

*Treaties  
of  
Nymegen  
Medal*





# Treaties of Nijmegen Medal

2014

# Treaties of Nijmegen Medal 2014



On 7 May 2014, the Treaties of Nijmegen Medal was awarded to Neelie Kroes in recognition of her contribution to the development and prosperity of Europe. This book contains transcriptions of the speeches and photographs of the academic ceremony in the Stevenskerk.

The Treaties of Nijmegen Medal is a biennial prize that is awarded to a key international figure who is committed to European development. In 2010, Jacques Delors received the inaugural award and in 2012 it went to Umberto Eco.

*Films of the ceremony are available at [www.treatiesofnijmegenmedal.eu](http://www.treatiesofnijmegenmedal.eu)*





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# Welcome speech

Mayor Hubert Bruls

Ladies and gentlemen,

As Mayor of Nijmegen, it is an honour and a pleasure for me to address you here today, at the presentation of the third Treaties of Nijmegen Medal. I also welcome all our guests: all you fine people, representatives of our partners Radboud University Nijmegen and NXP Semiconductors, representatives of countries that were involved with the Treaty of Nijmegen, representatives of several cities, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs Ben Bot and, of course, Miss Neelie Kroes, who will shortly be awarded the Treaties of Nijmegen Medal.

We have awarded the Treaties of Nijmegen Medal every two years since 2010. The first medal went to Jacques Delors, former chair-

man of the European Commission. And the second to the Italian writer and scientist Umberto Eco. Over 300 years ago, in 1678 and 1679, negotiations took place in our city between the countries that held a leading position in Europe at the time. Following long negotiations in Nijmegen, several countries, including Spain, Sweden, France and the Republic of the Seven United Netherlands, together with the Holy Roman Empire, concluded a series of peace treaties that became known as the 'Treaties of Nijmegen'. These have been described in the history books of many European countries. Remarkably, in the Netherlands itself the peace agreement is not so well known among the general public, even though it was a crucial moment in European history.

The Treaties of Nijmegen can be seen as one of the first examples of European agreement and collaboration. It was the first time that peace was achieved around a table rather than on a battlefield. It thus marked an important moment in people's attitudes towards peace and international relations.

The Treaties of Nijmegen constituted an important moment for Europe, but no less for Nijmegen. The peace negotiations were an important time for our city. It turned Nijmegen into the beating heart of Europe for a period of several years. It was the place where European statesmen and their retinue stayed and negotiated at various levels and in various assemblies. And it was the place where the peace treaties were finally signed.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Nijmegen is the oldest city in the Netherlands and we cherish our rich history. Our city has existed for over 2000 years and there has always been a wealth of activity here on the River Waal. The Romans had settlements here. Charles the First had a fortress here where he stayed from time to time, the world-famous Limbourg Brothers of the Middle Ages had

their roots in Nijmegen, and the Treaties of Nijmegen were concluded here.

Nijmegen is also no stranger to the horrors of war and violence. That began way back when the Normans destroyed Charles the First's fortress and ended with the destruction of our city centre during the February bombings in 1944 and the battles of Operation Market Garden later that same year. These events have determined the face of our city to this day.

This very church, the Stevenskerk, where we are gathered today, was also largely destroyed in 1944. Immediately after the war, a determined effort was made to rebuild not only this church but the entire city. This is a fine example of our city's resilience; Nijmegen is still a city we can be proud of, old in years, yet young in spirit.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It's no wonder, given our rich history, that we are so open to developments in the world. We are, and wish to remain and further enhance, our position as a European city. Our Treaties of Nijmegen Medal partners, from both the scientific and business communities, make an important contribution in this respect.

A significant number of students at our University comes from beyond our country's borders to study here and many of them stay on to live and work in Nijmegen once they have graduated. We also have an international player in the field of semiconductors in NXP, a Treaties of Nijmegen Medal partner for the first time this year. We are proud to have this company in our city. I would like to thank both partners for their commitment to the Treaties of Nijmegen Medal and to our city.

Nijmegen, of course, is also a border city. The German hinterland lies just around the corner, so to speak. We work in close collaboration with other municipalities on both sides of the border as part of the EUREGIO partnership. And this has great benefits for Nijmegen. As you know, Germany is the Netherlands' main trading partner. This collaboration goes even further in this region. People live and work on both sides of the border and there is intensive traffic between Nijmegen and the German hinterland. That hive of activity has only increased since the internal border controls were abolished by the Treaty of Maastricht. I, for myself, have been an enthusiastic supporter of regional cross-border cooperation for many years.

I see working together with different countries and cultures as a challenge. It makes us richer. As human beings and as an economy. Nijmegen is situated in a border region with half of its surrounding area in Germany. We are working hard to maintain and expand this collaboration between both countries, because it can be further improved. By working across borders, we increase prosperity. Or, to put it another way, by not doing so, we let prosperity slip through our fingers. Cross-border collaboration provides economic and cultural benefits. And I ask myself: who wants to go back to the situation, who really wants to go back to the situation as it was before 1992, when the internal borders still existed? Here in Nijmegen we certainly don't.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In these modern times in which we live, it's easy to think that European collaboration, peace and prosperity are almost a matter of course. However, history shows that this has not always been the case. And even nowadays, it is perhaps less a matter of course than we would like to believe. For centuries, European countries have waged war, redrawn national boundaries and been occupied by other countries. This has only



recently changed and has yet to change in some parts of Europe. The political, cultural and economic collaborations that came into being after the Second World War brought freedom, peace and prosperity to Western Europe. But nothing is a foregone conclusion, however much we might like to think it is. If we look at the European continent as a whole, we can see that peace and freedom have remained under pressure, even after 1945. The Balkan Wars of the 1990s are a recent example, and currently there are the tensions in Ukraine on the eastern European border. These are severe crises that has put enormous pressure on relations within Europe and on collaboration within the European Union.

