

**PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE**

**PRESIDENTIAL NEWS DESK**

**OPENING REMARKS BY  
PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.  
AT THE FAREWELL CALL OF  
LUC SERGE GUSTAVE EUGÈNE VÉRON  
AMBASSADOR AND HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE PHILIPPINES**

[Held at the Study Room of Malacañan Palace | 22 August 2024]

**PRESIDENT MARCOS:** My gosh, it's... You've been affixed here in all the work that we've been doing for the last three years, since I've been President. And I think that in that time we really have seen a much deeper interconnection between the Philippines and the EU.

I don't think we've had this close relationship with the EU as we have now and I'm happy that that's the case.

'Cause post-pandemic, I think it's one of the lessons that we learned, is that we need to have friends in place in times of crisis.

**AMBASSADOR VÉRON:** Yes. No, we are — I think I was blessed to be at the very interesting time. I remember I met you first time as a candidate.

**PRESIDENT MARCOS:** As a candidate.

**AMBASSADOR VÉRON:** I went to see you in Mandaluyong.

**PRESIDENT MARCOS:** Yeah, Mandaluyong.

**AMBASSADOR VÉRON:** I think it was December 6, 2021.

**PRESIDENT MARCOS:** You have better memory than I do.

**AMBASSADOR VÉRON:** I remember that. And then we visited Brussels very early. I was very sorry for the weather because you had a very bad cold.

**PRESIDENT MARCOS:** Oh, yes. It's the first time I've been out. It just brought home to me how exhausted I was --- still from the campaign. It's just a little bit of cold. I don't mind the cold. But I said, okay, I'd better get stronger and get healthier.

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