

Final Declaration by the First Danube Parliamentarian Conference 11 – 12 July 2013 in Ulm, Germany

Parliamentarians from countries in the Danube Region who convened on 11 – 12 July 2013 in Ulm, Germany

1. have as their shared objective to sustainably develop the Danube Region in the spirit of goodwill among neighbours and in cultural diversity and, based on the new and fair basic principles of European integration, to reinforce connections between Member States and enter into new partnerships;
2. welcome collaboration as partners in the Danube Region as part of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region and the objectives related to it of strengthening the Danube Region, building prosperity, improving transport links to the Region, preserving the cultural heritage and protecting the environment;
3. consider it their shared objective to stay closely involved and support the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region on the part of the national and regional parliaments in the Danube Region as well as contribute to implementation of the Strategy by carrying on regular exchange of ideas and experience;
4. are of the opinion that the prerequisites for success of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region are lasting peace, democratic conditions, the rule of law, responsible governance, fighting corruption, education, health and social justice in the Danube Region. The binding fundamental values for coexistence are served in this respect by maintaining human rights, with particular attention to the rights of minorities, various indigenous groups and religions, and the different sexes. Corruption and human trafficking are incompatible with these values and must be jointly combatted. The implementation of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region will contribute to achieving these objectives;
5. welcome the harmonization of measures and the developments in the countries within the Danube Region as well as the priorities of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region which are conducive to stability in the region, cultural cooperation and economic competitiveness.

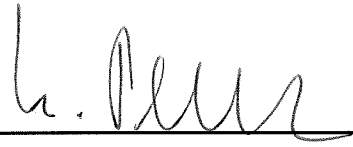
6. emphasise that citizens should be intensively involved in implementing the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region. The national and regional parliaments and their representatives in the Danube Region wish to act as mediators between the concerns of citizens and the governments and administrations which implement the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region. In this context, it is particularly useful to mobilize the parliamentarians to increase awareness among their own constituency and to improve relations among citizens and governments as well as local and national administrative structures;
7. appeal to governments to inform citizens about the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region more intensively. This calls for proactive public relations work and making the necessary resources available for this purpose. In particular, information should be disseminated more intensively about specific projects citizens can directly benefit from within the framework of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region. This would increase public support of the Strategy. The objective of building prosperity in the Danube Region, the basis of which is small- to medium-sized enterprises, should be assigned special importance in the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region;
8. recognize that under the new European circumstances the macro-regions provide a suitable response to the current financial and business crisis. The European Union Strategy for the Danube Region can and should contribute to securing democratic development and stability;
9. are of the opinion that the objectives of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region must be made part of the European Union grants programmes for 2014 to 2020, and will encourage the use of European funding to implement the objectives of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region. The basic principles of good governance must be strictly observed as part of the use of appropriations. Funding should be used for further strengthening of economic and social cohesion, promotion of tourism, protection of the environment, combatting damage to the environment, preserving and encouraging mutual awareness of cultural values, reinforcing effective democratic structures, and supporting efficient administrative action, as well as for improving connections of the Danube Region.

10. are convinced that a successful implementation of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region will contribute to the prosperity as well as further economic and social development of the countries in the Danube Region;

11. are of the opinion that a Danube Parliamentary Conference should meet at regular intervals so that national and regional parliaments in countries along the Danube can remain closely involved in the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region and give voice to the concerns of citizens in the Danube Region regarding on-going development and implementation of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region. Regular exchange among the Danube Region parliaments would also offer the possibility of promoting transparent and democratic decision-making structures and processes in the Danube Region. Attention should be given to a cost-efficient, streamlined work structure when establishing a permanent Danube Parliamentary Conference.

12 July 2013

Austria



Ing. Johann Penz
President of Parliament
Lower Austria

Bosnia and Herzegovina

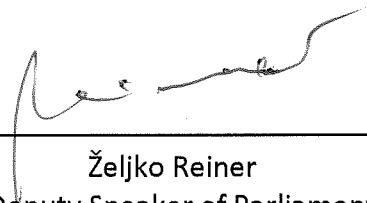
Milorad Živković
First Deputy Speaker of the
House of Representatives

Bulgaria



Mihail Mikov
Chairman of the National Assembly

Croatia



Željko Reiner
Deputy Speaker of Parliament

Germany

Baden-Württemberg



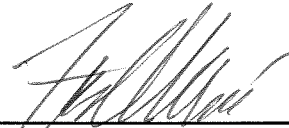
Guido Wolf MdL
President of Parliament

Bavaria



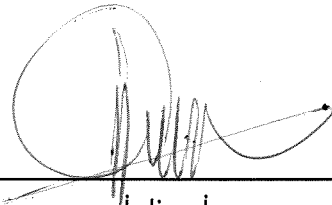
Prof. Ursula Männle MdL
Chairperson of the Federal and
European Affairs Committee

Hungary



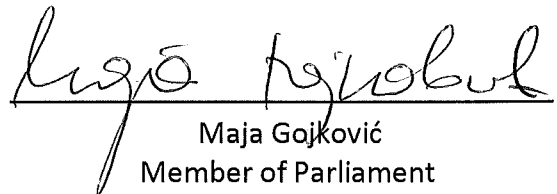
István Jakab
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Romania



Iulian Iancu
Chairman of the Committee
for Industries and Services
Chamber of Deputies

Serbia



Maja Gojković
Member of Parliament

Slovenia



Jožef Horvat
Chairman of the European
Affairs Committee

Ukraine



Sergiy Grynevetskyi
Member of Parliament