The Treaties of Nijmegen have taught us that struggles can be ended at a table; that diplomacy can conquer violence. Dialogue and respect for the position of others form the basis of international relations. Of every relationship. This became clearly apparent in Europe for the first time when the Treaties of Nijmegen were concluded. It was a historical event for Europe, even if for this reason alone. We have to learn from the lessons that history teaches us, so as not to make the same mistakes as were made in the past. The lessons we learn

from the past must serve as a basis for the way we act today and the decisions we make for the future. The harder the lesson, the more we should learn from it. This sentiment is given concrete form in the Treaties of Nijmegen Medal.

Every two years, the medal is awarded to a major international player who has contributed to the development and prosperity of Europe. An impressive list is gradually taking shape, featuring Jacques Delors and Umberto Eco, and now Mrs Neelie Kroes. From your position in Dutch and later in European politics, you have spent many years contributing to a better and more united Europe, and you have achieved a great deal in this respect. I am therefore most proud, as Mayor of our beautiful city, to be able to present you with the third Treaties of Nijmegen Medal, later on today.

Thank you.



Neelie Kroes

Treaties of Nijmegen Medal 2014







# Digital identity: European values in software

Transcribed speech by Bart Jacobs

Madame Kroes, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to talk today about digital identity. And I'll start this exposition by telling you a little bit about my own social media presence. I have a Twitter account, but I have zero followers and zero tweets. It's a defensive account. I have a LinkedIn account, but I have zero connections. I use it to look up other people and I don't like to reveal my network. I do not have a Facebook account and the reason is: I like privacy.

I must tell you, I was once tempted to open a Facebook account and that was when I saw this. I don't know if you've seen this. The airline KLM has an option with which, if you've bought a ticket and you'd like to reserve a seat, you can

check whether or not fellow passengers have registered with their social media account, so that you can decide whether you want to sit next to a particular person or not. At that stage I thought: I'd like to have a Facebook account too and then I put this picture on it. From now on I expect to have empty seats on both sides, always!

What does this tell us about digital identity? The current situation is that on the one hand digital identities are not very reliable. I need a defensive Twitter account, because other people can easily hijack my name. This is problematic in various situations: for example, in E-banking, but identity fraud is also a serious issue. On the other hand, people like to play with their identity, as I showed you with my Facebook story,

and they may not want to reveal everything in every situation, but rather only reveal part of their identity.

A central question is: how can we solve this, how can we reconcile secure and private identities? In other words, secure means that identity information is reliable. And privacy in this context means that you just reveal enough information for a specific situation. Now, there is an innovative solution that can be used to handle this issue and that is not to think in terms of identities, but in terms of attributes. Attributes are simply properties of people, like ‘being over 18’, ‘being an inhabitant of Nijmegen’, ‘being Dutch’, ‘having this social security number’, etc. And, you use what is called selective disclosure, so that in different situations, you reveal only a subset of the attributes that are appropriate for each particular situation.

A good example is age verification; in the Netherlands you need to be over 18 to buy alcoholic drinks. The only thing you have to prove in such a situation is not who you are, but the fact that you’re over 18. Now, what happens in practice is that an overkill of information is requested. I display here a device

that is called an age viewer. In order to use it, people have to scan their whole passport, which contains a lot of information that can be abused in various ways. There is also a camera on this device. And I guess that the manufacturer was aware of the potential privacy issues involved and ‘solved’ it by putting a sticker on it saying “privacy is guaranteed”! My reaction? Is this really the best we can do?

Here in Nijmegen, in my research group, we have developed so-called IRMA cards. I’ll tell you a little bit about these cards. They are smart cards on which you can download attributes about yourself, certain individual properties that are valid for you: ‘being male’, ‘being over 18’, etc, etc. Then, in different situations, you can reveal subsets of these attributes. I’ve presented some examples here: ‘over 18’ of course for buying alcoholic drinks and ‘being a student’ gives you potential benefits without having to reveal your identity. The last example is a typical Dutch one where the combination of ‘being Dutch and over 18’ might give you access to certain substances (cannabis).

In my research group, we’ve developed a very fast implementation of this, and this is really state-of-the-art technology. I’m not telling you

this to try to sell this technology. We do this without any commercial interest (it's open source), but I am telling you this to make a wider point. Namely, I think that in the long run, if we're interested in protecting and maintaining some level of privacy, we will have to use technical means to do that. My second point is that much of this privacy-friendly technology – like these IRMA cards – is already available. The really interesting question is then: who decides whether to use this kind of technology?

I can tell you, the big companies, the Googles, Apples and Facebooks of this world are not really interested in this kind of technology. They want to know who you are at every possible moment. They want you to log in with every transaction. So that they can trace you and build up an elaborate profile that they can sell to advertisers.

