

Józef Pinior

Many thanks from Solidarnosc

Dear Jacques Delors,

I have not had the honour to meet you in person but I was referring in my public activity to your vision of Europe, not only right after "Solidarnosc" was created but also a few years ago, when there was a referendum campaign before Polish accession to the European Union. After enforcement of martial law in Poland on December 13, 1981, I became a leader of the Solidarnosc underground structure in Wroclaw and in Lower Silesian Region when I was 26 years old. On your 80th birthday, I would like to tell you that your political activity inspired us in our struggle for democracy and social justice, for everything we considered as democratic socialism. I was writing about you in the underground press of Solidarity and on your example I was trying to bring closer to Polish citizens the idea of European social democracy. I was really impressed by your achievements as the President of the Commission and already at that moment I had no doubts that along with the regaining of democracy, Poland would be able to join the European Union family. You embodied for us a Europe which is over the nations, united, democratic and a Europe which was able to rise after the defeat of two wars, a Europe which can find a unique formula in which efficient economy and good society may exist together.

During the referenda campaign in Lower Silesia in 2002-2003, before Polish accession to the EU, many times I quoted the famous speech you delivered during the congress of British trade unions in 1988. I was looking in it for the arguments to convince euro-sceptics and I was showing them the EU as a modern and united Union which can face challenges of globalization, helping its member countries to have better economic growth at the same time. We won that together. Not only our struggle for democracy but we also won the EU enlargement for the countries from Central Eastern Europe.

Dear Jacques Delors, on the occasion of your 80th birthday, I wish you well-being and prosperity. Today we still need your advice and your vision of the EU which you have always represented. You personify the real Europe, the one which may become the emblem of the observance of human rights, modern economy and social justice. All the best!

Józef Pinior, member of the European Parliament since 20th July 2004

