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WELCOME REMARKS

I would like to congratulate Academician Momir Djurović for organizing this important meeting and initiative. He has been organizing such important meetings for 15 years. Such events are very important for Montenegro, as they stimulate and create new ideas for the future of this country.

Before I came to Podgorica, I had met Academician Djurović twice in the last months. First at the ALLEA-Meeting in Vienna and then at the Danube Academies Conference in Ljubljana, where we spoke of today's meeting. The title is representing a kind of equation, implying that our input adds up to the future. It is very well chosen as this equation is also a task for Academies. Presently, Academies are in transition. Therefore, it is always important to consider from where we are coming and where we are going.

The longstanding tradition of Academies began with Plato 2.500 years ago. He started in the garden of Akademikos in a narrative way gathering important people and discussing different topics as well as developing new ideas how to run a state. His Timaios gives a great deal of the main thoughts of this school which is of course based on the contact with Socrates and later on continued by Aristotle.

There was a break of nearly 1.000 years when Ficino started in the gardens of the Medici in a narrative way to develop ideas for the state. Boccaccio was also during this time and made it possible that young people met in the outskirts of Florence and survived the pestilence in Florence. Machiavelli was also very important during this time, giving instructions to the Prince of Florence in his booklet „Il Principe”. The time for establishing academies was mature. Newton founded the Royal Society with the specific aim of being advisor to the King, giving advices based on evidence. This concept was taken over in Berlin and Paris, where Leibniz and Voltaire established similar concepts and understood their roles as advisors to their Kings too.

In the 20th century, the tasks of Academies started to change slightly. Research labs were founded which were not necessarily part of the core concept of an Academy, they are in competition to Universities. At the end of the 19th century the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institute in Germany was founded. During the communist time re-

search institutes at Academies as well as educational sites were very important in Eastern Europe. Academies started to become large entrepreneurs in the states. This was important to have a political control of the researchers.

Now the European Union again has the desire of advising politicians with the hope to influence policymakers in their decisions. I am always a little bit hesitant seeing this as a final goal. All what I have experienced is that politicians are rather resistant to advices, they decide not necessarily on evidence, they are deciding on plausibility. Decisions have to be translated to people, to their demands and finally to be re-elected. We have seen it recently with the topics pesticides and nuclear energy. I would like to make some critical remarks at this point: Scientists are sometimes difficult. I was told by some politicians that when meeting three scientists, they get to hear five opinions.

In the 21st century a new narrative has started. We called this project „Next Europe”. Everybody is called upon to express their ideas and opinions for the future of Europe. We invited our 1.900 members, 2.300 friends and are compiling all inputs which will lead to a strategic concept how to transform all contributions in a final recommendation. The first public meetings are starting in fall 2016. The final results will be presented in the Giardini of Venice in 2018.

Why the Giardini? Because The Giardini represent the development of Academies, starting with a narrative of Plato in the garden. A garden can be interpreted as a metaphor, as an environment where people are walking, discussing, sharing experiences in all four dimensions (room and time). Mankind started in the Garden of Eden. Now we use the garden as a soil for new ideas, and the technique of communication in a garden is the „narrative”.