There is a governance question here: who decides about the introduction of this kind of technology? Is it users – us – who demand this kind of technology? Should companies be so enlightened that they do this themselves or do public authorities have a role to play here? And in the remainder of this talk, I would like to discuss these issues. And I must say I'm very

happy to do so in the presence of Madame Kroes. Let's not be naive about these kinds of issues: what's operating behind information flows is money and is power. Whoever controls the flow of information in our society, controls power and is in a position to become very rich. So I'll review the role of the three parties concerned: users, companies and public authorities.

Let me start with users. And let me start by taking a pessimistic view. Users in general are interested in functionality. They want their devices to work, to do what they're expected to do and they're not that much interested in security. The actual flow of information, which is relevant from a privacy and security perspective, is often invisible.

There is considerable knowledge asymmetry between the users and the providers of these services. And this is solved, in practice, by a consent mechanism which doesn't really work. I mean, have you ever really read iTunes' user agreement? Well, you would need to take a week off to do so. Certainly if you want to understand everything. And, to be sure, this won't work for children. Transparency in today's world is very rare. What we get are these stickers 'guaranteeing' privacy, as I showed you.



There is a glimmer of hope, I guess. In the Western world, certainly in Europe, there is a highly critical sub-community that is raising its voice about these kinds of issues and is thus raising general awareness among the public. It forms a sort of counter-power to corporate forces, which is very important. Europe has a tradition in which privacy is a fundamental right, unlike in the United States where privacy is something that has to be bargained in various situations. So there is new legislation on the way in which security and privacy should be protected by design and in which the kind of technology I've been describing can play an important role. It's also interesting that parliaments are waking up in this area and have been making various demands. Both in the Netherlands and in Europe, and I'm using here the example of net neutrality. Of course in this area, when it comes to awareness, the revelations of Edward Snowden have been a great help.

Let me now move to the second category: commercial companies. The real trend there is personalized services. It's not easy to explain this, but hopefully this cartoon will make it clear. The text says: 'Carl, you and Ed can now cross'. And the text under it says: 'I tell you Ed,

this new technology is starting to really spook me out'.

The pessimistic view here is that, in our modern society, we continuously leave electronic traces behind us. They form a rich source of analysis for what is called big data analysis. An interesting question is who owns this data? The big organizations involved claim this kind of data, but I think there is more to be said about this and there is also a lot of discussion going on about these issues at the European level. There are great potential commercial opportunities in this area. But it is also very sensitive and controversial. We've seen in the Netherlands in the last few weeks that the ING bank, which tried to sell its customers' payment data, got into serious difficulties.

There are two main issues to keep in mind in our modern society. The first is: for the information giants, we are not customers, we are merely material. The real customers for them are the companies that place advertisements. They will do a lot for the advertisers, but not for us. They do various things for us to keep us in the system, but that's about it. Another thing is that behaviourally targeted advertisers will typically tell you: 'Give us all of your data.

This is very useful for you, because then we will show you only the advertisements that you are really interested in.' This is not true. They show you the advertisements that they want you to see. It might be that a certain mortgage is very profitable for you, but based on behavioural targeting, the advertisement company may show you a different mortgage which has a higher profit margin for them.

Let me give an example of what technology can do. We're all used to electronic diaries in which we can make private appointments. If you have an appointment at a dentist or in a hospital, you typically don't want the whole department to know and so you make this appointment a private one. An elementary question is: why don't we have private addresses in our phones? We all have these contact lists. And why is there not an option to make an address private? I gave my mobile phone number to my children. I'm very careful about my data, but what they do, as they install lots of apps, they click OK, OK, OK to all kinds of conditions. So in that way my personal data is plundered and it's available in databases all over the world, which is something I'm not very happy about. Children's privacy protection is a separate issue, but you can ask: technically it's

not so difficult to simply put a software switch on certain phones or tablets that such a device is meant for children so that access to personal data is basically made impossible. Now why don't these companies do that? Why don't they provide us with the infrastructure to protect us in such a manner. Now we recall that the advertisers are their real customers. I know there are various add-ons on the market – various apps which you can install on these devices that are supposed to help you protect your children or yourself in various ways. But these are add-ons. The real question I am trying to address here is why are they not built into the system? I mean, when you buy a car, you don't buy the brakes separately on your way home.

There is, however, a glimmer of hope. Since the Snowden affairs, one of the things I find very interesting is that some companies are beginning to realize that they can perhaps make money from privacy protection. You see this most clearly in Germany, but also in the last two weeks in the Netherlands. There are advertisements on the radio from KPN, promising that if you store your data with them, they'll keep it in the Netherlands. I think this is very interesting. There are lots of small

companies offering various user-friendly services in the phone and tablet market. There are even companies that have started to invest in our IRMA cards. I've listed a few here, including, I'm happy to say, NXP.

Let me now move on to the public authorities. What I mean by public authorities here are national governments, the European Commission and regulators. What can they do in this area? I don't want to go into the detailed mechanisms of governments here. But I would like to make a few points. What I would like to say is this: show vision, encourage the good guys and discourage the bad guys. I've listed a few issues here. So, in terms of showing vision: use your own authority to make clear what is expected. If we have a security incident and a cabinet-level reaction appears, saying: we don't want to see this happening again, that makes a serious impression. I think people can use this kind of authority. Duty of care I think is an interesting thought. Banks get punished if they sell bad products to their customers. Why can ICT companies get away with it? Regulate them like utilities. Encourage the good guys. Make data protection an integral part of public tenders. This is not happening enough in my view. Regulators can include enforcing tech-

nology in data protection and privacy laws. In the Netherlands and in Europe there are regulations saying that data should be protected according to current levels of technology. Well, I've shown you a bit of what's possible today and maybe this kind of technology should be enforced a bit more. Responsible disclosure is something that has been built up, especially here in the Netherlands. I think that's a good thing that should be encouraged. And discourage the bad guys. Well, there are various ways to do this, but I won't go into that now.

