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Tribute to Professor Geremek

I would like to welcome the initiative of the Economic Forum to devote this special session to the life and work of Professor Bronislaw Geremek.

Once in a while, we are blessed with a political figure of rare stature. Someone of vision, whose strength of conviction ensures a consistent path. Someone of true political courage. Someone who can make a difference.

Bronislaw Geremek was such a man. The respect in which he was held was testament to his humanity, his wisdom, and his intelligence. A practical politician with a depth of idealism. He will be sorely missed.

But he leaves behind him a remarkable legacy – as a historian, as a politician, and as an inspiration to a generation of Europeans on the path towards unity and prosperity. He will be remembered as a truly independent spirit, as a powerful symbol of how freedom can prevail against the odds.

I am sorry that I am unable to join you today, but I know that your discussions today will be inspired by the memory of a truly great European.

Jose Manuel BARROSO