

**Nagovor predsednika Vlade RS Janeza Janše na Vrhu EU-CELAC,
Santiago v Čilu, 27. januar 2013**

Mr President, Mr Sebastian Piñero Echenique,
Distinguished Heads of State and Government,
President of the European Council, Mr Herman Van Rompuy,
President of the European Commission, Mr José Manuel Barroso,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Señoras y Señores.

It is my great pleasure to address this EU-CELAC Summit. At the very outset, let me welcome the increased and strengthened cooperation between our two regions. I was astonished when I learned yesterday that our trade in goods amounts to over 200 billion euros, which is double than a decade ago.

Bound by strong and historic ties, we share many common interests, values and face similar challenges. In recent years, both regions have been faced with financial turmoil. Ensuring the stability of finance and boosting economic growth have been our primary concern. Our efforts have already shown positive results.

In recent decades many new institutions and mechanisms have been formed to deal with financial, economic and trade issues. We have the World Bank, the IMF, the WTO, as well as more flexible and informal forms of cooperation, such as the G20. They have all proven to be quite useful in addressing economic and many other challenges of our common concern.

However, the financial crisis intensified several other factors of instability, such as social inequality, employment opportunities and access to education and health, potable water, a clean environment and natural resources. In conjunction with tensions of an ethnic, religious or political nature, they now represent sources of instability in many places around the world.

Unfortunately, the post-World War II international system is not capable of fully addressing such risks. No structures have an adequate ability to effectively resolve them, especially when addressing human security issues.

Dear Colleagues,

In this respect, we should strive for a more effective preventive system. History has taught us that such imbalances – if not addressed in a timely and appropriate manner – may lead towards violence or even to mass atrocities such as genocide. It is more than a relevant point since today International Holocaust Remembrance Day is commemorated around the world.

And it is truly sad that after so many decades, and despite all the human and technological development accomplished, we are still faced with tragedies such as Syria and (most recently) Mali. Again and again, we face the inability to assume our common responsibility to protect innocent populations.

I believe that regional efforts can contribute substantially to improve that weakness of the international community. Regions should be given the primary responsibility of addressing conditions that lead to conflicts and mass atrocities. Regions possess the historical memory, and understand ethnical relations and customs. Addressing poverty, lack of opportunities and disparity,

as well as, the rule of law, democracy and judicial institutions should, therefore, be a priority for regional activities.

As Europe, the CELAC region has also developed mechanisms to address atrocities, and established preventive capacities. In some aspects, it has played a pioneering role. It is for that reason that sharing our best practices with other regions would decisively benefit global action.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me refer to the initiative I put forward last September at the UN General Debate in New York. In my appeal for 'A World Free from Genocide', I called for new tools to enforce prevention and develop a mechanism for a more effective response to acts such mass atrocities.

I would like to inform you that there is a broad and growing support for further elaboration of the initiative. We, therefore, aim to focus on dialogue with like-minded countries towards finding common understanding on the modalities of the needed actions. We believe that regions should be the engines of securing justice, development, peace and security. Regions should be empowered with greater means and capacities to effectively challenge genocide and other mass atrocities. They can provide a reliable early warning. They can also develop a legitimate and viable system of prevention.

I, therefore, consider the EU-CELAC partnership to be a tremendously important forum for this discussion. Together, we represent 60 countries with over 1 billion people; almost a third of the UN membership. We have great legitimacy and also immense responsibility.

Thank you.