



ȘCOALA NAȚIONALĂ DE STUDII
POLITICE ȘI ADMINISTRATIVE

DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA

Guy Verhofstadt,

Chair of the Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
in the European Parliament

OPENING REMARKS

Your Excellency, Mr. Guy Verhofstadt,
Your excellencies, ambassadors in Bucharest of the EU member states
Dear guests
Dear professors
Dear students,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great honor that I am opening today's ceremony of awarding the doctor honoris causa title to His Excellency, Mr. Guy Verhofstadt, Chair of the Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe in the the European Parliament.

Let me start by saying a few words about the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, the university awarding this prestigious title today. The National University of Political and Administrative Studies is the Romanian School of Government. Founded in 1990, it offers undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs in public administration, political science, sociology, communication, management, international relations and European integration. By developing competencies in these dynamic fields, the university has made a significant contribution to the education of the new class of Romanian high-rank politicians, experts and decision-makers.

Given the strong commitment of our university to promote excellence in Romanian higher education and to prepare the leaders of the future, we consistently make efforts to help students and professors meet with prominent figures of the international academic and policy-making environments. Thus, important academic and political figures from around the world have been awarded the doctor honoris causa honorary degrees from our university. Among these, I take this opportunity to mention The Right Honourable Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, former NATO Secretary General; Lord Anthony Giddens, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the London School of Economics; Martin Shultz, President of the European Parliament, Jamie Shea, Deputy Assistant Secretary General, NATO, Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO, Mugur Isarescu, Governor of the National Bank of Romania.

"Carol I" Central University Library, Bucharest, Romania, Friday, 8 November 2013

**European
Citizenship Week
at NUPSPA**

**Săptămâna
Cetățeniei Europene
la SNSPA**



DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA

We are delighted, your Excellency, Mr. Guy Verhofstadt, that you have accepted the invitation to receive this honorary degree from our university. I believe that your presence here today is a great inspiration for students, professors and scholars alike and gives a new momentum to the intellectual debate about the future of the European Union.

Let me mention that today's ceremony is part of the larger series of events that the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration has organized in order to celebrate the 20th anniversary of European Citizenship (introduced by the Maastricht Treaty). As we are all aware, this anniversary takes place in the context of the crisis of the European Union, as the German philosopher J. Habermas has wisely named it. It is a political crisis created by the fact that economic globalization has outpaced political globalization, a trend which is felt more dramatically in Europe. It is a political crisis created by the clashes over the goals of the European Union, over its future model.

His Excellency Mr. Guy Verhofstadt greatly embraces and promotes the idea that the crisis of the EU is a deeply political one. Given that the crisis is political in nature, the way out of the crisis is political in nature, too. Mr. Guy Verhofstadt is among the few public intellectuals in Europe that has taken an explicit position regarding the federalist model as the solution to advance EU integration. He is the initiator of the proposal for a reform of the Treaty of Lisbon in the form of a draft treaty called 'A Fundamental Law of the European Union'. This manifesto defines the EU as a federation of member states. In Mr. Guy Verhofstadt's own words, it creates a complete fundamental framework for the efficiency of the European Union of tomorrow.

Let me close by saying that Mr. Guy Verhofstadt has been selected as the public's favorite European leader for his strong commitment to the European project, for his capacity to unite, to bring about positive change in Europe. These are also the reasons for which the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration has decided to offer the highest academic distinction of Doctor Honoris Causa to His Excellency, Mr. Guy Verhofstadt.

Let me hand the floor to Miss Ramona Manescu, current Minister of Transport, former member of the European Parliament, and, most importantly for us, alumna of the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration to present the Laudatio.

Prof. Alina Bârgăoanu

Rector

National University of Political Studies and Public Administration

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