

Video-Grußbotschaft Nationalratspräsidentin Mag.^a Barbara Prammer anlässlich der European Leadership Conference "Europe and Russia – Partners in a Globalised World"

Dear participants in today's conference, I would like to warmly welcome you to Vienna today. This city has a proud tradition of international dialogue. This is in line with Austrian foreign policy, which aims at fostering understanding between nations everywhere in the world. Your meeting takes place at the Vienna International Centre, which is one of the main headquarters of the UN hosting manifold specialised agencies. Many of them focus on disarmament and human security.

Your conference on "Europe and Russia- Partners in a globalized world" thus takes place in a fitting environment. I think it contributes to the special character of your conference that participants are coming from all walks of life. And I am especially happy that there are parliamentarians among you as well. I strongly believe that we as parliamentarians can play a complementary role in diplomacy to that which is played by governments. Contacts between parliamentarians tend to be more informal, more open and more varied than those between governments. And since you will focus on questions of

Values, Visions and Identity in both Europe and Russia, I think the parliamentary perspective can be particularly helpful.

I commend the organizers of this conference for their initiative. And I would like to stress that I share their belief in the importance of the perspectives of Youths for the future of the Euro-Russian relationship. And as a female politician, I am convinced that your focus on the role of women in Europe and Russia will contribute to the mutual understanding of our societies and the need to progress further on women's rights in order to get closer to our common goal of a peaceful and just world.

Thank you!