I now come to my conclusions. I think technology is already available for data and privacy protection, but its integration in modern ICT products is very important. These information giants I've been talking about are becoming a sector which is a lot more like public utilities and maybe should be regulated the same way. And net neutrality is a good example which gives fair access and proper protection to people.

What is important, certainly in this context, is that Europe has its own tradition and culture with respect to the United States. And it's important not only to talk about these cultural differences, but also to make sure they are

reflected in the ICT products which we use on a daily basis. European values must be incorporated in the software we use. And a fair information flow – that is in fact my underlying message today – is very important for a good balance of power, which is extremely important in a democratic society like ours.

Ultimately what this requires is clear leadership. We need joint efforts from the three parties I've mentioned, but moral and visionary leadership is also very important. I don't want to suggest that this is not happening at all. Some of these issues are already clearly on the European agenda. In this context I am very happy to acknowledge the role played by Madame Kroes. And I would like to offer you, as a small token of appreciation, a small personal gift, namely your own IRMA card.

Thank you very much for your attention.









# Laudatory speech

Bernard Bot

Ladies and gentlemen, dear Mrs. Kroes,

Let me start by saying that, after the very inspiring previous speech, I'm now about to reveal the true identity of Mrs. Kroes. And I'm very happy that I may so do in public and share this information with all of you.

Let me start by saying that I am particularly honoured to give this laudatory speech on the occasion of the presentation of the Treaties of Nijmegen medal to Mrs. Neelie Kroes.

Let me add that I am also pleased to stand before you on this special occasion because I have personally known Mrs. Kroes for many years and I have had the privilege of working with her on many occasions.

She has always struck me as a person of firm beliefs, great perseverance and admirable tenacity – not always an easy partner for her interlocutors, I may add, but always presenting food for thought. As such, she often contributes a fresh look at seemingly insurmountable problems, a willingness to tackle them and a firm belief in Europe as a constructive element in our lives. A Europe that meets the expectations of its citizens and enables them to grow and to express their opinions without fear of retribution or of censorship.

Indeed, Europe stands for a democracy, and for international humanitarian and cultural values. These are important values. Values that are by no means common currency in many parts of our surrounding world. I need only



mention the tense situation in Ukraine to illustrate this. All the more reason to be thankful for the people who aim to propagate the shared European values. Neelie Kroes is one of those people. I would venture to say that she is a prominent face of the Europe that we, together, want to be. And I feel it is therefore highly deserved that Neelie Kroes should be awarded the Treaties of Nijmegen Medal. Let me substantiate this statement by telling you about her work.

Neelie Kroes first stepped into the national public arena in 1971 as a Member of Parliament for the Dutch People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (the VVD). It was a time of heated debate between political left and right wingers. Mrs. Neelie Kroes was spokesperson for Transport and Education at the time. It was in the latter area in particular that she spoke out, also when she opposed the plans of Education Minister Jos van Kemenade for certain changes in secondary education. Neelie Kroes was appointed State Secretary for Transport in the first cabinet of prime minister Van Agt. Her portfolio included the postal and telephone services, and inland waterways. Between 1982 and 1989, she served as Minister of Transport, Public Works and Water Management in the

First and Second Lubbers Cabinet. Her standpoints became increasingly clear. Perhaps such clarity is an important condition for peace: formulating clear principles, understanding where the other party is coming from, and addressing each other accordingly.

Ten years ago, in 2004, Mrs. Kroes became a member of the European Commission, in charge of Competition Policy. And now we come to the work for which she has been awarded the Treaties of Nijmegen Medal. She took vigorous action against companies that were guilty of forming cartels and levied hefty fines where necessary. The best-known of these companies was undoubtedly Microsoft. The American software giant refused to meet the European Commission's requirements on releasing information. This information needed to be released to give competitors the opportunity of connecting with the Windows operating system. Another issue that appealed to a wide public was her investigation into the high rates charged by telecom companies for international mobile phone calls. In September 2005, she also cracked down on unlawful state aid, and hauled Italy before the European Court of Justice. She acted tenaciously, persevering in matters such as German state aid to the

*Landesbanken*. In her work, I consistently see those clear principles, but also her willingness to enter into a discussion, to seek common ground. As far as I'm concerned, 'continuing the dialogue together' is a basic condition for peace. That, at least, has been my experience in my work as a diplomat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2009, Mrs. Kroes was nominated as European Commissioner for the Digital Agenda. This is still relatively unexplored territory, as we just discovered a little while ago during a very interesting speech. We are at the dawn of an unprecedented digital revolution. One that involves incredible opportunities, but also threats. Partly as a result of rapid developments and the impact of ICT resources, which can deeply affect people's lives, it is essential that we draw up rules. Rules to protect us from the negative aspects of such change, and also to stimulate the positive aspects.

One year after being appointed European Commissioner for the Digital Agenda, Mrs. Kroes presented a programme for her digital policy. This programme aims to provide the public with easier access to online services, amend regulations in the field of copyright and

licensing and the simplification of electronic payment, invoicing and dispute resolution.

Last year, Mrs. Kroes presented proposals for a single European Telecom Market. This would provide people and companies with access to fast and reliable Internet, and abolish the current high costs of changing from one network to another when travelling abroad.

