

OPENING CEREMONY
EDMOND ISRAEL FOUNDATION AWARD CEREMONY 2008

SPEECH BY MR JEFFREY TESSLER

Monsieur le Président,
Monsieur le Premier Ministre,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

(Despite my hesitant French, tbu only if you want to use the French titles)

It is a pleasure and an honour for me to welcome you to the Vision for Europe Award 2008.

This is the 10th time that the Edmond Israel Foundation, supported by Clearstream and Dexia BIL, is giving this award in recognition of outstanding achievements in taking Europe into the future.

The Foundation was created in 1990 in honour of the first chairman of Clearstream, Edmond Israel, who is with us tonight and who will conclude the programme after M Trichet 's acceptance speech.

It was created for the support and promotion of Europe, be it at the political or economic levels, and its award goes to a man or a woman who has a Vision for Europe, a Vision for its Future but also who has worked to make this Vision become a reality.

And from the point of view of a member of the financial community, who could be a better laureate than the man who has presided over Europe's monetary policy for the past five years?

Monsieur le Président, we are particularly honoured that you have accepted this year's Vision for Europe Award.

Mister Prime Minister, as a former laureate and as the leader of what I would dare to call the most European of European nations, I believe you will easily explain why Jean-Claude Trichet undoubtedly deserves to be on the list of the Award's recipients.

Monsieur le Président, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Thank you very much for your attention.

Mr Prime Minister, the floor is yours.