

**DRAFT**

**STATEMENT OF MR. PETER LANGER TO THE DANUBE SUMMIT BUCHAREST  
8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010**

**Speaker and Coordinator of the Council of the Danube Cities and Regions  
Director of the Ulm Danube Office**

**COUNCIL OF THE DANUBE CITIES AND REGIONS**

**MOTTO: *“The Europe of the future is a Europe of cities and regions, having the European citizen as its main partner.”***

**BRIEFS & HIGHLIGHTS**

**Vision**

By developing common projects in culture, science, education, ecology and economy and the meeting of European young people, the Danube cities and regions shall make an important contribution to European integration and particularly to the Danube cooperation process with fixed structures associated with our cities and regions, by creating an integrated European Danube region from the Black Forest to the Black Sea.

**Mission**

The representatives of the Danube states and regions support the development of a European Union strategy for the Danube area which fully embraces the specific requirements of this area and includes existing institutions, organizations, federations

and networks in the Danube region, and for this reason ask that the European Institutions themselves clearly acknowledge the Danube area as a single development and cooperation region.

## **Strategic Approach**

The **Council of Danube Cities and Regions**, founded in Budapest on 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2009, will represent the interests of its members to the European Institutions such as: the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the EU Committee of the Regions and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) for the South Eastern Europe, being a bridge that links European, regional and local institutions to the representatives of the civil society.

Widely accepted by the European Institutions, the **Council** shall become a dialog partner that will develop and adopt a Plan of Action and specific governance instruments to contribute to the successful implementation of the Danube Strategy at a macro-regional level, in the interest of the European Union and Europe's as a whole.

## **Program of Priorities**

A Program of Priorities will be elaborated and adopted by the Council of Danube Cities and Regions following the final declaration of the College of Commissioners on December 8<sup>th</sup> 2010 regarding the European Strategy for the Danube Region. The Strategy will comprise two main documents: the Communication from the European Commission to the other institutions, which will set the scene and provide the overall framework for the future Strategy, and an Action Plan which will be the main "roadmap" for the work in the years to come and will list concrete actions and proposals to turn words into action

Following the guidelines of the 7 Flagship Initiatives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Program of Priorities listed below is just a first document to be finalized after the Declaration on the Danube Strategy is made public on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The Council will adopt the necessary structures to implement the above program and permanent or ad-hoc committees will be established to turn priorities into reality.

The Priorities of this Plan are as follows:

- Danube Innovation Union – New Industrial Technology Transfer Platforms
- Danube Youth on the Move
- Danube Digital Agenda

- Danube Food and Health Alliance
  - Food for Life Platform
  - Healthy Ageing Platform
- Danube Tourism Observatory
- Danube Environment and Sustainable Energy Platform
- Danube Infrastructure Development and Connectivity Platform
- Danube Cultural Heritage and Social Cohesion Initiative
  - Focus on the Civil Society participation in the Strategy for the Danube region
  - Forge the New European Citizen Identity
- Danube Business Alliance – Competitiveness / Cooperation / Cohesion Centers

\*The above list is non-exhaustive and will be amended and up-dated upon consultation with all stakeholders concerned.

## **Strategic Partnership and Alliances**

### **External Links**

In order to implement the Program of Priorities and the Flagship Projects, the Council of Danube Cities and Regions will rely on existing strategic partnerships and alliances or will establish new links whenever necessary. These partnerships are related, on one hand, to the European Union institutions, agencies and legal entities belonging to the Member States and agreed by the European Union and on the other hand, to non-governmental institutions belonging to the civil society:

- **European Institutions** – European Commission, European Parliament, Council of Europe, the EU Committee of the Region (CoR)
- **Agencies and legal entities belonging to the Member States:**
  - **Danube International Commission** – established in 1969 – Budapest
  - **International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)** – established in 1994 – Wien

- **The Working Community of the Danube Region (ARGE)**- established in 1990 – lower Austria Regional Government
  - **Danube Tourism Commission** – established in 1970 – Wien
  - **Regional Cooperation Council for South Eastern Europe** – established in 2008 – Sarajevo
- **Non-governmental institutions and other legal entities belonging to the civil society**
    - **European Danube Academy**
    - **Danube Rector Conference** – established in 1963
    - **Danube Chamber of Commerce**
    - **Danube Media Network**
    - **Danube Business Alliance**
    - **Danube Tourism Observatory**
    - **Foster Europe – Foundation for Strong European Regions**
    - **Danube MEP Network**

The above statement is to complement and reinforce the official Position of the Council of Danube Cities and Regions on the EU Danube Strategy as stated by the Executive Committee of the Council in April 2010.