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"Let's pay tribute to the actors, actions, and alliances that "clear the way" for interest."

Ladies and gentlemen, elected officials and diplomats,
Dear Friends of Community Foundation in France, Spain, and Portugal (*of the C2C project*)

It is a great joy for me to be among you tonight to pay tribute to the Community Foundation in Europe, especially in Spain, Portugal, and France.

Reporting on 17 years of empirical research on territorial co-construction on September 25 is at least symbolic. Today, we celebrate the 8th anniversary of the historic signing of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda that the 193 Nations, representing the entire planet, have committed to succeed. Southern countries, in their pragmatism, then demanded that a 17th Objective be set in stone: "How will we be able to do together what none could achieve alone?". This question is at the heart of the systemic transitions we are experiencing, and of which you – Community Foundations – are the operational translations. You are the "pioneers" of the general interest, the places of embodiment of SDG 17 in practices.

Before going any further, I want to express to our English and Spanish speaking friends my regrets for not speaking in their language. If my intervention is in French, it is not out of concern for the use of the diplomatic language (...!), but because an empirical research laboratory is concerned about the semantics used. It is the first result of any co-construction approach: agreeing on words. It is not a matter of reaching a universal definition, often impossible, but on the contrary of valuing diversity and the richness of each word. Often it is this highlighting of the plurality of meanings, both in value and direction, that is at the heart of the very value of making alliances. Each then highlights a dimension that the other does not know, thus enriching the "Common(s)". In this spirit, the notions: "general interest", "Common(s)", "Territory(s)" or even "economy(s)" have been the subject of more than a decade of work to account for their polysemy. You will therefore understand that it is impossible for me in the 5 minutes granted to me to share the lessons of our empirical research works to take the risk of translating this balancing work of words to heal our ills... May our European friends therefore forgive me!

Today we celebrate a very special anniversary ! That of the signing of the SDGs, at the "midway" of the 2030 Agenda. What a beautiful day to organize the 1st European Meeting of Territorial Foundations in France? Who says anniversary says gift, and I did not come empty-handed: I am happy to personally hand you the prospective note of the first lessons of the "General Interest 2050" approach. It invites us to define our trajectories of systemic transformation around

three times: the time of individual & collective performance at 18 months, the time of innovation at 7 years, but also the time of trust at 28 years."

You, Community Foundations, inherently act on these three timeframes... notably, sometimes even unknowingly, on the third. This is clearly conveyed by the 2018-2022 impact study of alliance-making in France and its metropolitan regions. Our friends from the Institute for Research of the Caisse des Dépôts reported on this at the beginning of the year. This is particularly highlighted by the IMPACT study « Foundations & Territories » , usefully complemented by a study on the specificities of Territorial Foundations carried out by our friends from the DIPTIC firm. The results were debated within the "Foundations & Territories" working group, co-led by the Foundation des Territoires and the Foundation de Lille, from September 2021 to June 2022.

These works on the links between Foundations and Territories were all the more important as they concluded the prefiguration period of the Foundation des Territoires, created under the aegis of the Foundation de Lille, on June 14, 2022. It took 5 years of co-construction with the State under the impulse of successive Ministers of Territorial Cohesion, Jacques MEZARD then Jacqueline GOURAULT, to educate on the challenge of having a Foundation capable of listening to the diversity of our Territories. This space for dialogue between public, economic, and civil society actors invites us to transcend. The talent of President Jean-Paul DELEVOYE has been crucial to succeed in this "bet of trust." Listening to each other before acting together is a complex exercise. If the talent that the Japanese call "Nemawashi" is common in Europe, it is not in France. It was a real challenge to explain its value...

... This is the value that you, Community Foundations, create daily on your respective Territories. For, let us not be mistaken about the battle: it is not the financing of projects that makes the value of your action, but your ability to mobilize an entire local ecosystem for a co-constructed Territorial Project where everyone has their "right" place. You are trusted third parties of this "handheld general interest". What a magnificent mission... what a responsibility !

