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President, Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts (CANU)

Dear President of EMAN, Professor Rudan, Dear Minister of Culture, Mr. Bogdanović, Dear friends,

I want to welcome you on behalf of the host of this year's meeting of EMAN members representing the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts.

As you know, it is usual to welcome you in occasions like this one. I hope that you will feel pleasant in Montenegro and in beautiful town Bar and that you will only have nice memories of this meeting.

I want to thank you on behalf of the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts for your attendance as well as your participation at this conference.

Topic of this conference is the discussion on culture, technology and humanism. Those are the words which can be heard quite often in our everyday discourse. I believe that Mediterranean culture bears these words in its various layers. At the same time, I believe that those words can be a bridge which links countries, societies, nations and diverse cultures existing on the Mediterranean. I hope that these meetings of friends, which gather great minds and educated people, substantially contribute to making bridges like this one.

Montenegro has existed and persevered at the borders of powerful civilizations of the East and West. Searching for the balance within and with others, our time has been passing. That time was interrupted by struggles, fights and wars. It was difficult to live and create in such conditions.

However, light of Montenegrin spirituality has been enduring until present days. It has been sustained by dedication to the culture. The best evidence that proves this is printing of Octoich at the end of the 15th century. Then ruler of Montenegro printed the word coming to him from the East with a printing press bought at the West. In that way, symbolically, he left the legacy on need of looking for balance in politics, culture and life.

That is why it seems to me that tendency toward synthesis is a perpetual constant of life in these areas. Mediterranean and its world present a part of that synthesis in Montenegrin spirituality.

To the participants of this conference, I wish successful work and I want that with their presentations they contribute to better understanding and greater mutual approach.

Dear friends,

We are all just mere observers on different spots of the Mediterranean, the sea that is our homeland. That is why I think that our mission is to leave to our successors more mutual understanding, cooperation and friendship.

I believe that one small step on that path is this conference as well.

At the same time, meetings like this one present sort of islands of tolerance and humanity. Such islands of culture are a true homeland of intellectuals.

Once again I want to welcome you to Montenegro and to Bar and wish you successful work at the conference.

Thank you.

It is my great pleasure to announce my friend and the president of EMAN, academician Pavao Rudan.