

Professor Láncki, Professor Kovács, Professor Gulácsi,
dear ladies and gentlemen,

As alumni of the University of Amsterdam in political science and international relations, and Dutch scholarship student to the Corvinus University in 1989, then known under a different name, it is my particular honour to be here today at this special occasion.

On behalf of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, I would like to express my profound appreciation to the Senate of Corvinus University of Budapest, to award Prof. Milena Pavlova, Associate Professor of the Maastricht University, with the title of HONORARY PROFESSOR.

A significant appreciation of Professor Pavlova's academic achievements in the field of health economics and policy, and of her pioneering work on formal and informal payments for health care services in the Central and Eastern European region.

International academic co-operation in research and development is of detrimental importance to the development of our societies in general and specifically for students, academics, universities, national economies, as well as for improved level playing field in the EU and contributing to reaching some of the major Millennium Development Goals.

Fundamental to international academic co-operation is academic freedom. Specifically in the area of the health sector development.

European healthcare is steadily improving: infant mortality as well as survival rates of heart disease, stroke and cancer are all moving in the right direction. Patient choice and involvement are developing.

But still too many countries stick to inefficient ways to fund and deliver care services. Exchanging best practices with successful European healthcare systems would save enormous amounts of money, to be invested in saving lives and improving performance among the many countries struggling to meet citizens' expectations.

As the last annual EU healthcare review concluded, as partners, EU Member-States mutually have so much to offer each other. For the benefit of us all. Let us continue in that direction. Thank you.