

Distinguished Professors and Colleagues,
Distinguished Professor Marius Andruh,

I am very honored to be part of this meeting in which we celebrate the work and personality of some very distinguished scholars and academics.

I shall share with you three facts which motivate my admiration for Professor Andruh's great achievements and also my satisfaction for him being recognized today for his scientific excellency through the Honorary Doctorate that the University of Angers has bestowed upon him.

Professor Marius Andruh, who is a fellow of Romanian Academy and a full Professor in the Faculty of Chemistry at the University of Bucharest, is generally known and widely recognized as one of the most important and creative Romanian chemists nowadays. The importance and value of his work have been certified by his peers in the international community of inorganic chemists working mostly in the field of coordinative chemistry and magnetism. He constantly publishes in the most authoritative journals and has been directly invited to contribute topic papers in the best current journals.

Scientific creativity is still very puzzling and baffling as it is creativity in general; witness the current debates and theories in the field of the psychology of discovery and invention. Since our meeting today does not provide a format for a debate on this important issue, it is enough to say that in the concrete situation of Professor Andruh's fertile creativity his talent for doing chemistry is connected with a genuine and profound artistic personality. Those who may think *a priori* that scientific rigornecessarily goes together with a non-imaginative and non-artistic personality are definitely proven wrong by this wonderful combination that Marius Andruh shows of scientific prolificacy and fruitfulness with deep interest and inclination for the arts, especially those arts which are built or which unfolds or stretches out in space:

architecture, acting, but also music, where we share together a deep love for the music of Shostakovich. Apparently, Marius Andruh's plastic imagination which is so valuable in the chemistry that he is practicing could have produced, if used in those directions, an artistic talent in architecture or in music for that matter. Now and then Professor Andruh has confessed to me that he would have liked to be a musician.

But most importantly for our scientific community in Romania today, which undergoes the tribulations of a confused and even vexing period of time, is a trait of his personality that I shall mention in the end: the integrity and courage of Professor Andruh's public pronouncements and attitudes in what concerns the fight against plagiarism and corruption in the academia and in the universities. Professor Andruh has spoken in the last five years or so extremely clearly and loudly against every form of intellectual fraud and imposture, which, as you can very easily imagine, did not bring him too much public accolade or strong praise. Had there been more academics in Romania nowadays who would dare to fight openly the scientific cheat and imposture, for sure the situation of teaching and research in higher education would be significantly better! As someone who has stood up and fought against this phenomenon together with Professor Andruh, I can testify that his public commitment and genuine consciousness have been an inspiration for those amongst us who now understand that if we do not step out the "comfort zone", we cannot have a positive impact upon our academic and scientific milieu.

Those three facts are only a tiny fragment from all those achievements and merits of Professor Marius Andruh, and I wholeheartedly congratulate him for this Honorary Degree. It is, indeed, his personal merit but we share the pride and honor to have him as our most beloved and cherished colleague and friend.