

Speech by H.S.H. the Prince
10th Anniversary of the High Commissioner
23 January 2024

Your Excellency the Minister of State,
Your Excellency the Archbishop,
Madam President of the National Council,
Madam Secretary of Justice,
Madam Secretary of State,
Ministers,
Excellencies,
Madam High Commissioner,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here today to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the High Commissioner for the Protection of Rights, Liberties, and for Mediation, which was created by Sovereign Ordinance on 30 October 2013, and began its work in early 2014.

The High Commissioner's creation reflects a willingness to promote the Principality's traditional commitment to the rule of law, and its attachment to the universal values of Human Rights, with respect for every individual's unique qualities.

The existence of this independent institution ensures that anyone who believes their rights and freedoms have been infringed by the authorities, or that they have been unfairly discriminated against, can obtain help to resolve their difficulties amicably.

With us here today are several representatives of international, Mediterranean and francophone ombudsmen associations, the member of ECRI for Monaco, and the Monegasque judge at the European Court of Human Rights, and their presence also speaks to the constructive dialogue between the High Commissioner and its foreign counterparts and European bodies.

In today's climate, the Principality of Monaco is in various ways spared from the resurgence in hate speech and violence, and it is essential for both its authorities and civil society to stand firmly by the values that buttress our community, and ensure those values are reflected in all that they do.

I have no doubt that the High Commissioner will play a full part in that, by continuing its work and contributing wholeheartedly to the promotion of rights in the Principality.