

**Reception hosted by Federal President Dr. Heinz FISCHER
for the Diplomatic Corps accredited in Austria
on the occasion of the beginning of his second term of office**

(Vienna, *Zeremoniensaal* of the Hofburg Palace, 9 July 2010)

**Address by the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps
Archbishop Dr. Peter Stephan ZURBRIGGEN
Apostolic Nuncio**

Your Excellency,
Dear Mr. Federal President,

Upon your gracious invitation, the Diplomatic Corps accredited in Austria, represented by the Heads of Mission of the Embassies, have gathered in the *Zeremoniensaal* of the *Hofburg* Palace today, the day after your solemn inauguration before the Federal Assembly. Speaking on behalf of all colleagues representing their Heads of State in Vienna, I have the honour and the privilege to extend our most cordial congratulations to you, Mr. Federal President, on the occasion of your re-election to the highest office of the State, and to wish you all the best for an auspicious and successful second term of office.

Situated in the heart of the European continent, Austria has a special role to play as a bridge-builder and a mediator for the cause of unity and the advancement of the peoples of Europe. The Austrian capital has proved its ability to serve as a hub in international relations, as is impressively reflected by the dense and high-level presence of diplomatic representations in Vienna. You yourself, Mr. Federal President, and your predecessors in office have always been aware of the fact that Austria – owing to her historical roots and her special geographical location – is called upon, more than other countries, to further the quest for understanding among the peoples. To fulfil this task in ever new ways, it takes an approach deeply rooted in values that are fundamental to our society and shared by the international community. It is with grateful interest and appreciation that we have witnessed your support for crucial values, such as the rule of law, human dignity, sustainability, security, honesty, justice and freedom. May Austria continue to offer its consolidated and constructive contributions within the “family of nations” for the benefit of all!

Mr. Federal President! It is a sincere pleasure for us to renew our best wishes for your second term of office as Head of State of this beautiful country. The diplomats accredited to Austria cordially wish you and your esteemed spouse God’s blessings and every success in all your endeavours.