

## 추천사

이브 카미유 데지레 레테름(Yves Camille Désiré Leterme) 총리는 벨기에(Belgium) 연방 총리(Prime Minister)로서의 2번째 임기를 수행하고 계십니다. 벨기에는 한국전쟁 때 우리를 공산당으로부터 보호하기 위해 군대를 파견한 16개국 중 하나입니다.

총리께서는 1960년 10월 6일 베르빅 (Wervik) 지방에서 태어나셨습니다. 루뱅 카톨릭 대학 (Catholic University of Leuven)에서 법학을, 겐트 대학 (Ghent University)에서 정치학을 전공하셨고, 대학시절에는 이프르 (Ypres)의 지역정책에 대한 반대 등 정치적으로도 활발한 활동을 하셨습니다.

1983년에 이프르 기독교 민주당(CD & V: Christian Democratic and Flemish Party) 청년단의 의장이 되셨으며, 1992년에는 유럽 연합(European Union)과 유럽 위원회(European Commission)에서 5년간 활동하셨습니다. 그 후, 1997년에 의회(Parliament)에 당선되어 2003년에 당의 의장을 맡게 되었습니다.

2004년에 플랑드르(Flanders) 지방의 총리(Minister-President)가 되셨으며, 2007년에 벨기에 부총리(Deputy Prime Minister) 겸 예산, 교통, 제도 개혁, 북해 장관(Minister of the Budget, Transport, Institutional Reforms, and the North Sea)이 되셨으며, 그 이후 총리, 외교부 장관(Minister of Foreign Affairs), 그리고 2009년 11월 다시 총리직을 역임하게 되었습니다.

총리께서는 플랑드르 지방 총리로 재임하실 당시 경제를 활성화하고 인프라와 물류에 집중된 투자를 함으로써 사회의 부를 축적하고, 출발 당시 행정부가 안고 있었던 많은 부채를 청산하기도 하셨습니다.

총리께서는 2008년 리먼 브라더스 홀딩스(Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc.)를 포함한 월가(Wall Street)의 주요 투자 은행들의 파산으로 인해 입었던 벨기에의 은행들을 효율적으로 구조 조정하는 데 탁월한 지도력을 발휘하시어, 은행의 자본을 재구성하고 은행 감독시스템을 개혁하는 데 효과적인 방안을 도입하셨습니다.

또한 총리께서는 특히 젊은이들이 현재와 미래의 세계적인 도전에 중요한 역할을 해야 하고, 따라서 수준 높은 교육이 현재의 세계적인 금융 위기를 해결하는 데 필수적이라고 믿고 계십니다.

2008년에 유대인 대학살(Holocaust)을 부정하는 반유대주의에 저항한 공로를 인정받으셔서 유럽 유대인 회의(European Jewish Congress)로부터 예루살렘 항해자상(Navigator of Jerusalem Prize)을 수여받으셨습니다.

이에 국립 서울 대학교는 국회의원으로, 당의 지도자로서, 장관으로서, 그리고 벨기에의 총리로서의 탁월한 경력, 유럽의 정치와 정치 사상에 대한 총리의 비전과 기여, 국제 사회의 미래를 위한 수준 높은 교육의 중요성을 주창하는 총리의 중추적인 역할, 모든 국가 경제는 개방되어야 하며 경제 개방이 세계 복지와 발전의 원동력이라는 총리의 강한 신념, 지방 정부를 강화하고, 다양한 정치적 집단을 화합하고, 벨기에를 민주 사회의 모델로 만든 총리의 리더십, 한국과 벨기에의 상호협력에 이바지 하신 공로를 높이 평가하여 이브 레테름 벨기에 총리에게 명예 법학 박사 학위를 수여할 것을 추천하는 바입니다.

## Commendatory Remarks

His Excellency Yves Camille Désiré Leterme is currently serving his second term as the Prime Minister of Belgium. His homeland is one of the 16 nations that sent troops to defend us from communist forces during the Korean War.

Mr. Leterme was born in Wervik on October 6, 1960 and studied law at the Catholic University of Leuven and political science at Ghent University. Politically active in college, he helped to organize a political protest against the local youth policy in Ypres. In 1983, he became the chair of the Ypres Christian Democratic and Flemish Party (CD & V)-Youth. In 1992, Mr. Leterme took an administrative position at the European Union (EU) and worked at the European Commission (EC) for five years. He was elected to the Belgian Parliament in 1997 and eventually rose to the position of his party's chair in 2003. Mr. Leterme became the Minister-President of Flanders in 2004 and, in 2007, became the Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium and the Minister of Budget, Transport, Institutional Reforms, and the North Sea. He then served as the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and, again, as the Prime Minister since November 2009.

