



Jesper Petersens tale ved Det Danske Studenterhus i Paris

Taler

Jesper Petersen
Uddannelses- og
forskningsminister

Dato

2. juni 2022

Sted

Det Danske Studenterhus,
Paris

Altesse Royale

Excellence

Madame la Déléguée Générale

Monsieur le Conseiller du Recteur

Madame la Présidente du conseil d'Administration

Chers invités – mesdames et messieurs

Bonjour et merci beaucoup de m'avoir permis de vous accueillir aujourd'hui. Depuis quatre-vingt-dix ans La Fondation Danoise ici à la Cité Universitaire a été une base sûre pour les étudiants et chercheurs Danois et Danoises à Paris.

And now I think it's time to switch to English, before I over-stretch my French speaking abilities. Thank you for inviting me to this reception in your historic house where we celebrate your new facilities as well as your time-honoured traditions.

There's a French saying that goes: *C'est dans les vieux pots qu'on fait les meilleures confitures*. Old jars make the best jam.

Today we celebrate that your jars, pots and pans – and the whole kitchen and dining room – are brand new.

But no matter the beautiful job Henning Larsen Architects did modernising and renovating, The Danish Student House itself is an old jar – after all you celebrated your 90th birthday in January this year.

And the jam you make here has always been fresh and forward thinking. Being

progressive and modern is part of your history, your DNA. And the DNA of the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris.

Language is the key

It's actually a little bit curious that on a day like today. In Paris. I speak to you in English. It's definitely, in part, due to my own linguistic abilities – or lack thereof.

Europeans used to be able to communicate with each other in more of our big European languages.

For many reasons and especially with we should improve and recognise the value of wider language skills in our population.

Language is the thread that ties us together across borders and cultures.

Language is the key to international trade, cooperation and understanding each other's lives and cultures. The key to the international communities fostered right here in the Danish Student House.

We need more of this in Europe. Especially right now where our continent and our values are under attack. We need communication and collaboration.

Last year, the Danish government and the parties in the parliament decided to prioritise almost 5.4 million Euros extra to education in German and French education.

We need even more skilled teachers and educators with comprehensive knowledge of German and French to strengthen the primary school language education in Denmark. And we are also going to launch a number of initiatives to attract more students to French and German study programs in Danish universities. And seek to combine other skills with linguistic ones. The engineer also speaking German, the political scientist also speaking French. And who knows, maybe the minister of the next generation will manage the entire speech in French.

English cannot stand alone as *the* European language. Encore plus de français,

encore plus d'allemand et plus de communication européenne.

A sustainable future

Today we celebrate the new and the old. The longstanding traditions of this historic house. And the renovation and new strategy for sustainability that is leading you into the future.

We are dining on a sustainable menu. As part of your roadmap for sustainable action. I think your vision for sustainability is the perfect combination of the old and the new.

You want to keep your identity as a safe place for Danes and other nationalities away from home. To provide the best possible foundation for international communities.

At the same time, you want to work seriously with the issues facing our society. You want to work on sustainability and be a showcase for Denmark as a green country. To inspire your residents to carry sustainable thinking with them in their studies and their everyday lives.

Never too small to make a difference

We need sustainability goals. Climate change is the single biggest issue facing our civilisation. We need to act now for our children and grandchildren. And for ourselves and our democracies.

Recent events underline how we need to be independent of Russian oil and gas. We need to leave a planet behind with clean air and drinking water for the future generations.

The well-known Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg once said "*I have learned you're never too small to make a difference*". This is true for her. She was only 15 when she said it and had already made a huge impact worldwide.

It's true for The Danish Student House. And it is true for Denmark. Every action counts. From sustainable food goals to big political agreements.

Denmark is a small country, and even when we achieve climate neutrality by year 2050 it won't in itself make a huge difference globally.

But that doesn't mean we can't change the world. We are a front runner. And education and science play an important role here. If we invest in science and new green technologies, we can show the whole world that you can have a thriving economy, provide a high quality of life for your citizens, and be climate neutral at the same time. That's our ambition.

It's important to the Danish government to show that we can do this. Without side-effects like unemployment and inequality. We thrive to make a comprehensive green change in Denmark. Without yellow vests in the streets.

If we pave a green path for others to follow. If we develop new green solutions, technologies and ideas, we can share with the rest of the world. Then we can truly make a difference. And I am glad that The Danish Student House is leading by example.

An old jar

Today is the conclusion of years of modernisations and renovations of your historic building. But the spirit here is still the same as it was in 1932.

You are a true home away from home. And you insist on making a positive difference in the world. You are an old jar full of trusted ingredients – your residents, your traditions and your values.

And as I'm sure we'll see later today – you do make the best jam.

Félicitations et merci beaucoup.

Kilde

ufm.dk

Kildetype

Dokumentation på online medie

Tags

Festtale, Socialdemokratiet

URI

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