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PLENARY SESSION 1: GEOSTRATEGIC RECONSTRUCTION OF THE WORLD

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Humanity always needed a deep shock to change the international order. Bloody wars and massacres.

The preconditions to create a new one are there. Brutality, insanity, beyond any logic. All crimes altogether: war crimes, against humanity, crime of aggression, looting and so on. The international order was broken – openly. No erosion, nor disguise, simply withered away.

And we know that the world will never be the same again. It shocks.

We can only expect further uncertainty and more threats. It can drive mad.

We can be sure that probably we have the biggest task of our generation. As the youngster say – respect.

It would be an unforgivable sin not to make use of this opportunity. To change the narrative from “if can survive” to “make up the things again”. And according to our view.

The main way forward is to recognize the truth. To evaluate and condemn the criminals. To reach the full accountability of the ones who order slaughter. We would call it a special international tribunal. With the largest possible support worldwide. Even the process towards the tribunal can distinguish and unite friends.

Second, we need to believe in democracy. Sometimes it is harder than believing in love. Rivals make use of our disbelief in democracy because it is our basis. Some say autocrats act more effectively. Can be true, but for a short period. But Western mind is linear and counts on long term. People will always seek freedom, so will our children.

If we unite among ourselves and within the democratic world, it will give us confidence and strength.

Third, sometimes we need a straight talking to say that the politics should have primacy over economics. Containment through economic engagement and business ties failed. The adversaries

took every opportunity to get richer without adopting any democratic value. We can finally learn from our naivete.

The question is what to do.

Help Ukraine with arms and let Russia lose. Winners write and change the history; others only have their stories. Are we geostrategically programmed towards victory? Lithuanians surely are, aren't we all?

First, we need a sincere and deeper cooperation among the “West”, which is defined by values. Non-democrats outnumber us, they will outgun us as well. We are a bunch of different states with various interests but with one aim – at the rights and welfare of citizens, simply – to protect their dignity. Bearing this in mind, we can easily overcome internal disputes. Be it, IRA, data, different taxes or energetical choices. Unity is what the adversaries fear most and where they attack us to.

Second, we need an active outreach to the so-called “Global South”. They can change the world's balance. Investments and assistance to people are not a new colonialism. Stay open to their needs and lives – they will be open to our values. Easy money is a new colonialism. Even worse – enslavement as it buys people's minds.

Third, we need to increase economic sustainability. Build resilience and phase out sick supply dependencies. The EU Commission has stepped up with some proposals that create opportunities to diversify our economies. But the key lies in every state and its will to decouple itself from autocrats. Derisking is to please ourselves. Decoupling is – if we want to live in reality.

Finally, but ultimately. We need to get ready to defend ourselves. I am afraid it is not the end. Vengeance is very human. Defense capabilities will deter adversaries far better than statements. 1 or 2 or 3 percent is the hide-and-seek behind the numbers. Ask your people whether they feel safe. That's the starting point.

You might say all is obvious. But where does our journey start? Fear is the only thing that stops us. It is human again. But when human lives are at stake, it is time to step over and beyond ourselves.

A video of the speech:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twz_gyDUfk&list=PLafTseM15bmGXfMyNS2B41zIF24U8cX6h&index=8