

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 20 June 2017

Dear Chancellor,

On behalf of the Council of Europe, I would like to express to you personally, and to all German citizens, my deepest condolences on the death of former Chancellor Helmut Kohl on 16 June.

Chancellor Kohl will forever be remembered for his leading role in the reunification of Germany: an enormous achievement in itself. However, his legacy is also profoundly European.

He worked tirelessly for a common, enlarged and more integrated Europe - for peace and solidarity among the nations of this continent. Today, those aims have been met and while we must never take anything for granted, the virtues of this period in Europe's history owe much to Helmut Kohl and the leaders with whom he worked. Without him, Europe today, including the Council of Europe, would be very different.

Having lived through dictatorship and witnessed his country at war with its neighbours, Chancellor Kohl wanted future generations to be spared such terrible experiences.

By building on his values – freedom, democracy – and Europe – we must all carry his legacy forward.

Yours sincerely



Thorbjørn Jagland

Ms Angela Merkel
Federal Chancellor of Germany