Incidentally, I recently saw a sign hanging in the window of a public venue bearing the words 'No Internet here. We *talk* to each other'. Given the hypnotic effect that mobile telephones have, particularly on youngsters, they may well have a point. But you also understand, I think, that the worldwide web can bring people together, can improve lives – just think of medical applications such as remote surgery – and has great economic significance. Neelie Kroes believes that a joint telecom market would help the European economy to grow by an impressive 4%.

As European Commissioner, Neelie Kroes advocates innovation and Internet freedom for all Europeans. She is an avid supporter of 'open access', something she considers important in the development of science and education. But she also focuses on privacy issues – we've just

heard about them, issues that are associated with our digital era and which we increasingly face. I only have to mention the revelations of Richard Snowdon, which, incidentally, Neelie Kroes described as ‘helpful’.

She has shown herself to be a woman of our times by calling all unemployed young people to go online to look for jobs. The European commissioner confronted them with the facts: “Digital skills are the new literacy. When I grew up it was about reading and writing. Today it is about searching and coding. If you have a dream or you want a dream job: today you need digital skills. You need the internet.”

Neelie Kroes has taken to the European stage as an outstanding and charming individual. She has made a powerful contribution towards the development and image of a united Europe. The same Europe, united in the European Union, which – and allow me the pleasure of recap-ping in this context – was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012. According to the Nobel Prize Committee, the European Union and its predecessors have spent over six decades helping to promote peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear Mrs. Neelie Kroes, let me end with these words.

As European Commissioner, you have served for a long time to uphold the laws and regulations pertaining to cartel formation, unlawful state aid and open digital policy. With countless initiatives, you have contributed to improving European law and regulations. I regard both legislation and its enforcement as essential for the European Union and long-term peace.

If there are no laws, there is nothing for the residents of Europe to fall back on. Laws are the rules today, they are the rules when it comes to human rights, to democracy and to economic cooperation.

Glory be to those who are dedicated to this cause and to these issues. The glory in this case, through the awarding of the Treaties of Nijmegen Medal, goes to Neelie Kroes!

Ladies and gentlemen, Neelie, thank you for your attention.

# Tomorrow's Europe

Neelie Kroes

I feel humble, impressed and extremely pleased. But that is no news for you. By the way, of course, Ben Bot was extremely nice to me. I will stick to my text later on, but I just want to say that I have the advantage of being a little bit older. My granddaughter is six years old, she lives in San Francisco and she is a US citizen. We Skype every Sunday afternoon. Once she asked: 'Grandma, how old are you?' And I said: I'm 72. then she said: 'And you're still alive?' So you can imagine that I'm counting my blessings. And my work is just not quite finished yet. There's still a lot to do, as Ben Bot rightly pointed out.

It's a great honour to be here today in Nijmegen. And indeed, I thought it was one of the oldest

three cities in the Netherlands. But the mayor has just told us it is the oldest city. So I get that lesson. A city, by the way, with a very long and rich history, encompassing many key moments in European history. From being a strategic Romans settlement to the early Middle Ages, with Charles the Great residing here, up to more recently, Operation Market Garden in 1944.

History can provide us with many valuable contributions, inspiring visions and ideas. History can also have its price and take its toll. Looking at the photographs of Nijmegen which were made straight after the unfortunate American bombardment in 1944 – a terrible mistake that took the lives of 800 citizens and

leaving behind a demolished city. By the way, it reminded me strongly of Rotterdam, the city in which I was born, grew up and went to university.

As you all know, Rotterdam was bombarded by the German army in the early days of the Second World War, in May 1940. Devastating the city and killing the same number of people as in Nijmegen and leaving tens of thousands homeless.

Sometimes those events can feel like a long time ago. Something which was caused by past generations. Of leaders and their people who made the wrong decisions under different circumstances. Of things that are long gone and will never happen again.

That perception is understandable. If you have been lucky enough never to have personally experienced the violence of war, or its far-reaching consequences, it is difficult to imagine the impact it can have on one's life and how it can determine how you see the future. The post-war period in Rotterdam influenced me strongly in a way that I grew up with a sense that you can build and create a new life and existence out of nearly nothing if necessary.

It gave me a strong belief in building and creating. In shaping one's own life. But perhaps most of all, it made me realise you can't do this on your own. Maybe you can build yourself a roof above your head. But you need partners, you need allies, you need like-minded people to join forces with and to build a society. To establish the rules and conditions together which safeguard important fundamental values. And create a better future and the power to maintain what really matters to you.

The year 2014 is in this respect a very interesting year. In 2014 we commemorate two of the last century's crucial events: the beginning of the First World War in 1914 and the D-day landings in Normandy in 1944. These commemorations are very timely. Looking at the events in and around the Ukraine, we all have the strongest reasons for great concern. And it is happening in our backyard.

This is not a speech, as Louis Couperus would say: 'Of old people and the things passing by'. I am not a historian and I will leave it to them to describe all the parallels and differences between those days and today. I do however have a very uncomfortable feeling with present-day developments. These events show

to me, and the world, that maintaining peace, instead of being pulled into war, demands great courage, as well as the need for unity and visionary leadership.

Peace is not for scared people. Peace is not self-evident. Peace is one of the greatest accomplishments of the Europe of today and we can't value it enough. It demands our everyday care and deepest awareness. It demands the utmost of our daring and courage to maintain it.

