

Thursday 2 June 2016

## Government Press Conference

Introductory Speech by H.E. Mr. Serge Telle, Minister of State

*"First and foremost, I would like to say a few personal words to express my gratitude. My gratitude to the Prince, who appointed me. My gratitude to the Prince's Government, who welcomed me efficiently and with kindness, and helped me to start working on the issues with great competence. Also, my gratitude to the Monegasque people, who welcomed me with the family spirit that characterises the Principality, a spirit based on confidence and pride.*

*I am taking the opportunity of this occasion to say how happy I am to have returned to the Principality following my previous role as Consul General and Ambassador, almost 10 years ago.*

*In 10 years, much has changed. However, what has struck me the most is how Monaco has opened up to the world. This openness is represented by the 120 nationalities who are present here; by Monaco's activity and its welcome, but also its exceptional openness to all the major global issues, in particular the Sovereign Prince's speeches on the oceans, climate change and the environment.*

*To benefit everyone, this openness to the world requires a strong State.*

*The guiding principles of my action, and that of the Government, will be to take measures that will make our State strong, to make it heard and respected, and ensure that the decisions taken will be of benefit to all.*

*A strong State is clearly a state that is concerned about people's lives and guarantees conditions for growth. The law on teleworking that is under discussion at the National Council, about which Stéphane Valéri will speak, will be a useful way of changing the way we work.*

*A strong State is also a state that ensures people's security, especially in a particularly difficult international context. The law on national security, which Patrice Cellario will tell you about, and for which we count on the responsibility of the National Council, should help us to guarantee this essential security.*

*A strong State is a state that is able to set out the terms of an association agreement with the European Union that will be beneficial to both the State and the whole population. Gilles Tonelli will explain the progress made in the negotiations with Europe.*

*A strong State is also a state that ensures the future of our environment and that of our children. Marie-Pierre Gramaglia will speak to you about the measures that we are taking in this regard.*

*Finally, a strong State is clearly a state that has healthy public finances. Jean Castellini will update you on the budgetary results, which are good, as the State remains in surplus and is free of debt. He will also speak to you about the agreements we are signing with the rest of the world to make Monaco a banking and financial centre that is healthy and transparent and respects all the international commitments agreed upon and wished for by the Sovereign Prince.*

*In all these issues, the aim of our work will be to ensure that the Principality's openness to the world is of benefit to everyone."*