

Thank you. I would first like to thank all of our speakers and senior participants. Many travelled long distances to share their expert views with us. Next I would like to thank our generous supporters, Google, Generali, the European Commission and ETNO. Thank you Ms. Chrysomallis and Rector Monar for your generous hospitality. Thank you to all of the participants. You have shown tremendous dedication and bold thinking throughout the past few weeks. Thank you Elin and Maggie for volunteering to be photographers. And finally thank you Melina and Elias for your tireless work organizing this conference.

I want to talk today about dignity. Through my studies in law and travels in Europe I developed a strong appreciation for European societies and their emphasis on dignity. As an American looking in from the outside, I believe that a social state built around dignity is what distinguishes Europe from the rest of the world. The state and society ensures each person has the basic means needed to lead a dignified life--housing, transportation, quality food, and rigorous education. In addition, your dignity is protected in the public sphere. Laws regulate hate speech and there is a strong sense of basic social respect.

There are three important things about dignity I would like you to take away from this conference. First, it plays a major role in the digital economy. European privacy rights stem from dignity. Industry disruption makes it a challenge to maintain the dignity that comes with meaningful work. Second, in a large part because of this turbulence and insecurity, dignity is under threat in Europe and the United States. Far-right political movements seek to erase many of the gains painstakingly built over the past decades. This makes it more important now than ever for student organizations like European Horizons to create forums like this one. Third, at European Horizons, we aim to build a more confident union through social integration. We need dignity to accomplish this. The need is more pressing now than ever for us to confront these difficult issues.

There are many great opportunities in the digital economy. The opening panel discussed how we can translate Europe's strong knowledge economy into more tangible action. My workshop looked at how some companies are moving their digital services to places with stringent privacy laws in order to foster more trust with consumers. We can broaden access to education. There are exciting possibilities on the Horizon for the future of work. Big data can be harnessed in amazing ways to serve the social good. "Magic," as Ms. Junius said.

But there are also many challenges. The digital economy is "Janus faced" as Rector Monar said. Online discourse challenges dignity. When you select a video from one side of the political spectrum, algorithms suggest similar media that can suck you deeper and deeper into your partisan bubble. Maintaining our sense mutual respect that stems from dignity is challenging in such circumstances.

The workshop on Job Creation in Times of Industry Disruption looked at how to maintain social peace in the face of rapidly changing demands of emerging of digital markets and

industries. Our job gives us a meaningful place in society that carries with it a sense of dignity. Making work meaningful for all parts of society in this context, not just the elite with the knowledge to take advantage of the digital sphere, is a major challenge.

My workshop, the Data Security workshop, looked at how dignity serves as the basis for the European emphasis on privacy rights. The government empowers you to maintain a dignified public image and helps you protect the integrity of your private life. These rights were typically viewed as a hindrance to the economy, but there are signs that this is changing. Microsoft recently moved their cloud headquarters to Munich—home to some of the most stringent privacy regulations in existence—in order to demonstrate its commitment to upholding the dignity of its consumers. The challenge is to cut through the typical misunderstandings that stem from the complexity of the digital economy and create trust between businesses, citizens, and government, and so to ride the waves of change in the digital economy with dignity and poise.

Dignity is especially pertinent given the resurgence of movements that oppose it. The far right both in the United States and in Europe opposes dignity, often with foreign backing from Russia. The recent election in the United States featured many offenses to dignity and instances of disrespect to many groups, including disenfranchised ones. I can understand that many of their supporters have a sense of being neglected and left behind by the rapidly changing world. Many of them are experiencing social breakdown. As Mr. Trichet said, it would be “regrettable to deplore” these people.

*But we cannot let this stand, we must use dignity as the antidote.* The far right comes in many shapes and sizes, but all build social solidarity by tapping the fear of an out-group. European Horizons, on the other hand, builds social solidarity through dignity. Dignity builds solidarity not exclusive towards one group or another. Each group is recognized for its intrinsic value and the contribution it makes to the broader society.

Dignity forms the basis for social integration. The society works together to recognize the inherent value in each one of us and each group. It furnishes us with the rights and means to live as independent and discrete entities. But it also means we have the responsibility to recognize the inherent value in other groups and play a constructive role in working towards a better society. When we talk of social integration this is what we really mean: each group or member of society exists as its own discrete entity, but is also part of a greater whole with a meaningful and constructive role to play. Where race, religion, or creed was the uniting factor dignity, comes in as the more inclusive uniting factor even if its exact meaning is contested.

The digital economy provides a perfect microcosm for this. The danger is that we forget our responsibilities towards one another and fragment further into our own groups, our own partisan echo chambers. The opportunity is that we harness the amazing interconnectedness to further dignity and the social good.

This is why we are building forums like this one. At European Horizons we are dedicated to respectfully challenging the status quo and hosting constructive dialogue around tough challenges like social integration. “Our mission is, through organizing events, connecting people, and putting forward new ideas, to weave a more integrated social fabric in Europe and to strengthen the confidence of our Union.” We want to break down the partisan bubbles

and echo chambers by creating youth engagement and constructive discourse. As one participant in our leadership day said, "European Horizons is the needle to the bubble." Weaving a more integrated social fabric can only be done with dignity. Blaming some outgroup is obsolete, and indeed deplorable.

This event marks our new turn as a truly transatlantic think tank. The significance of this is immense. What started as a small group of friends discussing EU problems over dinner in a Yale dining hall has grown to encompass chapters on both sides of the Atlantic. We are the only transatlantic student network around EU affairs. We include Europeans studying at universities in the US, American Europhiles such as myself, and an ever increasing number--hopefully many more after this conference--of Europeans in Europe. We are starting to build links globally. Our hope is to maintain these links as alumni and fill the important EU related positions in Europe and the US.

In closing, let me stress that *this is the time* for student networks to face up to the difficult challenges facing the EU and the transatlantic relationship. The need is more pressing than ever. Political establishments everywhere are in upheaval, and students must step up and confront these problems. I hope all of you will continue our discussion back in your home chapters or with your group of friends and colleagues that will form your future chapter. The possibilities now are greater than ever.

And so, I now close this youth conference. I wish you all a safe trip home. I aim to be on the 16:32 train and hope to see you on it. Be well.