The events of 1914 and 1944 represent two related themes for Europe: division and unification. Themes which are very relevant in Europe today.

On the one hand, in 1914, Europe's nationalism divided our continent and ignited the First World War. Leading to millions of deaths of young men and women – people who would have had a long meaningful life in front of them – on Europe's battlefields. On the other hand, the year 1944 represents an almost unprecedented unification between allies which made it possible to defeat Nazi Germany.

For me, the foundation of modern Europe begins on the Normandy beaches. It is the

Europe through which we have established freedom, liberty and prosperity. Peace is not – and I say it again – for the easily intimidated. For regaining peace, one needs to be fearless, one needs to be devoted. For maintaining peace and prosperity, we need to unite.

When we look at today's Europe, in particular the European Union, the urge to unite and the intrinsic need to join forces couldn't be further away. In fact, there is an overall tendency to pull back behind national borders. To rely on the powers and prerogatives of the national state. This way many of us feel more comfortable, feel more safe, feel more secure and in control, or perhaps even stronger: in a place where we can hold our governments accountable. It is a natural and direct response to the complexity of the global challenges in today's society, in today's economy and in today's politics.

There is also a contradiction: never before we have been so globally oriented in listening to music; going on holiday to all possible destinations around the globe; enjoying food from all continents; using Asian and American technologies and studying or working in other Member States. We tend to forget that globalisation

is a two-way street; not a one-way street, nor a dead end. If it creates opportunities for you, and you are happy using them, it does so for others as well. Furthermore, globalisation also has a negative impact on each and every one of us.

As political leaders we need to acknowledge this basic feeling that many Europeans have of wanting to be more in control and being able to maintain their own identity. We also need to be aware of the contradiction in thinking about globalisation and its positive and negative effects.

At the same time we also have the responsibility to dare to show that retreating behind borders and relying on models from the past is not the answer to the challenges we are facing. Let us not pretend we can escape the negative effects of globalisation by withdrawing behind dikes and borders. Neither climate change, rising energy costs nor cyber-crime or the banking crisis stop at Lobith on the Dutch border. We need to work on contemporary solutions which match these challenges, together with our partners and allies. Join forces, expertise and investments. The European Union provides the right platform for organising

that. National governments and parliaments, as well as the European institutions could and should play a larger role in making clear to their citizens what they are fighting for at the European level. And not only during election time.

This leads me to the central question: what unites Europe and what divides this continent? What unites Europeans and what divides us? Do we only feel the urge to unite ourselves when we are under great direct and physical threat? Or do we also dare to unite and align ourselves with other countries when we want to capture new opportunities and solve the large societal and economic challenges. Do we dare to admit and acknowledge that Europe is also a two-way street?

What unites us, or should unite us, as Europeans, is not only the challenges, nor just the opportunities. What unites us is also our key values: the importance we attach to freedom; to self-determination; who we want to be and where we want to go; to be able to have our own identity as Dutch, Polish, French, British, you name it. To be independent and – speaking with Virginia Woolf – to have a room of one's own. Let me say this, ladies and gentlemen: the Europe of today should embrace that diversity.

We should do so, before it divides us. Europe has proved over the last 64 years, with ups and downs, that the European Union as a concept works. Our well-being, our economic growth, our opportunities for ourselves and our children have increased tremendously since the beginning of the EU. This cannot be denied.

The EU is also a concept which is not finished. No way! Starting in 1958 from six neighbouring countries, the EU now consists of 28 Member States with more than 500 million inhabitants. Ben Bot was mentioning that I was attending the Council of Ministers at the end of the 1970s. If you had said to me at that time, in Brussels, that there will be 28 members of the European family; that we will have a single market – not finalized, we still have to do our job properly – but that we will have the concept of the single market; that we will have a united Europe; and that I would be the commissioner in two terms in office in 2004, and in 2014, I would have sent you to a psychiatric hospital, no doubt about it. It was unthinkable at that time and now we have 28 Member States and more than 500 million inhabitants. No bless, no bleach. The largest economy in the world. An incredible transition has taken place, in particular over the last 10 years. Who could have expected that

former dictatorships, like those in Spain and Greece, or parts of the communist regime, like Estonia or Poland would join the EU? Sitting every week in meetings with more than half of my colleagues having experienced in their own lifetime communist regimes or military dictatorships, it is quite unique what is happening.

The European Union is a concept that needs continuous attention. The EU, like any national government, needs to keep an open mind about the changes in the mind-set of society, its citizens and developments in the local and global economy. Adaptability and flexibility are absolutely key. Europe needs a self-critical and constructive attitude among its leaders, as well as its citizens. Europe needs to be a binding force where it can contribute to larger transnational goals, instead of a dividing force of overregulation. Europe needs to give space to its partners to flourish under their own conditions and by acknowledging the differences. The EU provides us with key principles such as subsidiarity and proportionality to realise this. Let us make much better use of them in the near future!

In this respect, the motto 'Unity in Diversity', which is often used to symbolise the European



Union should be rephrased or reinterpreted into a more contemporary motto, matching present-day feelings about Europe, but still maintaining the ultimate goal. There is a general need to provide space for differences and specific demands. In other words: to give space to the diversity in the unity.

We need to be much more liberal in our approach. To focus on the main topics and the main challenges, instead of over-regulating details. To put it in another way, to be less top-down, and more bottom-up. We need a much more modern, contemporary Europe. We need a new wave of European thinking, with more space for diversity and self-determination. For a 'room of one's own'. Only this way we can change the inward looking debate into an outward looking mode, using the great opportunities and tackling the challenges which are immanent.

