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*Opening Address**

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Prime Minister, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues, Friends,

1. Political leaders need scientific advice.

National Scientific Academies have the capacity to provide such advice.

The circumstances necessitate that such advice be formulated and appropriately used.

This is the background of our conference.

2. Scientific advice must be useful for political leaders: it must be:

- timely and focused,
- understandable by non-specialists, and
- transmitted at the appropriate high-level.

An excellent example of a highly constructive advice is the one formulated by the Central- and Eastern European Network, CEEN, on the European Institute of Technology.

Indeed, the CEEN advice was closely followed by the European Union.

3. In preparing this meeting and in order to ensure meaningful exchanges, we have followed the following principles:

* Printed as submitted.

- carefully identified speakers,
- participation on invitation, and
- limited number of participants.

In this spirit, I wish you a useful meeting, productive discussions and constructive outcome.

Thank you for your attention.

Academy and Society

