Part 1

Ladies and gentlemen:

Minister,

Your Excellency,

Your Excellency Marshal,

Honourable Mayor of the City of Krakow,

Honourable Governor of Małopolska Province,

Members of the University's Senate,

Members of the University's Council,

Your Magnificences,

Dear Professors,

Dear Staff, current and former,

Dear Doctoral Students and Students of the Cracow University of Economics,

Dear Guests,

I am obliged to all those that have shown their kindness to our University by choosing to be with us. Also to those that can be with us via the online broadcast.

Part 2

I am deeply moved to take the floor as the 17th Rector of the Cracow University of Economics to inaugurate the 96th academic year of our Alma Mater. However, I am not just moved but also proud. We are a university open to the needs of the state, region and city. To the needs of the economy and non-governmental organizations. And finally – and that is what is most important to me – we are an ambitious university ready to change, feeling a sense of moral obligation towards

the numerous generations of our Faculty and Staff, Students and Graduates. It is their effort, their passion and achievements that have built this University's strength for almost a hundred years.

The inauguration of the academic year is one of those festive occasions at which it is only appropriate to recall the motto of our founder Arnold Bolland: *Rerum cognoscere causas et valorem* - To know the causes and values of things.

Faithful to this motto, we conduct reliable research in order to better understand and explain the world and its economic processes. We do this in order to offer our knowledge to all those that wish to use it to build the prosperity of our country, its economic potential and to ensure the best development of our Homeland.

Part 3

Ladies and gentlemen,
The inauguration of the new academic year is a beautiful and touching celebration for our entire community. That is why I feel honoured that this ceremony is graced by such distinguished guests. I cordially welcome you within the walls of the Cracow University of Economics. I am also asking for a round of applause for everyone after the greetings are over.

I extend warm greetings to our Faculty and Staff who have joined us for this ceremony via the internet. Regardless of where we are, we are together!

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to our wonderful Friends from foreign universities and research centres. I sincerely hope that we will be able to meet in person soon.

On behalf of the entire Academic Community, I would also like to give my special thanks to all those who are unable to attend today's celebration in person but have sent congratulatory letters.

There is no hiding the fact that despite my sincere wish to do so, I cannot greet each of you individually, but believe me, I am very happy that you are with us today.

In a special way, however, I wish to address the First-Year Students who start their studies at the Cracow University of Economics. You will see for yourself that

our faculty, staff, friends and colleagues, will support you in this new, wonderful time of studies. These studies are not only about knowledge, they are also about relationships. The Cracow University of Economics can develop them in various dimensions and you will see that for yourself.

I am happy to say that the Cracow University of Economics has been popular among students for many years. In the academic year that is just starting, we are enriched with nearly 5,000 students.

Part 4

Ladies and gentlemen,
The previous academic year was a special time for us. The ongoing pandemic that has been affecting us since March this year has significantly changed the way we work and – what is especially important – the way we conduct classes. We managed to quickly switch to the distance learning system, and it was possible thanks to the enormous work of our Faculty, Staff, and Students. As a Community, we passed the spring pandemic test well.

Therefore, I am asking you to continue to treat these undoubtedly difficult circumstances as an opportunity, an opportunity to get out of the beaten track, to quickly bring about change that seemed impossible before the pandemic, or to set the highest possible standards in scientific, teaching and administrative work. But above all, I am asking you – especially in times that largely put a premium on "all things remote" – to take care to build a community. Because our strength lies in this academic community.

The last few months and years have also witnessed significant changes at our University introduced in response to the Law on Higher Education. For a year now, three Colleges have been operating within the structures of the Cracow University of Economics (College of Economics, Finance and Law; College of Management and Quality Sciences and College of Public Economy and Administration). Within their framework, we have created nine Institutes. We also have a Doctoral School. These changes are to help us obtain the best possible results in the evaluation carried out according to new rules.

I am convinced that these changes, coupled with your commitment, will facilitate significant improvement in the quality of education and research within the walls of this University.

Part 5

Ladies and gentlemen, let me thank you here for your commitment in the scientific and organizational field, a commitment which manifests itself e.g. in the form of numerous scientific conferences, including those of international rank, employees' successes in successive promotion processes, efforts to obtain accreditation and rights to award prestigious certificates, or in creating and developing new forms of cooperation with important external partners.

Our University cooperates closely with the socio-economic environment – entrepreneurs, administration and public service bodies, as well as with non-governmental organizations. The successes and achievements of the Cracow University of Economics would not be possible without the help of state and local government, including the authorities of the City of Krakow. Thanks for that.

Dear Students,
No, no - you have not been relegated to the end at all! Perhaps I should have started out by pointing out that the order in which I have mentioned our guests was random: the Prime Minister, the Mayor, the Minister would not have taken offence, would they?

Dear Students,
You are the most colourful part of our community. Thank you for your incessant hunger for knowledge and willingness to develop. Thank you for your involvement in competitions and research projects, activities within the Student Parliament, Independent Students Association, your international activity, student societies, sports sections, the University’s DOMINANTA choir. I am proud of your successes.

I should reiterate now that the order of thanks is random ...

At this point, I would like to express my gratitude to the 57 people who ended their professional activity at our University during the last academic year, going into retirement or disability pension. Please remember us as we promise to remember you.

Let me now recall the names of those members of our community who passed away during the last academic year.
I am asking all of you to stand up and commemorate them with a minute’s silence.

Part 6

Ladies and gentlemen,
We are starting the new year as a community of Staff, Students and Doctoral Students, who stand ready to take on new challenges in the name of achieving bold but realistic goals that stem from the pride of belonging to the CUE Community. I believe that the times of slow, evolutionary evolution of academic institutions are over. A dynamic leap consisting in a major change in the quality of research, teaching, comfort of research work and studying, or combining science with practice is the only chance to improve one's position in the country and Europe.

We will take these actions so that our University is perceived as a unique centre of competence in the field of economic and social sciences, attracting ambitious scientists and focusing the attention of the business and public sector it is to serve. I count on your support in introducing changes that will make studies within these walls even more strongly associated with an intellectual adventure and the opportunity to gain valuable qualifications and competences.

I encourage you to implement changes that will make us a better community, also in a purely human sense. I would like us to be a community open to cooperation. If we want to prepare students for socially responsible activities, we must ourselves embody an exemplary level of employee relations and relations with the environment.

In order to achieve these goals, it will of course be necessary to modernize in terms of material and organization. The former will be associated with the development of IT infrastructure, which is to achieve the level of good European universities. It will be connected with a significant development of infrastructure supporting teaching and congresses, including with the construction of a modern, environmentally-friendly 10-storey building on the campus.

So let us not be afraid to speak out loud about the ambitious goals of our Community. Let us proclaim it clearly that thanks to our work, we want the University of Economics to achieve a strong position among Polish universities in the 2020s and consistently gain in international importance. After all, we want our university to be a desired partner in the most inspiring business, technological, social and cultural ventures. Krakow and Małopolska are excellent

places to fulfil such ambitions. And the University of Economics is best suited to value, develop and discount these ambitions!

Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish us all that the beginning of the 96th Academic New Year 2020/2021 brings a lot of joy, success and achievement of the intended goals.

Quod bonum, felix, faustum fortunatumque sit.

I consider the 96th academic year at the Cracow University of Economics to be open!