During his tenure as the Minister-President of the Flemish government, he had a great success in dramatically improving the economic and social well-being of the area by focusing on investment in infrastructures and logistics. Although his administration had inherited a sizable public debt, he spearheaded a movement against budget deficits, and the public debt was reduced to zero as the result of his policies.

His leadership effectively restructured the Belgian banking sector, which was hit hard by the fall of major Wall Street investment banks including Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc. in 2008. His administration adopted a series of effective measures that led to the recapitalization of banks and the reform of the banking supervisory system.

Over the years, Prime Minister Leterme has stressed that young people play a decisive role in meeting today's and tomorrow's global challenges. He has argued that quality education is essential for businesses and societies successfully to solve current global economic difficulties.

The European Jewish Congress (EJC) awarded Prime Minister Leterme with the Navigator of Jerusalem Prize for his commitment against Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism in 2008.

For your distinguished career as a member of the Parliament, a party leader, a minister, and the Prime Minister of Belgium;

For your vision and contribution to European politics and political thought;

For your central role in advocating the importance of quality education for the future of the global society;

For your strong commitment to the notion that all national economies should be open and that openness is a driving force for global welfare and progress;

For your leadership in empowering local governments, unifying diverse political groups, and transforming Belgium into a model democratic society

For your outstanding contributions to mutual cooperation between the Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Belgium;

Seoul National University (SNU) hereby confers on you, Yves Camille Désiré Leterme, the Degree of Doctor of Law, Honoris Causa.

## EU-Asia: New Partnerships in a Changing World.

H.E. Mr. Yves Leterme  
Prime Minister of Belgium

Mr. President  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am profoundly honored by the title of doctor honoris causa you have bestowed on me. This title is not only an honor for which I am deeply grateful. It will also be an incentive for me to work for closer relations between Belgium and South-Korea, and between the European Union and South-Korea. It is to both our advantage to know each other better and to work more closely together.

Before going on to the necessity of new partnerships between Europe and Asia, I'd like to start with some words about Belgium, the European Union, and the importance of your country.

Belgians and South-Koreans do not know each other nearly well enough, and so I am very well aware that my country is not a household word in yours. But we share very important history. We stood side by side, shoulder to shoulder, during the harsh Korean war of 1950-1953. This war was not only defining for your country, it was essential for all of us who oppose totalitarianism and tyranny. The success of South-Korea, a thriving, democratic country, is conclusive proof that the war, for which you paid so heavy a price, was worth fighting. Belgium is proud to have been part of it under the UN flag

Like South-Korea, Belgium is surrounded by larger and mightier neighbors. Like you, it has suffered war and occupation without having provoked them. Like you, it has rebuilt itself after those wars and become one of the most prosperous countries of this world.

We have other things in common. If the possession of rich natural resources was a condition for national wealth, South-Korea and Belgium would both be poor. The reality is very different. South-Korea ranks 13th worldwide in Gross Domestic Product. Belgium, a country of 10.5 million people, ranks 73th in terms of population. But it ranks fourteenth in the world in terms of Gross National Product per capita, twentieth in GNP in absolute figures, and twelfth in value of its exports. It is not a mean achievement.

Like you, we owe this position to investment in the most precious asset any country has, its people. We owe it to investment in education, in learning, in innovation. It is the deep conviction of my government that, especially in these difficult times, it cannot be emphasised enough that for companies small and large, the members of their work force are not a cost, but an asset. And that investment in their employees' life long learning is investment in future success.

This being said, Belgium does not owe its prosperity only to itself. It owes it also, to quote from an old Beatles' song, to 'a little help from our friends'. Or rather, I should say, to a lot of help from our friends.

The generous American Marshall help after World War II brought us back to our feet much faster than if we had had to do it all on our own. And NATO, the alliance between North America and Europe, gave us a shield which allowed us to keep defence expenditure relatively low, and to redistribute our new wealth among our citizens. The trans-Atlantic solidarity remains a cornerstone of our foreign policy.

