



VIER MOTOREN FÜR EUROPA
QUATRE MOTORS PER A EUROPA
QUATTRO MOTORI PER L'EUROPA
QUATRE MOTEURS POUR L'EUROPE

**FINAL DECLARATION OF THE FOUR MOTORS FOR EUROPE
NOVI SAD, AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA, REPUBLIC OF SERBIA,
1 JULY 2013**

Aware of the basic goals and values of the European Union as they are stipulated in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union and in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights the Four Motors for Europe hereby draw up the following joint final declaration today in Novi Sad, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Republic of Serbia:

- They acknowledge the achievements of the European integration policy that has led to peace, stability and economic advantages. They support further progress for more solidarity in Europe as part of a European growth strategy, also having regard for the implementation of the five main headline targets of the EU 2020 strategy. This shall also establish the conditions for the EU to be able to compete in global competition with other global economic centres. This primarily concerns promoting employment, improving conditions for innovations, research and development, realising climate and energy aims, improving the level of education and promoting social integration, particularly creating employment opportunities for groups of the population who are excluded in the labour market.
- They recognise that the geographical equilibrium of the EU has moved eastwards as a result of the last accessions to the EU. Therefore, the Four Motors regions welcome the initiatives undertaken by the Federal State of Baden-Wuerttemberg to connect the cooperation of the Four Motors with the Danube Region and to

include these initiatives in the EU macro strategy for the Danube Region.

- They point out the extensive political, economic and social upheavals and reforms that have taken place in this area. At the same time, the Four Motors regions recognise the advancements that have been achieved since then as regards democracy, constitutional legality and good governance, as well as the advancements in protecting human and minority rights. In doing so they support advancements as well as specific measures to improve the regulatory framework conditions for companies, particularly conditions that eliminate bureaucratic and international barriers and constraints and that lead to the development of competitive structures.
- They commit to strengthening the skills of the regions into a "Europe of the Regions" and attach utmost importance to territorial cooperation on a regional and local level in the implementation of the Danube Strategy as well as in the development and deployment of other macrostrategies ongoing, particularly those of direct interest for the Four Motors (Alpine, Mediterranean). In doing so, they will have in mind the fundamental concerns that this process allows the European principles of subsidiarity, solidarity and civic participation as well as responsible good governance to be strengthened.
- They emphasise the significance of the Southeast Danube Region as an important interface between EU member states, future candidate countries and states that are involved in the European Neighbourhood Policy.
- They support the basic goals of the EU Danube Strategy in order to enhance and dynamize the region economically.

- They support the four key areas of the Danube Strategy – infrastructure, environmental protection, creating prosperity and employment, good governance and security – as well as of their eleven priority areas as key strategic sectors in order to contribute to the development of the whole Danube Region. They emphasise the significance of cooperation in the region in terms of EU programmes as part of the cohesion policy, pre-accession programmes of the EU as well as the instruments of the European Neighbourhood Policy so that the EU 2020 headline targets can also be used for intelligent, sustainable and integrative growth in this region.
- The Four Motors regions contribute to the areas of technology transfer, vocational training, cluster development, environmental technology, corporate learning as well as boosting urban and rural areas and in doing so they contribute their experiences, of "competitiveness of enterprises including cluster development", and of "developing the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies".
- They recognise that EU macro strategies are suitable instruments to a large extent to identify the needs of local and regional stakeholders, to include these needs in planning and further development as part of real multi-level governance. They are convinced interregional cooperation within macro regional strategies can further enhance coordination of existing policies and the effectiveness in the use of the available economic, social, ecological and cultural potential and of the funds allocated to the involved areas. They therefore support advanced patterns of interregional alliances eventually contributing to the overall EU 2020 objectives.
- They point out that they are involved in the development and implementation of macro strategies within their geographical references and are connected with each other as a result of these references (Alpine strategy, Mediterranean area). The Four Motors regions express their interest in getting to know each of the strategic

approaches, institutional structures and instruments and in improving through exchanging experiences. At the same time, they are aware of the important role of the Danube Region as a link between Western and Southeastern Europe which is characterised by impressive diversity and dynamics in economics, society, science and culture.

- They emphasise the particular importance that cross-border cooperation has as a significant element of understanding and reconciliation internationally. They refer to the opportunities of using the potential of the border regions more effectively and of overcoming the disadvantages of border areas at Europe's periphery. They emphasise the particular role that economics, knowledge, culture and social institutions have in cross-border cooperation. The Four Motors regions point out their willingness to include their experience in developing good neighbourly cross-border cooperation networks.
- They express their intention, as part of the joint mission and workshops, to exchange information with the Danube Region about innovation, the environment, renewable energy, waste management, biomass, education and science, networking of universities, cross-border cooperation and inclusion of civil society, and, where possible, to support and aim for joint development plans and cross-border networks and development partnerships, even on a local level. The Four Motors regions will evaluate how they can contribute to the eleven priority areas of the Danube Strategy in relation to projects.
- The Four Motors thank the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina for preparing and organising this conference. They encourage actors from the economy and civil society of these regions to engage in the Danube Strategy and to participate in events, projects and tenders.

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