

**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

Hon. Juan Antonio Xiol Ríos

Madrid, June 26, 2012

Your Highness, Presidents of Supreme Administrative Courts and Councils of State European Union, Members of this Association, Dear friends:

Now that the meeting of the Management Board and General Assembly has concluded, I thank you for being here in Madrid and for your active participation, which has greatly contributed to our work. Our activities and projects in the future will reflect our desire to be a dynamic force. We have on this occasion discussed the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, a legal instrument of extraordinary importance in the evolution of European

law and its application by national courts, in particular, at a time in which the process for building a more perfect Union is experiencing great difficulties that judicial interpretation will no doubt help to overcome, as it has in the past.

Within the judicial organisation, the administrative court holds a key position in the rule of law. Be it as a separate jurisdiction of the court or as a specialised part thereof, it guarantees the individual rights of citizens against the activities of the public authorities, particularly those of a discretionary nature, ensuring that they are in full compliance with the Law. Thus, the

conclusions of a discussion and debate forum, such as the one provided by our Association, which brings together top representatives of the administrative courts of the Member States of the European Union, extend beyond the strict limits of the meetings to become a useful tool for all the institutions represented and, ultimately, for the citizens of our countries, who are also EU citizens.

This event marks the end of the period in which the Spanish Supreme Court has chaired the Association, of which we are proud. While we appreciate the trust placed in us, we hope that the high level of

organisation and content that have been traditionally the hallmarks of the Association have been maintained. I thank you all for your collaboration with the Spanish Presidency, in particular, the Secretary General, Mr. Yves Kreins, whose efficiency and friendliness are known by all. He has tirelessly supported the initiatives and efforts made to hold this meeting in Madrid, which now comes to an end under the Presidency of His Royal Highness the Prince of Asturias.

I wish to express particular appreciation to Your Highness for your presence at this event, so relevant to the Association of

Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union, which demonstrates your support. This encourages us to continue on our quest to find better ways for the courts to provide a quick, effective and legally sound response to the growing demands from citizens.

I will not tire you any longer. I can only hope that your interest in the content of the meeting has been satisfied. Rest assured that we have made every effort to ensure that is the case.

I also hope that you have had the chance to enjoy the artistic and cultural life of Madrid and see first-hand the open and welcoming character of Madrid citizens. I wish you all a safe return to your countries and hope you will leave with pleasant memories of your stay with us, and more importantly, that the discussions and conclusions of our meetings will be useful for all.

Thank you.