We need to do this, especially for the younger generation. For our youngsters, who are now attending school and universities, have their expectations, have their own ideas and their own plans. The generation which grows up with 'being and working digital'. They rely on us to prepare the ground and give them the space to

realise their dreams. The digital revolution will affect and benefit every European, but it is the younger generation who will shape it and who will be shaped by it. That is, ladies and gentlemen, why the digital economy and the society should be at the core of our policy.

To conclude:

A few weeks ago I was in London and visited an exhibition of the work of the German artist Hannah Hoch. Early last century she stated that the purpose of art was not to 'decorate' or 'replicate' reality, but to act on behalf of the 'spirit' and the changing values of a generation. Art in essence, had to be rebellious.

For the occasion – and to be bold, I am not a diplomat, you are aware of that – this applies quite often to politics as well. Politicians need to keep in mind that they should act on behalf of the changing values of a generation and work in their spirit to prepare the ground for the new generation. If politicians 'replicate' and promise the past, or 'decorate' the present with one-liners and empty ideas, we are missing opportunities to give the new generation a kick start into the future.

This also applies to politics in relation to vested interests in today's economy. If we don't

prepare the ground for innovative newcomers and digital developments, in other words the new generation in business, who will create our jobs and address societal challenges, we are shooting ourselves in the foot. Other continents will get there first and will simply take over.

When I think of Europe, I too have a dream. I want this continent to be the most open, the most secure and the most competitive internet space in the world. For this, indeed we need to be much more daring and also we need to be more rebellious. To provide our youngsters and innovative newcomers with opportunities for the future, we need to focus on five things:

1. Complete the internal market: Starting this year with the Telecom Single Market, and consequently with finalising the Digital Single Market and creating a European Energy Market.
2. Boost public and private investments on Research & Development and innovation. Do not think cents and pennies. Think billions.
3. Invest in education and incorporate digitisation in every aspect of it. Starting by coding for kids.
4. Make security and privacy a precondition of our digital life and the industrial value

chain of our future products, our future services and our future networks. Use the societal debate on privacy and cyber security and turn it into a competitive advantage. Say 'Yes' to protection of our data, say 'Yes' to protection of our technology and networks. Say 'No' to protectionism. Work with trusted partners and allies across the whole digital value chain.

5. Change mentality: be entrepreneurial and be risk taking. Create the right space and conditions for innovative newcomers. Or in the world of Rovio – Angry Birds – Be creative and fearless! Both in policy as in business.

I have travelled to many places on this globe, but there is nothing comparable to what we have here in Europe. I love Europe and I think we cannot value it enough. We have to transfer these European characteristics and values to our children. And even more: give them the space to build on it and realise their own dreams.

Winston Churchill said in the context of World War Two: 'Give us the tools and we will finish the job.' I say: give the younger generation the digital tools and they will create the jobs. They will create their own future and together they

will build the future of a strong and united Europe. In freedom and prosperity.

The Peace of Nijmegen Medal reminds us that we have to pass on fundamental values such as freedom and peace so they will never be taken for granted. Values which are close to all our hearts and at the core of a united Europe.

To me it is a personal privilege to have been awarded this Peace medal. This week, 64 years after Robert Schuman presented his declaration, which was the foundation for the EU.

And it is an honour to thank the City of Nijmegen, Mr mayor; Radboud University Nijmegen, Mr president; and the NXP for providing this opportunity. And I would also like to express my gratitude for all the important and kind words that were spoken by all of you.

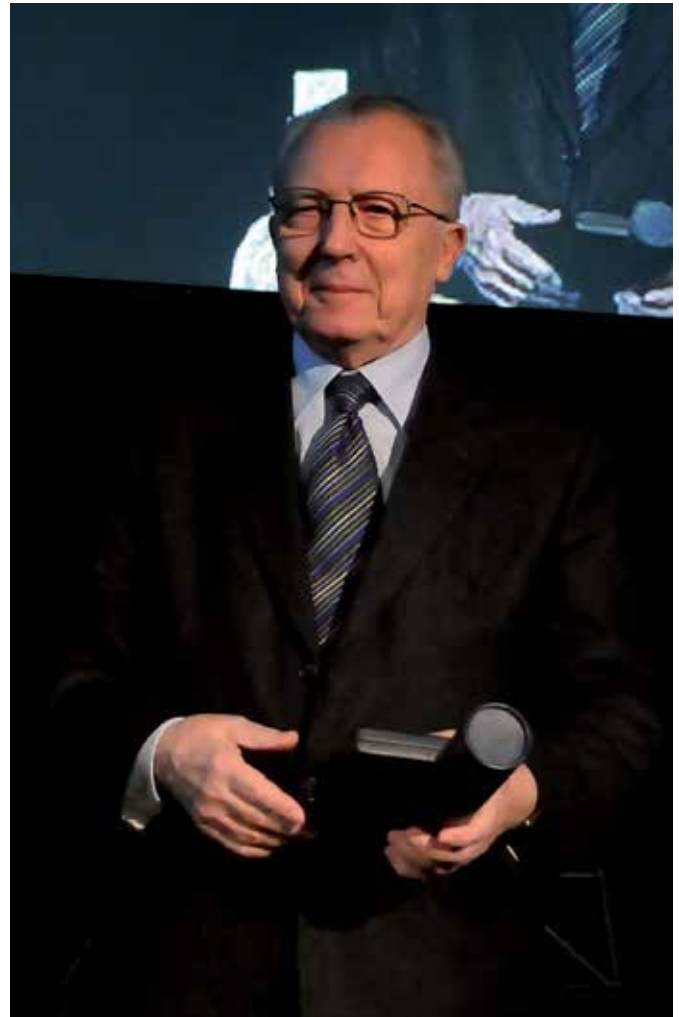
I thank you for your attention.



