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**Governor's Address. Day of the Pro Spanish Royal Academy
Foundation**

Luis M. Linde
Governor

Your Majesties, Minister, ambassadors, academicians, ladies and gentlemen,

On a day of so many and such momentous commemorations, allow me to add one more: that of the Día de la Fundación pro Real Academia Española (Day of the Pro Spanish Royal Academy Foundation) which, with the permanent and fundamental support of the Crown through its honorary presidency, the Governor of the Banco de España has the privilege and obligation to preside.

Since its creation under the auspices of King Juan Carlos 21 years ago (the anniversary is in three days' time, on 20 October), the Foundation has dedicated an annual conference to its patrons and benefactors. On such a special and solemn occasion as today, I wish to convey to all of them our gratitude for and acknowledgement of the invaluable help they have provided over the past two decades.

Individuals, companies and institutions, including all of Spain's Regional Governments, have contributed to making projects of great importance for the Academy viable. Such projects would certainly not have been possible without their generous backing. Thank you, then, to all of them, many of whom are here today.

Like many of our country's institutions, the Spanish Royal Academy has had to adapt to the constraints imposed by the economic crisis that began in 2008. Given these circumstances, I must highlight the discretion, adaptability and spirit with which its governing bodies, its directors and all its members have faced the situation.

On the Foundation's creation in 1993, its first chairman, the then Governor of the Banco de España and university eminence, our memorable Luis Ángel Rojo, stated that the Pro Spanish Royal Academy Foundation had come into being to support the Academy in all circumstances and, naturally, even more so, in times of difficulty. We should acknowledge the foresight of those who, with King Juan Carlos at their head as first signatory and first contributor, had the bright idea to create the Foundation. That initiative has provided the Academy with crucial aid, enabling it to move forward and perform to the full its various tasks, always with the same goal in mind: to be of service to the Spanish language, the common heritage of 500 million Spanish speakers.

The Academy has been through difficult periods and adversities. We need only look at the recently published *Historia*, by Víctor García de la Concha, to learn of past perils and predicaments. But we are convinced it will always find the right path forward.

Just one month ago, at the first meeting of the Board of Patrons your Majesty chaired, we had the opportunity to analyse our current situation, with a view to laying the foundations that will equip us to face the challenges the future will bring. You highlighted something then which has been stressed here today before the directors and presidents of the 22 institutions making up the Association of Academies of the Spanish Language:

"Collaboration and consensus among all the Academies — the bedrock of pan-Hispanic language policy — is pivotal for the continuing growth of Spanish and its entrenchment as the second language of international communication."

We all concur with this goal, one advocated by King Juan Carlos at the founding session of the Foundation when, with reference to the Academy, he said:

"Few institutions can be said to have been so dedicated and committed over time, and also across continents, bearing in mind the transatlantic dimension of its academic work".

A little over 400 years ago, the *Tesoro de la Lengua Castellana o Española* (*Thesaurus of the Castilian or Spanish Language*) was published. This was our first dictionary and, indeed, the first in any Romance language, whose author, Sebastián de Covarrubias, had it printed in Madrid in 1611 under the reign of King Felipe III. Three centuries ago the Spanish Royal Academy was entrusted with safeguarding this treasure, which has been growing in stature and richness ever since. The Royal Academy has fulfilled its mandate magnificently, and we are convinced it will resolutely continue to shoulder this great responsibility and excel in the endeavour. In a modest capacity, our Foundation will remain at its side to assist in whatever way it can.

Today your Majesty has received the 23rd edition of the *Diccionario de la lengua española* (*Dictionary of the Spanish language*), dispatched to bookshops in the Americas and in Spain with the inspiring inscription: "The words that unite us". I can but add: so be it.