



Ladies and gentlemen,

We live in a world of economic, social and politic cycles. We try to discover causes, solutions and effects for all that are happening in our lives. We try to explain everything.

We are living now in a harsh pragmatic world that requires immediate results. Professor Edmund Phelps, Nobel Prize awarded for economy in 2006, said that the “golden rule” is less applied today, which means that we all want to consume what we just produce, even more, but in fact we consume in advance what we have not yet produced.

SMEs are a drop into the ocean of world economy. They appear and disappear and appear again under different forms. We are for sure into a deep crisis. And the consequences can not be imaginable today. But what will be happening next ?

The research and innovation can be a solution for SMEs survival. The Lisbon Strategy asks EU member states to invest important amounts from their budget in research and innovation. Many are against this procedure. It is obvious that we do not have all to do the same job. But we have to disseminate the results of our work and to be equally paid for this, no matter where the innovation is coming from. And here comes the role of European Commission: to treat the SMEs activities as a unit. We have to give hope to everybody in all European countries in respect of European standards, vocational training and equal payments.

In Romania, great companies in the field of infrastructure have made a bad job, with poor quality works, in cooperation with local companies and using old and inappropriate technologies. Whose fault is? The employers' organizations noticed that there is no rating of European companies in different fields. We have quality standards but they differ from country to country. We still have to work upon works that involve futile expenses.

The moment the crisis ends, and we don't know exactly when it will be, will have to find EU, which means we all, ready for new technologic challenges that will solve the communication and information and give solutions for a fair regulatory. SMEs have always had higher costs for energy consumption, no matter the country. But now they are concerned about a horizontal development, which means renewable energy solutions.

As a paradox, the history proved the contrary regarding the energy issue: in a global world, the energy system is not the issue of governments and big companies, but of small enterprises. Due to the high costs, fees and taxes, the small enterprises were forced to find out new energetic solutions. So, new fuels derived from biologic products vegetable type, wind energy or derived products as co-generation or tri-generation are in fact methods that make SMEs independent, apart from globalization.

Of course, these concerns are different from country to country, depending on energy mix and technologic development of each one. Ours must be connected to the dissemination of the best energy solutions towards captive and dependent countries (and I refer here to the Russian-Ukraine crisis of this year) and EU has to find unitary solutions.

In our debate there is also an antibody: the state intervention as a referee to introduce additional costs to the energy, gas and fuel costs. Moreover for this recession. That is the reason why regulations in the field and resources smoothing are imposed. This means CBC and inter-state projects, local solutions for rural areas in the fields of new agriculture developments. These projects should be financially supported by EU guarantee funds.

New entry countries, such as Romania, Poland or Bulgaria are mostly concerned for SMEs to have direct actions in the energy field as any connection in tourism, transport, infrastructure or constructions are vital for East Europe development. If we'd like to build the EU unitary and balanced developed then the differences between developed and developing countries within EU should be insignificant. If the differences between the economy of new entry countries and the old ones remain, then big disappointments will arise that could endanger the European community itself.

I do believe that actual political events in Warsaw and also the future ones related to parliamentary elections of June will design a more united and fair

Europe. The actual global recession should stick us together and not take us apart! “The national protectionism” or “economic nationalism” should be our mutual enemies. And we must not let them any chance!

Thank you for your attention !

President

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