# Former winners

## **JACQUES DELORS - 2010**

On 15 March 2010 the Treaties of Nijmegen Medal was presented to Dr Jacques Delors in the St. Stevenskerk in Nijmegen. The medal was a tribute to Mr. Delors' efforts in achieving unity, progress and tolerance in Europe. Minister of Foreign Affairs Maxime Verhagen gave the laudatory speech.





#### **UMBERTO ECO - 2012**

On 7 May 2012, the Treaties of Nijmegen Medal was presented to Umberto Eco. The award served as a tribute to the Italian author and scientist for his contribution to the thinking and the debate on the past and future of Europe. Minister of European Affairs Ben Knapen gave the laudatory speech.

# Henri Gaspar(d) The signing of the peace treaty between France and Spain on 17 September 1678/1679

On 17 September 1678, in the illustrious Doddendaal residence of the Van Bijlandt-Palstercamp family in Nijmegen, the peace treaty was signed by the kings of France and Spain.

After months of negotiation, definitive peace terms were drawn up and signed by the ambassadors of the Republic of the Seven United Provinces in their vast temporary residence on the Doddendaal. This event was immortalised on canvas by the painter Gaspar(d).

The shrewd Dutch negotiators used the royal reception hall of their palatial estate as a neutral negotiation space, draping distinctive elements



**Henri Gascar(d)** Paris 1635 - Rome 1701 | *The signing of the peace treaty between France and Spain on 17 September 1678/1679*  
Oil on canvas, 161 x 274.5 cm, Museum Het Valkhof Nijmegen, acquired with the support of the Rembrandt Association.

such as mantelpieces and podiums in tapestries to ensure that both parties had an identical space at their disposal. In the middle of the room stood a long table with the Dutch ambassadors and mediators Hieronymus van Beveringk (seen from behind) and Willem van Haren seated at either end. The French were seated to the left, headed by the Marshal of France Count d'Estrades, Marquis Colbert (brother of the esteemed minister to Louis XIV) and Count d'Avaux. To the right the Spaniards Don Spínola, Marquis de la Fuente and the Dutchman J.B. Christyn. The men were flanked on either side by a large group of diplomats and courtiers, pages and court chaplains. It is clear that the artist struggled to capture the likeness of each individual. In terms of portraiture, the similarities with other well-known representations of these main characters are rather striking. This is also true of the slightly marginal figure of Johan Hulft, secretary to the ambassadors, who stands behind Van Haren near the window.

The stiff and somewhat listless nature of this immense group portrait is understandable when one considers the origins of the painting. Henri Gascar(d) began painting portraits at an early age in his native France, later moving on

to Italy and England. He acquired fame as a skilled portrait painter of fashionable courtesans in decadent costumes. In April 1679, more than six months after the treaty was ratified, he was sent to Nijmegen at the behest of King Louis XIV to paint the peace conference.

He never actually witnessed the signing of the treaty. To visualise the events, he was given a fairly detailed description and paid several visits to both the hall and all of the individuals present that day. He also took this opportunity to paint individual portraits of several ambassadors. On his return in November of 1679, he was given permission to travel by sea from Rotterdam to France via Antwerp with two large chests: one containing the group portrait of the ambassadors ('our' portrait) and one with the individual portraits.

Gerard Lemmens, former director at Museum Commanderie van St. Jan, Nijmegen, and responsible for the acquisition of the painting.



Our past and our present make the Treaties of Nijmegen Medal part of the DNA of our city. In order to ensure lasting peace within Europe and tolerance between countries, it's important to keep discussing the further development of Europe. By awarding the Treaties of Nijmegen Medal, we make a contribution to that debate.



The City of Nijmegen has strong networks in Brussels and close links with our German neighbours. The municipality is involved in various projects and networks with European cities. Roads, parks and squares are being given a facelift using European funds. We are working closely with our German neighbours on projects which include improving the accessibility of our city. Twinning has been arranged with towns in Europe to stimulate economic, social and cultural exchange. The whole population of Nijmegen is becoming more and more closely linked to Europe.



NXP Semiconductors N.V. (NASDAQ: NXPI) creates solutions that enable secure connections for a smarter world. Building on its expertise in High Performance Mixed Signal electronics, NXP is driving innovation in the automotive, identification and mobile industries, as well as in application areas including wireless infrastructure, lighting, health-care, industrial, consumer tech and computing. NXP has operations in more than 25 countries, and posted revenues of \$4.82 billion in 2013.

Radboud University Nijmegen



Radboud University Nijmegen is one of top universities in Europe. The Heyendaal campus is becoming increasingly international: almost 25% of the academic staff at the University now come from abroad. In addition, more and more foreign students are coming to study in Nijmegen. The University also encourages its own students to gain experience within Europe. The university's aim is for half of its students to spend some time in another country. In order to make that possible, it has established the IRUN international network, which brings together ten European universities.



Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

The Treaties of Nijmegen Medal was initiated in close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

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