



*The Secretary-General*

Ms. Ursula von der Leyen  
President  
European Commission  
Brussels  
Belgium

*Madrid, 9 May 2020*

Dear President,

It is an honour to convey to you my sincere congratulations and those of the World Tourism Organization on the occasion of the Europe Day.

70 years ago, the Schuman Declaration stated, “*Europe will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity*”, a bold statement which is still perfectly valid in today’s reality.

We are celebrating this 9 May in a very difficult and unique times. The COVID-19 crisis has impacted our everyday life like no other event in history before and its brought almost the entire world to a complete standstill, forcing the global community to face up to an unprecedented social and economic challenge, with a prospect of a global recession never seen before.

The European Union was built on the ashes of the Second World War and once again it has the chance and the responsibility to set an example for the rest of the world to follow. We need solidarity, hope and the political will and cooperation to see this crisis through together! Let’s these to be our core messages of this year’s Europe Day.

You may be assured of UNWTO’s full support in your endeavors as we address these unprecedented circumstances. May the Europe Day bring to all European nations, and the world, the reminder that only a united Europe will be a strong Europe to surmount these challenges.

Please accept, dear President, the assurances of my profound respect and esteem.



Zurab/Pololikashvili