In these times of uncertainty, Territorial Projects embody the territorialization of Sustainable Development Goals. They are the spaces for (re)inventing our Future in "Common(s)". It is not just about supporting better management of the "Common(s)" alongside institutions responsible for it; nor even providing the necessary means for the co-construction of the good "Common(s)" to invent together what no one can do alone. Even though this is already very useful, your action goes even further. You help each one of us to (re)discover our Common Link.

You are, Community Foundations, the Ambassadors of the "bet of trust". The one that gives Meaning to our Future in "Common(s)", the one that is in (re)construction today in the face of growing uncertainties and successive crises.

What today could be more symbolic to celebrate the 8th anniversary of the signing of the Sustainable Development Goals than this 1st European Meeting of Community Foundation? It is a concrete, operational, and effective translation to put SDG 17 into practice. Be all deeply thanked for this.

Under the impulse of the Foundation de Lille and the Foundation Porticus, you have chosen to "make an alliance", not only between your respective Territories, but also with a European dimension. Faced

with this role of "pioneer of general interest" and enlightener of our "Future in Common(s)", you will understand that I can only very modestly come to share with you the fruit of our 17 years of empirical research.

What lessons to share in « Common(s) » ?

Three messages of hope to collectively give us the courage to make the "bet of trust »:

- ▶ In times of uncertainty, Territories embody the easily accessible general interest. Each Territory" indeed carries three structuring characteristics:
 - It is the space of coherence for the "first kilometer of needs," where the transversality of our challenges is lived daily.
 - It is the place for experimentation par excellence, in proximity with the fragilities and intrinsic resources to respond to them, respecting local specifics and customs.
 - It is the space of trust where it is possible to move beyond "among ourselves" to take the risk of "among all."
- ▶ The impact study of making alliances in France 2018-2022 reassures us about the maturity of our ecosystem. Between 2015 and 2022, we have moved from a "duty of alliance" to a "desire to Act together" ... in Territory!
 - 76% of the French, 92% of local elected officials, 84% of business leaders, and 97% of association leaders consider "collective play" as a strategic lever both for getting out of crises and for finding structural answers to our transitions ;
 - Three impacts of making alliances have been qualified, measured, and illustrated: performance, innovation, and trust ;
 - Territories are judged by all as the natural anchor places for making alliances; co-construction is emerging in most Territories... at different degrees of maturity. They invite to "Places and links" as defined by the Observatory of partnerships since 2015.
- ▶ We must (re)invent new socio-economic balances. "Economy," in the literal sense, means "the balance of the Home." Territorial Foundations embody this desire to "jointly clear the way to reinvent our models around the three pillars of all socio-economic models :"
 - Our general interest alliances, like the new dialogue initiated by the Foundation des Territoires in the summer of 2018 to collectively listen to the diversity of local answers being invented, taking into account the realities and fragilities of the "first kilometer of needs."
 - Our modes of financing the general interest, like the new investment models experimented by the SDG Fund 17 in the framework of the ministerial mission 2020-2022, which give rise to an ambition for 2023-2025 announced next October 18th at the FNAF.
 - Our general interest skills, like the Network of the 350 "territorial catalysts" who animate the emergence of new local alliances daily, but also the Territorial Innovation Project

Leaders” who – within our Territorial Collectivities – play an indispensable mediator” role in the deployment of Territorial Projects mobilizing all local energies.

Dear Community Foundations, I have come to tell you that you are not alone in facing the strategic mission you have set for yourselves. You are clearing the path for accessible general interest to pave the way for new alliances, and more broadly new models to (re)invent Tomorrow with all the actors of your ecosystems. Thank you and congratulations for your commitment to the service of all!

On the next October 5th at the CESE, during the symposium "Youth & Territories 2050: Commitment in Actions!", we will remind the urgency to value the commitment of young people, and to co-construct WITH them - and not FOR them - our paths of hope towards a Future in Common(s)". You embody this capacity today, be its Ambassadors. We are counting on you!

Let's not be afraid, the fragility of our Lives is not a weakness, it is on the contrary what gives us the collective strength to move towards the Other to make Society » !