

**President Galap, University of Le Havre**

**Opening remarks of the JRC Welcoming Ceremony.**

Dear President Lee,

Dear colleagues,

I am very happy to participate in the opening of this 5<sup>th</sup> session of the GU8 Joint Research Committee.

Firstly, I want to express my full support to the work that is being carried out by the consortium members and in particular the work of this research committee (whose recommendations have been approved in the last Council of Presidents). My Colleagues Aziz Alaoui and Cristian Nichita are here to take part in this valuable work.

I am convinced that there is tremendous potential for research in the GU8 Consortium. The encouragement of research initiatives in our networks is at the heart of my university's International research policy.

Conducting research projects within the GU8 Consortium is a chance for all of us to benefit from the expertise of our respective institutions.

More over, our international network is very beneficial for the socioeconomic relations we have in our own countries.

In times of worldwide economic crisis, the innovative vision of an international community like ours can move research and innovation forward and it is our opinion that massive state investments in research is a way to get out of today's crisis.

Good work.

Thank you very much for your attention.