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Subject:

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The best date is 27. I probably have to go to Luxembourg on the 24 (Terje is convening a meeting about Syria there) and I will be back on the 25, but two ministers are coming to my office that very day. So 27 is the best.

You said that Bills assistant asked for more information about "The world Forum for Democracy" in Strasbourg.

This is a new thing. the first edition was last year. Ban Ki Moon opened it together with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Tawakol Karman. 1500 people were present, political leaders from many parts of the world together with academics, media, NGO activists and business professionals.

This year we will focus on the need to reconnect citizens to representative institutions and new ways of governance at the local, national as well as at the global level. We want to promote new promising voices and new forces. And Bill Gates represents both.

He has said: "if we are going to change peoples lives, we need another level of innovation. Not just technology innovation - system innovation" I have also seen him saying that he is promoting innovative ideas that could help remove barriers: new techniques to help farmers in developing countries grow more food and earn more money, new tools to prevent and treat deadly disease, new methods to help students and teachers in the classroom."

This could be his theme at the opening session of the Forum with a wonderful opportunity also to speak about his work to combat diseases in the third world which I see as a very important contribution to new global governance in order to combat poverty and promote peace. Involvement of private sector is important in that respect, as Sec Gen. Koffi Annan spoke about in the millennium speech.

The opening session will be around 1100 h on the 28 November. The President of France, Francois Hollande, will also speak at the opening session. He is promoting innovative financing as a way of combating poverty.

The Council of Europe is the oldest of the European institutions set up to protect human rights and rule of law on the entire continent with a huge machinery of monitoring bodies, expertise on lawmaking and constitutional matters and on top of this pyramid The Court of Human Rights to which 800 million people in Europe can petition.

It could be interesting for him to know that an important institution within The Council of Europe is European Pharmacopoeia.

Its mission is based on a convention which is binding for all the 47 states, contributing to basic human right of access to good quality medicines by establishing and providing official standards for manufacture of medicines and by ensuring the application of these official standards to substances used in the production of medicines and co-ordinating a network of Official Medicines Control Laboratories. 500 people are employed in this institution and could be a good example for other parts of the world that wants to building institutions for providing people with safe medicines.

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