On behalf of the two organising Foundations I thank you for having taken part in our debates in spite of present events. This meeting was of great quality due to your speeches and the informal nature of our debates.

We wondered whether we should adopt a declaration and whether we should choose a venue for the next session. We believe that this is not desirable. Undoubtedly it is one reason why our debates have been so rich. In the future I think we should privilege the informal nature of our meetings.

The Foundations of France are relatively new and it is very important to be able to bring together friends from Asia, or Central and Eastern Europe.

Everyone's motivation, is to work towards progressing democracy in the World. We can try to do more notably in the most unstable countries.

Chance would have it that our meeting has taken place during an international crisis that reveals a division and diplomatic controversies that hide things we all agree on: the respect of the human being, the rights of the individual, collective rights with a social and political organisation that brings this together.

The press will concentrate on a debate that in a way obscures and hides the reality of our common objective: the promotion of democracy.

I would like to put some ideas to you.

Europe is divided. But what does this mean exactly? That governments are divided whilst European public opinion is in harmony. Are the peoples of Europe turning into a European people thanks to the Iraqi crisis?

The primary objective of European construction was to prevent war on our continent. And it worked. Europe is moving forwards. European people are doing so too. The Europeans are cured of war. This is good news for everyone including the US.

Having said that we have solved nothing. Asserting that "law must take priority over force" as we are doing in Europe solves nothing if we don't have the necessary tools to promote Democracy. On the other hand it is impossible to impose Democracy by sheer force. Europe like the USA are a reference for democracy and freedom. In Europe we are wrong to underestimate what happened on 11th September 2001 when our American ally was afflicted with a new type of war. In Europe we form our opinions about the USA's attitude far too quickly. We are not helped by the USA's bad image across the world due to the brutality of this administration but also because of the lack of real alternatives in the face of American power.
Both here and elsewhere in the world those who were in the opposite camp are now frustrated because they no longer have any ideological reference. Personally I believe that it is a great victory for democracy. It leads us to the question: what are we fighting for? The answer is: for democracy and freedom. I do not believe that there is a European vision and an American one in this respect. Often politics leads us to confrontation in terms of the means to promote the values that Democracy is based on. As foundations we cannot allow ourselves to be swept along into these divisions. We should show intellectual distance and try to find opportunities for discussion and debate together as we did today.

Here is a new line of thought to explore together without invective nor ostracism. The future of Democracy and Freedom depend on it. It is up to Europe, the USA and their allies to continue the dialogue in mutual respect.

This may be one of the themes of our next meeting in two years time.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you all again soon.