



## EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES INITIATIVE - Building the universities of the future

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very happy to send my warmest greetings in writing to all those who are meeting today for this important EPICUR European University event.

Through your project, eight universities have joined together to create a true European university alliance. An alliance where students from different countries and disciplines can work with the best teachers, researchers, local businesses and civil society to identify solutions to the challenges of the 21st century, in Europe and beyond.

This is our vision for the universities of the future. And I am particularly pleased to see that your alliance is committed to developing, among other things, a new educational approach, based on the concept of inclusive excellence and multilingualism.

I am convinced that - together - you will be pioneers in creating a European inter-university campus where students, staff and researchers will be free to study, teach or do research anywhere within your 8 universities, regardless of their university of origin. You will encourage them to develop not only their language skills, but also - and above all - their creative potential.

Real innovation happens when people from different backgrounds and perspectives meet. I am impressed by the educational innovations that you have proposed: the language policy model for multilingual universities is precisely what we hope and expect from European universities: higher education plays an active role in promoting the cultural and linguistic diversity that characterises Europe.

By creating transdisciplinary and transnational teams of students, teachers and external stakeholders, and by strengthening interregional networks, you will be stronger in tackling the major problems that Europe is facing, such as climate change, threats to democracy and the aging of the population.

It is now essential to involve all levels of your institutions in accomplishing this ambitious initiative, so that it has a structural, systemic and lasting impact.

