjaževine Crne Gore* (General Property Code of the Dukedom of Montenegro). He also served as the Montenegrin Minister of Justice for some time.

On the other hand, three great Montenegrins have contributed greatly to the Croatian modern art — film director Veljko Bulajić, painter Dimitrije Popović, and the late film director Dušan Vukotić — the received the first Croatian Oscar, Academy Award for Best Animated Film. Montenegrin

culture owes furthermore a great deal of its success to painters. They enchanted the world with their paintings, which reflect and represent the Montenegrin soul. Among many others Milo Milunović, Petar Lubarda and Dado Djurić belong to the eminent group of artists who have in the best possible way presented Montenegro to the world.

I feel confident, ladies and gentlemen, that our meeting will contribute to our current, I believe quite engaged EMAN and GID cooperation, offering a set of intriguing contributions that look at the past while setting the tone for future research and for further expansion of our scientific and cultural cooperation.

I greet you all, honourable colleagues, with affection and respect, and I wish to remind you that the Declaration of Sciences we signed a few years ago in the French Academy of Sciences says that “...over the centuries, the construction of scientific knowledge is a source of progress. It catalyzes culture, development, creative cooperation and is sometimes the source of unexpected applications. Scientific knowledge, its progression through research and its accompanying technologies are part of the heritage of humanity that should be with no further delay passed down to all”.

We may rightfully state, ladies and gentlemen, that time consumes all as an acid tincture. It consumes even the most ethereal relationships among people: friendship, good fellowship, love, etc. but some of the universal messages intended for people to guide them on their long road to hominisation are the only ones that have managed to persist through time are what we call Culture.

We may say that Culture is all that is transferred from one generation to another in a non-biological way. It is transferred by objects — made and built, by words — said or carved in wood or stone, written on leather, papyrus, or paper. Currently, culture is transferred in previously unimaginable and ingenious ways enabled by new technologies. Messages are, however, created through science — history, through medicine and poetry, through technique and technology. We may, indeed, paraphrase the statement that in the life of any person, culture exists as the thing often named or understood as *CONSTRUCTIO Opositorum*!

In this context, I would like to point out that many members of the Mediterranean Academies of Sciences engaged in science, have contributed to the research of our common Mediterranean heritage (both cultural and natural), while main artists have through their creative work enriched our Mediterranean identity. Our identify which is so visible in so diverse and unique cultural pearls of the Mediterranean, which have been preserved through thousands of years, which reach out to us from the depths of our

human history — as well as the universal messages derived from the magnificently rich knowledge and experience, the amazing wealth of the almost unimaginable differences of mankind in its uniqueness.

At this point, we come to the rather original title of our symposium: “Culture, Technology and Humanism”. It speaks for itself of many issues tackled at the previous GID-EMAN Conferences under the common titles of “Parmenides” and TÜBA-EMAN and MASA-EMAN:

1st in Paris, France: “Towards a Mediterranean Science Area” (24–26 June 2008);

2nd in Rome, Italy: “Science and health in the Mediterranean countries: genes, pathogens and the environments” (12–14 October 2009);

3th in Alexandria, Egypt: “Mediterranean Wealth and Diversity: Biology & Culture” (21–24 June 2010);

4th in Rabat, Morocco: “Water and sanitation: issues and health risks in the Mediterranean Basin Countries” (22–25 November 2011);

5th in Paris, France: “Towards an Integrative Vision of Mediterranean Scientific Development” (20–21 March 2012);

6th in La Valetta, Malta: “ODMED, Observatory for the Development of the Mediterranean, a Tool for Decision Makers” (13–14 November 2013);

7th in Dubrovnik, Croatia: “Common heritage and technologies: enhancement of heritage, a key to Development” (17–19 March 2015);

8th in Genova, Italy: “What knowledge to reconcile the evolution of port facilities with sustainable development in the Mediterranean?” (21–23 March 2017);

9th in Istanbul, Turkey: TÜBA-EMAN symposium “Exploring the commonalities of the Mediterranean region” (Istanbul, 6–7 November 2017).

10th in Bar, Montenegro: “Culture, Technology and Humanism” (4–6 October 2018).

I am certain that this conference here, in Bar, will also contribute to our joint cooperation and the perceptual synthesis that is currently needed so much by all of us coming from the countries united by the Mediterranean Sea — all that address the Mediterranean as MEDITERRANEUM — MARE NOSTRUM.

At the end I wish you honorable colleagues a fruitful and successful meeting.