

**MESSAGE OF ACCEPTANCE FOR HONORARY  
DOCTORATE AWARDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF  
BUCHAREST TO HRH FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT - 31ST MAY, 2014**

Mr. President, Rector, Ladies and Gentleman, I am so delighted, and greatly flattered, to be with you here today and to be among such a prestigious academic community within the Aula Magna of the University of Bucharest. I need hardly say how enormously honoured I am that you should have so generously considered awarding me with this Honorary Doctorate. It is even more generous of you bearing in mind that I have only been an annual visitor to your very special country since I was lucky enough to come here first in 1998.

Perhaps my warm regard for Romania is partly inherited for, as some of you may know, my great, great, great grandmother was Claudina, Countess Rhedey (my great grandmother, Queen Mary's, grandmother), and Queen Marie of Romania, who was my great grandfather, King George V's, first cousin (the granddaughter of Queen Victoria!) was another of my relations who, of course, developed a special bond of love and affection with the people of Romania. In addition to this family connection, I have long been deeply conscious of the appalling suffering, sacrifice and privations visited upon the people of Romania through not only two World Wars, but also the long post-war Communist dictatorship.