Complementary with that, there is the process of European integration, which is at the very core of Belgium's foreign policy. From the modest beginnings of the European Community of Coal and Steel to the current European Union of 27 members, Belgium has been an ardent supporter and facilitator of the European integration process.

I know that this process is not always very clear and comprehensible to the

outside world. But then, this European Union is an unprecedented adventure, a totally new form of integration in which sovereign, democratic countries, of their own free will, agree to exercise a large part of their sovereignty in common.

The integration started with the economy. Belgium, one of the six founding members, and its partners owe a considerable part of their prosperity to the creation of the Common Market. Because of those beginnings, the economic integration is the most advanced part. In the negotiations on world trade, the so called Doha Round, the Union really speaks not only with one voice but by one mouth, that of the Trade Commissioner of the European Union. I am glad to say that this is now a compatriot, former Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht.

The industrial and environmental standards the Union sets have become normative for a large part of the world as the Union, with half a billion inhabitants, is the largest trade entity in the world.

The single currency, the euro, brought sixteen of the EU countries in even closer integration. This single currency helped us significantly to weather the economic crisis without too much damage to our economic and social fabric.

I am, of course, familiar with the criticism levelled at the European Union and at many of its member states, criticism we also hear in Asia. We are, it is said, overregulated. Our systems of social protection and our bureaucracies eat up too large a part of our gross national product. Our social protection tends to smother personal initiative and risk taking, audacious entrepreneurship and bold R&D work. Our economic growth is sluggish, compared to other parts of the world.

But let us look at the other side of the medal. We may not have known double digit yearly economic growth. But growth is not enough; one still has to see to a fair distribution of the new wealth amongst the citizens, so as not to endanger social harmony. In Western Europe we have grown more slowly, but we started from a higher base, and we did it in a context of political stability and social

harmony. In Europe, we call this model of socially and ecologically responsible free enterprise "the Rhineland model". I am extremely attached to it, and I explained why in the book I wrote on it.

In the non economic field, the Lisbon Treaty, which came into effect this year, now strengthens the political coherence of the Union. It gave the council of the heads of state and governments a permanent chairman, my predecessor as Belgian Prime Minister, and fellow christian-democrat Herman Van Rompuy. This again demonstrates how closely Belgium is involved in the European integration process.

I will not try and tell you that now the division of competences within the Union has become crystal clear. We are still adapting to the new Treaty and delineating the respective competences of the new chairman of the Council, Mr. Van Rompuy, the president of the Commission, Mr. Manuel Barroso, and the new High Representative, the so called Foreign Minister of the Union, lady Ashton.

There is no reason to be apologetic for this transition period. As I said, the European Union is a totally new form of cooperation and integration.

The director-general of the World Trade Organisation, Pascal Lamy, a former and brilliant EU Commissioner described it in a rather snappy way at the recent Brussels Forum, a kind of 'political Davos' which takes place yearly in Brussels.

He said that political power, like mass, comes at three levels: solid, liquid and gaseous. The national level is solid, the European liquid, the international gaseous.

He is quite right. The basis of political power is still vested in the national, sovereign states. Their governments must show the political will and give the impetus to work together for the common good. Without this élan, nothing gets done and the international institutions remain indeed 'gaseous'.

What Pascal Lamy called the 'liquidity' of the European level of power is not an



indication of impotence. I find this image quite apt. The European power level is liquid as a river is. Because it is in continual flow, it is difficult to get a grasp on it. But a river can still be a mighty force.

The European integration has brought another precious gift, the most precious one of all. In Europe, it has become almost old hat to speak about the peace we now have enjoyed for generations. The generations who have never known war take it for granted.

They think it normal that we can open the windows of our national home and see only friendly neighbors, whichever way we look.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I know I do not have to convince this audience that this kind of almost total security is to be treasured, and not taken for granted.

This brings me to South-Korea. In four decades, your country has achieved an incredible record of growth and global integration to become a high-tech industrialized economy. After the devastation of a war in which two million people were killed, the GDP per capita was comparable with levels in the poorer countries of Africa and Asia.

In 2004, South Korea joined the trillion dollar club of world economies. This was done by hard work and, certainly in the early stages, a dirigiste government policy which promoted the import of raw materials and technology over consumer goods, and encouraged savings and investment over consumption. This policy however did not fall into the trap of a protectionism which cut the domestic production from competition with the outside world. By this openness, South-Korea achieved an excellence which is not only technological. At our yearly prestigious Queen Elisabeth musical competition for instance, the talent of your many young artists has impressed and delighted the audiences.

