

Lasne, le 25 février 2008

Monsieur le Président de la République
Palais de l'Elysée
55, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré
F-75008 Paris

Monsieur le Président,

EUROPE NEEDS YOUR LEADERSHIP

Please allow me to express the belief that you are currently the sole head of state or government in Europe with the stature, drive and charisma to stimulate the development of a much-needed global EU foreign policy, which would serve the interests of Europe as well as its partners.

In the age of globalization, many EU-internal issues are driven by external forces. The formulation of a global EU foreign policy should not passively await the outcome of USA's and Russia's presidential elections, but it should already now proactively outline Europe's objectives and ideas for sustaining its partnership with these two great and powerful nations. Your leadership in developing the policy would also help shifting the spotlight from your private life and French domestic policy to the single most important priority for Europe.

A global EU foreign policy should, for example, encourage the United States not to continue to impose bilateral initiatives on EU member states and their neighbours, which sow suspicion between Moscow and Brussels (e.g. the missile shield, Ukraine, Kosovo). The proposed policy should invite Russia to work with Europe on common security issues (e.g. on defence, terrorism, energy and diseases). It should also use our common cultural values to rebuild mutual trust through a 'veritable Renaissance' of great composers, writers, artists and scientists – as a stepping stone to resolving political issues. EU cultural initiatives could reach out far beyond the existing European capital of culture programme and the funding of various cultural projects involving languages and films.

Other elements of the EU policy should obviously relate to the Israel-Palestine conflict; Iran's nuclear programme; multilateral and bilateral cooperation with China and India and other Asia-Pacific countries; and Europe's over-ambitious strategic partnership with Africa. Your vision of a Mediterranean Union would reinforce several elements of the proposed policy.

The EU presidency chaired by France will provide a unique opportunity to promote the development of a global EU foreign policy. However, steps could be taken already today.

Yours sincerely,

Jens A. Jorgensen
President