

**GALA DINNER HONOURING  
THE MEMBERS OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS  
OF STATE AND SUPREME  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
JURISDICTIONS OF THE  
EUROPEAN UNION**

President of the Supreme  
Court and of the Supreme Judicial  
Council

Honourable Carlos Dívar

Madrid, 9 May 2011

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen, Presidents of Supreme Administrative Courts and Councils of State of the European Union, dear colleagues,

Now that the meeting in Madrid of the Management Board and Assembly of our Association has been concluded, I would like to thank you all for your active participation, which has greatly contributed to our work. The new ACA logo, as well as the many activities and projects carried out and yet to come, including the recently adopted EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, which is a vital piece of legislation in the evolution of European law and its implementation by national courts, are a reflection of our commitment to become a dynamic force.

Administrative courts occupy a key position in the rule of law either as a jurisdiction separate from the courts of law or as a specialised part thereof. They protect the individual rights of the citizens against the conduct of political authorities, making sure they are fully accountable in law. For this reason, the conclusions of a discussion and reflection forum like our Association, where the elite representatives of EU administrative jurisdictions are brought together, exceed the strict limits of the meetings and become a useful instrument not only for all institutions represented, but ultimately also for the citizens of our countries, who are also European citizens.

We are extremely pleased with the elections held by the Spanish Supreme Court to choose the chairperson of the Association for the two-year term 2010-2012. We would also like to thank the trust placed in us, and hope to continue providing the same level of high standards of organisation and content the Association is known for, and which was evident in the last Luxembourg meeting. I would like to extend my appreciation to everyone for their collaboration with the Spanish Presidency, in particular, to the Secretary General, Mr. Yves Krein, whose efficiency and kindness is well known to you

all. He has actively supported the initiatives and work for organising this first meeting in Madrid which concludes today under the chairmanship of His Highness Prince of Asturias.

Your Highness, I would like to thank you especially for attending this event of great importance for the Association of Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union with the highest representatives of European administrative courts. Your support inspires us to continue our passion for finding new ways for the Courts to provide prompt and effective solutions based on law to the growing demands of citizens.

I do not want to abuse your attention. I hope your interest in the contents of this meeting has been satisfied. I can assure you that we have put in our best efforts to meet your expectations. I also hope that you have had time to enjoy Madrid's art and culture, as well as the hospitality and dynamism of its people, even at the expense of a good night's sleep. I wish you all a happy journey back home and look forward to our next meeting in 2012, when the Spanish Presidency concludes.

Thank you.