The recognition South-Korea enjoys is also reflected by the fact that your

country will host the G20 summit in the second half of this year. This informal grouping of the strongest economies and the emerging economies, has helped to absorb the shocks of the financial and economic crisis. I would say that it has delivered on the defensive, but not yet – on the offensive. It has managed discipline and has prevented the return to the kind of protectionism which in the nineteen thirties turned a recession into a terrible depression. That is no mean achievement. But the next stage has to be a more active phase of initiating change to put into practice the lessons learned from the crisis.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The G-20 is a reflection of the new partnerships in this changing world, it is a flexible response to new challenges. Although we do live in a globalised world, the earth has not become flat. As Pascal Lamy said, power still rests with national governments and it is to their governments that people look for protection against violence and insecurity, against poverty and deprivation.

The G20 is one example where governments come together in new forums to work for the common good. The absorption of the G8 by the G20 reflects the importance of Asia.

The European countries and the European Union have to find more ways to connect with the countries of Asia, because without the cooperation of Asia, there can be no socially and ecologically sustainable growth.

As the country which will hold the rotating EU presidency, Belgium will have the honor of hosting the ASEM summit this fall.

The Asia-Europe Meeting is a vital forum for dialogue between Europe and Asia. It is the main multilateral channel for communication and dialogue between Asia and Europe since 1996, and involves virtually the whole of Asia and Europe. The 45 ASEM partners represent half of the world's GDP, almost 60% of the world's population and 60% of global trade.

These are eloquent figures which demonstrate the necessity for a EU-Asia partnership. It is true that there is a kind of imbalance because there is no equivalent of the European Union in Asia. But we can overcome this by realism and creativity.

One of our priorities should be to increase mutual investment. Many Asian countries would like a larger European presence. European countries, and Belgium in particular, are certainly interested in investment from this vibrant part of the world. We have to think about efficient mechanisms to bring this about.

We also gave everything to gain in working together to counter trade protectionism, and to further promote trade development.

One word of warning: for the action of specific groupings like the G20 or others new partnerships to be effective, they have to be networked into inclusive organisations that enjoy international legitimacy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is another area where I see room for a new partnership, with South-Korea and Asian nations. South-Korea is much more than a country which has demonstrated its economic and artistic excellence and which, I may add, was an excellent host to major sporting events as the Summer Olympics and the Football World Cup.

South-Korea is very important because it is one of the countries which have shown that Asians can find their own way to modernity and excellence and still remain Asians, that they can find their own way to democracy without breaking with their culture and traditions. This is extremely important in a time when modernity and democracy are too often described as purely so called western values, or are even reviled as a kind of new imperialism.

Some people in the West, when referring to the link between North-America and Europe, prefer not to talk of 'our common values' any more. They think this smacks of the Cold War, when we referred to our values to resist communist totalitarianism.

But the defense of human dignity is not an act of aggression against any country. It is a gesture of solidarity to people all over the world, under different repressive regimes, who aspire to responsible government, to accountability, to the rule of law, to human rights. Those are the aspiration and birthright of all human beings.

I'd like to add that these are not just moral values; they are a matter of enlightened self interest. South-Korea is the living proof of the superiority of those values over totalitarianism. When the war ended, South-Korea was totally impoverished and North-Korea was by far the richest part of the Korean peninsula. Now there is no comparison in their respective positions.

We could and should think of a new form of cooperation between Europe and the countries in Asia which anchor a growing movement toward open government, accountability and human rights. That would at the same moment be an action for peace, because open government and predictability are factors of stability and peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have only given some of the reasons why South-Korea is important to us, as a thriving economy, and as a growing world player. I should also have spoken of your rich culture, and of the beauties of the land of the morning calm, but my time is limited.

I could only give you a brief overview of the new scope for cooperation between our countries, and between Asia and Europe.

But I hope I have convinced you that the scope is there. I consider the honor of the distinction given to me by this distinguished university as an encouragement to work hard for closer cooperation between our countries. And to work within the European Union, as the future holder of the EU presidency and host of ASEM 8, for closer cooperation between our continents which have so much to offer to each other.

With this promise, I thank you for your attention.