

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 14 February 2017

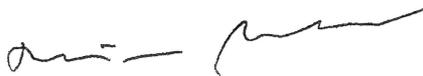
Dear President-elect, dear Frank-Walter,

I would like to convey my warm congratulations for your election as the 12th President of the Federal Republic of Germany. I wish you every possible success in your new role. I have no doubt that you will approach your new responsibilities with characteristic determination and vision – two traits which are urgently needed in Europe today.

In your acceptance speech, you spoke of the challenges facing human rights and democracy in Europe and beyond and you concluded by saying: “let us be courageous; then I do not fear the future”. At the Council of Europe we share your concerns and your call for hope and courage equally struck a chord. Our Organisation was founded to protect and strengthen freedom and the rule of law as the basis of lasting peace and stability in our part of the world.

Germany is an important and influential member of our Organisation and I look forward to meeting you in the near future to discuss what we can do together, in order to advance our shared values and common interests.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland

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