

**ASERI GRADUATION DAY
MASTER'S COURSE IN EUROPEAN STUDIES AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS**

Milan, October 25, 2005

Speech by
Valeria Marziali

Distinguished guests,
ladies and gentlemen,
good afternoon.

I am honoured to have been asked to speak in this occasion. Let me thank all my colleagues for having chosen me as one of their representatives during this graduation ceremony. I have taken their decision as a demonstration of esteem and as an encouragement. I hope my contribution today can interpret also their feelings.

I want to tell you very briefly my experience in ASERI: I will not do so from an academic point of view, but from a personal perspective I will try to draw the picture of the months that I have been spending here in Milan.

I decided to come to ASERI one year ago for two reasons: on the one hand I wanted to strengthen my academic preparation in the field of international affairs, on the other side I wished to spend this period of time in an international environment and in contact with an international faculty. My expectations have not been disappointed.

In ASERI I have learnt a lot. I want to summarize three main aspects.

Firstly, we have built a small and strong community of people, we have lived together from December until June, from Monday until Friday, from the morning until the evening. We have known each other, we have exchanged our points of view, we have shared time, stress, worries and expectations for our future. I remember with pleasure the time spent for preparing together the exams of economics and the help provided by Paolo and Alberto, their patience and availability; Marco's enthusiasm in explaining International Relations' theories; Elena's kindness in helping us studying Russian; and Ioana's broad and deep knowledge on European Union affairs.

Secondly, another strong point of ASERI is the mix of students who participate in this Master: coming from different countries and with different academic and professional background. Personally, I have appreciated a lot the opportunity to know, among us, people who had already a considerable job experience before coming to this Master. With regard to this, I cannot forget the useful suggestions by Jessica to approach study and the necessity to manage time under pressure in a more pragmatic way than how I was used to as a "full-time" student.

Finally, I learnt from the chats we have had and the discussions about politics we have undertaken. Everyone has brought something from his or her perspective and we have helped each other to look more deeply at some events and issues.

Which is the role played by ASERI in this context?

ASERI offers the framework and the environment where students can enjoy this experience. This institution is characterised not only by the high quality of teaching, but also by being a school where students can learn to live together. As a matter of fact, in my opinion this is what institutions involved in the field of education should do: being both a

school of knowledge and a school of life. Our human experience could not have been possible without ASERI.

In conclusion, I have enjoyed a lot this year spent in Milan. I want to thank all the staff who works here for the kindness and the assistance provided to us.

I want to thank again all my colleagues and to wish them a rewarding and interesting career.

I wish all of them to realize their personal as well as professional aspirations.

We have lived together an intense experience. We will not forget it. Today is the day when we say each other good bye, but I hope we can keep in touch as we did during the last summer when each of us was in a different place of the world.

Thank you for you attention.

Speech by
Basilio Mandara

Professors,
ladies and gentleman,
dear colleagues and friends,
good afternoon.

First of all I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today, in such a significant and memorable occasion.

When I came to ASERI for the first time, about one year ago, my greatest desire was find the answer to the bulk of questions that any typical student of international affairs usually copes with. In particular I was thinking of the future problems of the international system and to the challenges in peace and stability, such as trans-national terrorism, nuclear proliferation, economic and social underdevelopment, climate and environmental change. At that time I firmly believed that further and deeper studies would be the best way to satisfy the need for the “objective understanding” of the ongoing events that affect our everyday life.

Today, one year later, I have reached the consciousness that, perhaps, there is no just one answer to these dilemmas, one valid once and for all, but that there can be many ways to approach and interpret the major issues of the contemporary world.

When I seek the origins of this awareness and I look back over the year I have spent at ASERI trying to find the “core element” of the Master course, I realize that there are too many aspects that may deserve to be mentioned. But if I stop for a while and try to think about it, I find that our experience can be defined by two words: European and Global. They have been a constant in our master and, to a large extent, I can claim that they have represented two different dimensions of both our studies and our identity.

Here, in fact, we have had the chance to study in depth the process of European economic and political integration and its enlargement towards the Eastern European countries. We have seen how difficult such a process has been over the last decade and how many hurdles the European Union must face in the near future in order to reach its aim of a more complete cohesion.

Here we had the opportunity not to limit our attention to the European dimension, and we were able to look beyond, at the global level, discussing the major changes involving the current world order, investigating the biggest issues affecting the international scenario. In this perspective Europe appeared not to be something untied and independent from the external environment, but it seemed rather as a peculiar region of the world, a specific getaway to the broader, inclusive, comprehensive, in one word “global”, processes that are at basis of the current situation.

I could continue this list indefinitely, but now I would like to point out that the master course, for sure, did not only consist of an interesting experience of intellectual enrichment. Here, I was given the opportunity to meet colleagues coming from abroad, each one eager to share his/her personal experience and knowledge, willing to confront their own point of view with people coming from a completely different background. This allowed us to talk about the major issues emerging from our studies. When this took place a simple

discussion was usually transformed into a dialogue filled with many different perspectives, making ASERI a place where distances are reduced and the world seems smaller than it really is.

It is not a coincidence, therefore, that my colleagues and friends come not only from European countries, but even from the rest of the world.

That's, once again, the dual dimension, European and Global, emerging from the year spent together. A dimension that invaded for the first time both my studies and my life.

This, in my opinion, is the most precious heritage ASERI could give us and we, for sure, will bring it with pleasure and honour.

Thank you very much all of you.