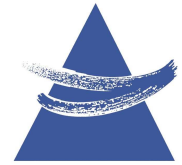


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**Statement of the
WORKING COMMUNITY of the DANUBE REGIONS**

**22nd Conference of Heads of Government
22nd October 2012 in St. Pölten**

**EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
EUROPE'S FUTURE SPACE**

ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT
DONAULÄNDER
PRACOVNÍ SPOLEČENSTVÍ
PODUNAJSKÝCH ZEMÍ
PRACOVNÉ SPOLOČENSTVO
PODUNAJSKÝCH KRAJÍN
DUNAMENTI TARTOMÁNYOK
MUNKAKÖZÖSSÉGE
RADNA ZAJEDNICA
PODUNAVSKIH REGIJA
RADNA ZAJEDNICA
PODUNAVSKIH ZEMALJA
COMUNITATEA DE LUCRU
A STATELOR DUNĂRENE
РАБОТНА ОБШНОСТ
ДУНАВСКИ СТРАНИ
РАБОЧА СПІВПРУЖНІСТЬ
ПРИДУНАЙСЬКИХ КРАЇН

The Governors of the Working Community of the Danube Regions, who, on the occasion of its 22nd Conference at the 22nd October 2012 in St. Pölten under the chairmanship of the province of Lower Austria,

- RECALL the declarations of the 19th Meeting of 29 June 2009 in Linz, the 20th Conference on 17 May 2010 in Vienna, and the declaration of the 21st Conference on 3 October 2011 in Vienna, in which the common will of cooperation for development of the Danube region as a common European heritage and the willingness to make a significant contribution to the strategy were expressed;
- POINT OUT that the Danube Countries, as an association of 43 Danube regions representing about 75 million people in a total of 10 countries along the Danube;
- AWARE of the opportunity that the objectives of the Working Community of the Danube Regions under EUSDR are apparent and need to be used. An essential prerequisite for the success of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, is that it contributes to significant improvements in the quality of life in the Danube region;
- WELCOME the fact that the strategy in the region but also the towns and communities are taken into account and therefore the principle of subsidiarity is obeyed. This is also shown by the fact that the states of Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria and Vienna have been delegated to take responsibility for priority areas within the EUSDR;
- CONSIDERING in the premise of non-creating "new institutions", for the Working Community of the Danube Regions, the oldest regional organization in the Danube region, an important role. It can not only communicate the importance of the EUSDR for the Danube region through their members to the citizens, but also bring the needs of the population into the implementation process. Only if this is successful, the strategy will be successful. We are already doing our part in this;

- WANT TO ENABLE all countries, regions and cities of the Danube area a sustainable development and their residents a life with fair opportunities in adequate personal and social security;
- RECOGNIZE for the European integration within and beyond current EU Member States an added impetus through the new action level "macro-region";
- THANK the Chair of the Working Community, Lower Austria, together with the Assembly of European Regions and the inter-regional associations of regional and local authorities in terms of target 1 -, and target 2 areas to emphasize the added value of "regional money", in order to tackle the economic crisis and to promote economic growth.
- ACKNOWLEDGE the aim of the "St. Pöltner Declaration" is to recognize the "macro-region Danube Region" under the cohesion policy of the EU accordingly;
- CONSIDERING the possibilities of the implementation of the EUSDR the great opportunity to deepen and intensify the cooperation inside the Working Community of the Danube Regions. In our regions the citizens are living to be achieved by the EUSDR. In particular, representatives of the Community already cooperate intensely in the priority areas (PAC)
 - Improve mobility and multimodality (PAC1)
 - Promotion of culture and tourism, the contact between people (PAC3)
 - Conservation of biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soil (PAC6)
 - Development of the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies (PAC7)
 - Improving institutional capacity and cooperation, particularly in the area of innovative urban and regional development (PAC 10)
- CONSIDERING in the improvement of quality of life in the Danube countries, through environmentally friendly mobility on and along the Danube, as a priority. For the purposes of EUSDR, an integrated form of implementation in all areas has to be ensured;
- DECLARE the readiness of the Working Community of the Danube Regions to continue to participate fully through its broad network and many years of working for the Danube Region, which has provided substantial contributions in the development and implementation of the Action Plan, as well as projects in the implementation of EUSDR as reliable partners
- CALL on the working groups of the Danube Countries to define appropriate projects and to develop and promote them accordingly;
- WELCOME initiatives and projects that contributes to the further optimization of the administrations in the Danube region as an essential basis for deeper cooperation and effective implementation of concrete measures on the ground;
- REAFFIRM that the successful implementation of the EU Danube Region Strategy also requires a broad mobilization of the economy, society, science and the media, as well as the total people in the Danube region;

- INDICATE that in addition to the provision of successful projects with visible results, the inclusion of the potential actors of conferences and platforms is an important contribution to the mobilization and communication;
- WELCOME therefore the last set of initiatives of the members of the Working Community of the Danube Regions , such as
 - by the former chair 2010 - 2011, City of Vienna, focused conferences
 - "START ME UP - Communication and Mobilization for the Danube Region Strategy" on 24 and 25 September 2012 in cooperation with the City of Vienna and the Council of Danube Cities and Regions
 - the 21 September 2012 in Vienna conducted "DANUBE DIALOGUE" with the media, universities, and cultural networks to build up a
Cooperation Platform on the intensification of Communication in connection with the EU Danube Strategy
 - by the Presidency 2012 - 2013, Lower Austria, focused conferences
 - "SOIL TO UNDERSTAND" Soil plant in the Danube region, SONDAR Annual Meeting and 11th International Annual Conference floor Alliance of European Cities, counties and local / European Land and Soil Alliance ELSA eV, 31 May to 1 June 2012 in St. Pölten;
 - On 4 July 2012 in St. Pölten Conducted in Youth Conference: "EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION - OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH";
 - The on 5 October 2012 in the Danube University Krems, jointly with the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe conducted conference: EU DANUBE REGION STRATEGY "FOCUSSING ON HUMAN NEEDS"
- UNDERLINE that the Working Community of the Danube Regions cooperates with other networks in the Danube region, such as the "Intergroup Danube" in the Committee of the Regions (CoR), the Assembly of European Regions (AER), the International Tourist Commission "The Danube" in the sense of EUSDR;
- CONFIRM that the in 2009 started cooperation between the Working Community of the Danube Regions and the Council of Danube Cities and Regions must be further developed;
- EMPHASIZE that these collaborations, the basic idea of the EUSDR, to achieve added value to the development of this important European region through targeted cooperation in specific areas, the cooperation of the municipalities, cities and regions as well as their capacity solution with regard to the EU Danube Strategy is thus given the appropriate priority;
- REQUESTS the Chair Lower Austria, to forward this declaration to all relevant bodies with a request for consideration.