

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

I am thrilled to be among you this evening for this Monaco Private Label event.

For those who have made a long journey to join us, I would like to welcome you to Monaco and show a different image of my country that goes beyond its dynamism and worldwide renown.

Monaco is also synonymous of solidarity, responsibility, commitment and openness.

The roots of these values go back a long way to our ancestors, from the Genoese sailors to the leadership of the Monaco Princes.

Living along the coastline of the Mediterranean and its magnificent landscapes increases our awareness on the importance of preserving the natural environment. We know that it is an essential condition of all life.

Above all, we know that it is the most precious gift that we can pass on to our children.

At a time when global warming threatens to disrupt the major balance of our Planet, when biodiversity is everywhere endangered, when the supply of a number of vital resources is jeopardized, I believe it is our responsibility and duty to tackle these threats.

For these reasons, I decided to launch my Foundation dedicated to such issues: the fight against climate change, the preservation of water resources and the protection of biodiversity.

It is active in many regions across the world with over three hundred projects: in the Mediterranean of course, but also in Africa, North and South America, South East Asia and the Polar regions.

The strength of the Foundation lies in its capacity to implement flexible methods, close to the ground and open to civil society.

Its value lies in the actions taken as a complement to that of States and international organizations, in which I am also very much active as Head of State, especially now with the preparation of the Paris Climate Conference.

These are the key aspects that guide the action of my Foundation. This evening, thanks to Monaco Private Label and to your support, I am pleased to be able to involve you, inform you on our efforts to achieve, what I hope should be considered, common goals.

I am particularly pleased to welcome again this evening Maria Damanaki, our guest speaker, who until 2014 was the European Commissioner for maritime affairs and fisheries. Her contribution was valuable with significant progress in sustainable and integrated management of our maritime areas in Europe and beyond.

In the face of global issues, such as the protection of our environment, the responsible commitment of each individual is vital.

I also know that such commitment will contribute to prepare, for our children, a world which is less damaged and more sustainable.

Thank you