

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**TOAST AT WORKING LUNCH WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, MR. MARTIN SCHULZ**

Brussels, 3 April 2014

12:30

Monsieur le Président [du Parlement européen, **MartinSchulz**],
Mesdames et Messieurs les vice-présidents
[du Parlement européen],
Mesdames et Messieurs les présidents des comités
[du Parlement européen],
Mesdames et Messieurs les parlementaires européens,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je suis heureux d'avoir l'occasion de vous rencontrer.

Ma visite à Bruxelles s'est très bien passée et c'est
un honneur pour moi de l'achever au Parlement européen.

21 11

J'ai été profondément inspiré par l'énergie que l'on ressent et les idées qui s'expriment ici à Bruxelles.

Mesdames et Messieurs les parlementaires,

Cette année marque le centenaire du début de la Première Guerre mondiale. Nous sommes ici réunis non loin du lieu de certains des combats les plus terribles.

Cette commémoration est l'occasion d'honorer les victimes, de célébrer les progrès accomplis par l'Europe au cours du siècle écoulé et d'apprécier la paix à sa juste valeur.

21 11 passé

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The crises facing our world today, including those affecting Europe, can only be solved through dialogue. Parliaments are the guardians of political dialogue.

I applaud the European Parliament for promoting dialogue, human rights and inclusion. I am especially heartened that more than one third of its members are women.

At the United Nations, I have taken aggressive measures to ensure gender equality. I am proud that for the first time in our history, women now head one third of our peacekeeping operations – an area traditionally dominated by men. For example, women lead our missions in Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Haiti, Liberia and South Sudan.

A woman is the Special Coordinator of the OPCW-UN Mission to rid Syria of its chemical weapons.

The EU Treaty changes in recent years increased your legislative powers. This is a vote of confidence – and it carries greater responsibility.

My message to you today is similar to the message I convey to young people. Whenever I have the chance to meet them, I say, “Be a global citizen.” To you I would say, be a globally minded Parliament. Continue to promote human rights across this continent – and take decisions that promote our universal values around the world.

The European Parliament already has a strong record of working for the greater common good beyond this continent's borders. I count on you to continue formulating policies that advance Europe's progress while supporting the rights and needs of people everywhere.

Please join me in a toast: to the invaluable partnership between the European Parliament and the United Nations; may it grow even stronger in the future.

Thank you.

[END]