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Dear colleagues and friends of the Schuman Trophy, *veelre Freunde der Fuballspiel!*

I see with great pleasure that the Schuman Trophy continues its actions to help poor and deprived children. 21 years and 750,000 euros for the funding of 240 projects - these are impressive figures, which are owed to the tireless efforts of all those who support the Schuman Trophy: colleagues from the Commission and from other EU institutions.

Each year you help collect around 50,000 euros for this good cause. We can and we should do more, the needs are immense. Year after year the Schuman Trophy faces the problem of having to turn down a very high number of very good proposals due to limited funds. With a little more help from you and from other colleagues that you know, more can be done, more children in Belgium, in Europe and beyond can be helped.

The Schuman Trophy is also a unique opportunity to bring together colleagues from across the Commission DGs and services as well as from other institutions. Friendliness, solidarity, respect and fair-play – the core elements of the Schuman Trophy – should be preserved and enhanced.

I am a long-standing supporter and fan of football and would wish to see the 2017 Schuman Trophy football tournament bring forth only one kind of winners: those who are recognised for their fair-play, for their respect for other players and referees and for their generosity for the ultimate objective of the Schuman Trophy, which is: helping children out of difficulties, pain and poverty.

Please help to make this year's 21st Schuman Trophy a huge success!

Yours
Guenther

