



Declaration of the Bucharest Summit on Danube (Bucharest, 8th November 2010)

We, the representatives of the Governments of Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia

Welcoming the decision of the European Council taken at its meeting on June 17-18, 2009, to invite the Commission to prepare an EU Strategy for the Danube region before the end of 2010;

Having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 21 January 2010 on a European Strategy for the Danube Region and the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions of October 2009— “An EU strategy for the Danube area”;

Emphasizing the efforts for assuring the recognition of the increasing role of the Danube region in supporting actions and objectives with cross-border relevance;

Reiterating that the EU Strategy for the Danube region is and should be based also in the next programming period on a coordinated approach and aims at a more efficient use of existing EU instruments and funds, as well as other existing resources and financial instruments;

Emphasizing that the EU Strategy for the Danube region will serve the goal of increasing prosperity, security and peace for the peoples of the Danube region;

Bearing in mind the importance of having realistic and visible actions developed under the EU Strategy for the Danube region;

Reconfirming the importance of strengthening the cooperation between all the Member States of the Danube Region and the non-EU Member States concerned;

Acknowledging the role of the European Commission along with the Member states role in monitoring the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and assuring a transparent and coordinated implementation of the Strategy;

Recognizing the relevance of the consensus obtained/reached in the “Final Declaration of the Danube Summit on 6th May 2009 in Ulm” and in the “Budapest Declaration on Danube Summit on 25th February 2010” ;

Reaffirm:

- our *strong commitment* towards finalization, adoption and implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region;
- the importance of the EU Strategy for the Danube region for the improvement of sustainable transport and energy connectivity, protection of the environment, preservation of water resources and risk management, reinforcing the socio-economic and human development and strengthening the institutional capacity in the region;
- our commitment to ensure that programs initiated and endorsed by the participating countries for sustaining the regional initiatives will be interconnected and will provide a coherent assessment of the project implementation and will seek for establishing an appropriate framework for the necessary technical assistance;
- the necessity of making the programs under the Strategy's objectives as additional tools for achieving the Europe 2020 Strategy goals;

- the support for a strengthened cooperation with non-EU Member States of the region for a broader and coherent achievement and implementation of the European principles and values;
- the commitment towards making the Strategy an effective instrument which will contribute to the successful implementation of Europe 2020 Strategy and to the European economic and financial recovery and to the maintaining the EU's growth potential in the long-run;
 - the invitation addressed to the International Financial Institutions to contribute to the implementation of the projects of the Strategy Action Plan by their specific financial instruments and technical assistance;
 - the necessity to facilitate the reinforcement of territorial cooperation, building strongly on the experience of the existing European Territorial Cooperation.
 - the better alignment of the structural and cohesion funds still available in the Danube region, as well as of Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance and European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument - Cross Border Cooperation funds available for the programs developed in the third countries;
 - the importance of establishing an appropriate cooperation between the Priority Area Coordinators and the European Commission, as well as with national, regional and local authorities Member States of the Danube Region and the non-EU Member States concerned;
 - our resolve to finding together the most appropriate means of cooperation and coordination in the context of high level political events related to the EUSDR;
 - the facilitating role of the European Commission in providing strategic coordination, support and advice for the implementation of the Strategy;
 - the invitation addressed to *all EU Member States* to be part of the implementation of the Strategy.

This Declaration is open for endorsement by the non-EU riparian States of the EU Strategy on the Danube region, namely Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine. The list of the countries joining to the Declaration will be attached in the Annex which will make an integral part of the present declaration.

Bucharest, 8th November 2010