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**"Making it Happen: How Cohesion Policy will contribute to Growth
and Jobs in Europe"**

Concluding remarks
for the Opening Session of the OPEN DAYS 2007

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Charlemagne building, Salle "GASP "

Ladies and gentlemen,

Without the aim of repeating or summarising what has been said today, I would like to end by two concluding remarks:

First, I let me thank everybody on the panel and in the room for contributing to the debate. OPEN DAYS is not made to just listen to speeches but instead seeks for exchange and discussion. In this sense, this opening session has been a good example for the seminars to be held over the days to come confirming that good communication starts by listening to each other.

Second, it has been made clear that the period ahead of us - in particular the year 2008 – will see all of us extremely busy. While implementing and delivering the new programmes we have to support an ongoing debate about the policy's future. No doubt, this debate will challenge

cohesion policy in many respects. It will challenge its rationale, its objectives and its governance. I wish that as many of you will be actively involved in this debate and I look forward to work together with you on the policy's future.

Finally, I would like to thank our moderator, the participants of the panel and the audience for their contributions and for making this opening session a lively and interesting event.

I look forward to inspiring and communicative OPEN DAYS and hope to see as many of you again in our closing session on Thursday afternoon in the European Parliament.