Dear Professor Schwab,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

Welcome to Monaco, where I am delighted to see you again for the second year running.

It is always a pleasure for us to host eminent international initiatives in the Principality. For us, this is a sign of our ability to stay in tune with the world, to contribute to the debate and to be a rallying point for all worthwhile endeavours.

This is particularly the case today with the Family businesses you represent. These important initiatives help to shape our world and reflect on its future. Due to your economic strength and the values which drive you, you play a crucial role in the approach to the key issues with which we are concerned.

Because the world in which we live is currently undergoing exciting change. It is bursting with opportunities, but also threats. It is filled with energy yet uncertain about its future. It is full of great promise yet weakened by great injury.

It is up to us together to think of ways of making the most of such potential and to prevent as far as possible the dangers lurking ahead.

This is what I am doing specifically with my Foundation which implements action across the globe to promote environmental protection and sustainable development, a subject which is also a decisive factor for many of this world's issues. My Foundation also helps to organise brainstorming sessions on a regular basis - think tanks and debates, some of which echo your concerns.

That is why I am delighted to act as your host today and why I hope that the time you spend in Monaco will inspire you, be of use to you... and make you want to come back and see us again very soon!

Thank you.