

## Address by Jacques Delors (12 June 1985)

**Caption:** On 12 June 1985, at the ceremony marking the accession of Spain to the European Economic Community, Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, expresses his pleasure at the success of the European enlargement process to include Spain.

**Source:** Bulletin of the European Communities. June 1985, No 6. Luxembourg: Office for official publications of the European Communities. "Address by Jacques Delors (12 June 1985)", p. 10-11.

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**Last updated:** 20/02/2014

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The accession of Spain to the European Community is one of those rare events whose historic importance and impact must be stressed from the outset.

[...]

What a comfort it is to us - enmeshed as we sometimes are in the turmoil of day-to-day events - to know that this desire for accession comes from all sectors in Spain, to see the government of a great people intent on safeguarding the future and refusing to give in to temporary difficulties.

For although I am convinced that accession will be for the good of Spain in the long run - I have no doubt of that - it may in the short term make the effort you have undertaken to adapt your economy to the new world situation more arduous.

The result we have now achieved after all these years of negotiating seems to me to be fair and balanced, and I should like to pay a tribute to the work done by your delegation, and to Mr. Fernando Moran, Mr. Manuel Marin and their colleagues for their clearheadedness and their understanding.

[...]

Spain is, therefore, now going to be one of us. May I say to you quite simply: we needed you. The building of Europe, and the hopes of Europe, would have remained partial and incomplete without your membership and your participation.

Spain is a country which already ranks as a world industrial power, which has won back for itself freedom and democracy and which, while being fully in the modern world, holds fast to its essential values: how could we not feel stronger and more ambitious with such a partner?

You are not just joining an economic club; your membership does not mean just one power added to other powers. The building of the common market is inseparable from the project for Europe, this enterprise for peace and harmony, this resolve to strengthen our civilization and play a joint role in the future of the world.

[...]

Our coming together will be a source of peace and will point the way towards prosperity. But let us not minimize the difficulties: the crisis is still there and Europe sometimes seems to lack faith in itself - at the very time when its cooperation and its awareness are increasingly being called for from all parts of the world. I am thinking especially of those young nations in Latin America with which you have special links and in respect of which we now have new responsibilities.

"Europe: all Spain's travails have their beginning and their end in this word." These words, written by the great thinker, Ortega y Gasset, one of the pioneers of the European idea, for his own country in the early part of the century, also apply to each of our own countries. The European project is a fact, arising from the need to turn our backs on our divisions and to pool our strength, and from our determination to control a destiny that we must inevitably share with each other.

Today's ceremony signifies that a decisive stage has been completed on the way to our higher objectives. The European Community now has a new frontier and new ambitions. Spain has acquired friends who are proud to see a great nation and a great people joining in this now common task. May the future generations in Spain, this country strong and dazzling like a dream of stone and sun, bring further support to our convictions. May our way be lit by the light of Spain.