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First of all, I would like to thank you for giving me this privilege; I am honoured to stand here in front of yourselves. It is a privilege to give a speech at such an important event. I must admit, my knowledge of German history with regards to its reunification may not be extensive, however, despite my lack of knowledge I know it had an immense impact upon the world in which we live in today. I am proud to stand here today on behalf of many who, like me, believe that the fall of the Berlin wall and the reunification of Germany were the key event which brought together not only a country but in many ways a divided continent. The reunification of Germany served as a gateway to creating the Europe which we can witness today.

As Britta has mentioned, we are united. But we are not only united by football. We are also united by being European and by a multitude of ties and bonds of friendship. This connection should never be lost again.

Speaking of bonds: Britain and Germany have many. However, the bonds between Britain and Germany were not always strong; the diplomatic and naval rivalries being an example of relations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, before of course the catastrophes of the First and Second World Wars. On the other hand, there are many things which we share. Since the late Middle Ages the German cities of the Hanseatic League traded with England and Scotland. Today, Germany is amongst Britain's biggest export markets. Both nations work in strong partnership in the EU. We have influenced each other for the past decades on areas such as industry, science or technology. These bonds have led us here. They are signs of the great European unity.

It is quite likely that my last name has given away that I was not born English: and yet I stand here today representing many English people from my school. Why is that? It is because Europe has changed for the better. It is a new Europe and I am glad to be part of it, a Europe in partnership which has turned its' back on past enmities to forge something new and better, a Europe that does not restrict us but enables us to do incredible things. I am a Pole, I have spent most of my life in Poland and when I moved to England a few years ago I did not imagine I would go on to do things as significant as this within my educational experience. Coming together with peers in Germany, working on all sorts of international educational projects, creating a monument to commemorate the Christmas Truce of the First World War – those are the things which the new Europe has allowed me to achieve.

Events from over 60 years ago have caused friction between our nations for too long now. It's time to move forward within the new Europe: I certainly believe that, to quote an old phrase, what unites us is stronger than what divides us. This is the view shared by many of my peers in Britain, and I cannot express how proud I am to say this.

Whilst working on the monument in Belgium I had come to the realisation that the new generations of Europe who have been born post the fall of the Berlin Wall are not encumbered by the stereotypes and clichés which had shaped the perceptions of previous generations.

We, as a younger generation, have a hopeful future. We should embrace it. The New Germany, a Germany which is now Europe's strongest economic and political power, is not one to be feared. On the contrary: Germany has developed into becoming a country loved by many. Whilst British youth may not agree with you on what entails good fashion, and you may not be- to my peers in Britain-God's gift to creating popular music, there is something special about Germany.

From a young person's point of view I must say, above all, we envy German engineering. We like your cars; Opel's, BMW's, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche. What more is there to say? OR..... not to say..

Well, last week I asked a few of my peers what they thought of Germany. I said to them "what is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Germany". The responses did not vary greatly. All of them revolved around Germany's educational, economic, and infrastructural achievements. One person described Germany as the "powerhouse of the EU". At last we have moved on.

For me, the Germany which emerged in the aftermath of re-unification has also helped to unify a continent, which makes this area so personal to me and the opportunities I have had in my life.

I thank you again for inviting me to be part of this celebration.