

# Schlussklärung des Donaugipfels am 6. Mai 2009 in Ulm



Baden-Württemberg

Die Donau - Fluss der europäischen Zukunft  
The Danube - River of the European Future

## Donaugipfel Ulm Ulm Danube Summit 06.05.2009



donau.büro.ulm

Stadt Ulm

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## Final declaration of the Danube Summit on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009 in Ulm

## **Final declaration of the Danube Summit on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009 in Ulm**

### **Preamble**

According to the agreement on cooperation for the protection of the Danube Region and the sustainable use of the Danube (Danube Protection Agreement, 29<sup>th</sup> June 1994), the Danube Region incorporates fourteen states, eight of which are European Union member states. With more than 260 million inhabitants, great economic and scientific dynamism and cultural variety, the neighbouring states of the Danube represent an important area in Europe with strong potential.

As a “link” between West and South East Europe, the Danube Region unites old and new democracies, market economies and living and cultural areas. At the same time it also symbolizes the successful surmounting of European internal and external frontiers. The states of the Danube Region have made a major contribution towards ensuring that the profound transitions of the years 1989/90 have subsequently lead to a peaceful and successful unification of Europe. The Danube Region symbolises the successful incorporation of these states into the European family.

For the further integration of the Danube Region into the European family, the further development of opportunities for young people to meet each other and experience each other's cultures is of essential importance. With its economic and scientific dynamism and its rich culture, the Danube Region is today a strong European region of great influence.

The continued favourable development of this region does, nevertheless, require that this region of trans-national co-operation, which is rich in opportunities, is in future taken into consideration more strongly on a European level, in particular by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Committee of Regions.

The government representatives who have travelled to Ulm would like to thank in particular the host state of Baden-Württemberg and the cities of Ulm and Neu-Ulm for their initiative towards a joint Danube cooperation. The Danube Conference, held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2008 in the representation of the State Baden-Württemberg to the European Union in Brussels, revealed that many highly promising, additional co-operations could be realised, particularly in the areas of infrastructure, commerce and trade, as well as education, innovation, the environment and culture. In the light of the economic as well as the ecological factors, great importance must be attached to the development of the Danube as a European waterway and transport route for stimulation of the economy. Through the further extension of the cooperation, small and medium-sized companies in this region in particular can benefit even more from the common points of contact. A central role must also be allocated to cultural cooperation and the joint development of society. These areas sustain additional benefits for the wider European Union.

Against this background, the EU strategy for the Danube Region, announced by the European Commission at the 2008 Danube Conference, is of pioneering importance. It can offer the opportunity to position the Danube Region, alongside the northern dimension / Baltic Sea co-operation, as a further trans-national region of European co-operation.

An EU strategy for the Danube Region could sustainably develop the territorial cohesion of this European macro-region, region, in turn creating an example at the European level of how the concept of territorial cohesion can be turned into reality. Its realisation presupposes a networking of the existing international and interregional institutions, networks and cooperations directed at exploiting this potential. It also embraces a better interlocking of the local, regional and national levels with the European institutions in Brussels. It further could complement the concept of the European Council on the Black Sea synergy, the Eastern Partnership, on bilateral initiatives between member states of the EU and between these and third-party states and the general cohesion policy of the European Union.

In continuation, augmentation and extension of the previous Danube Summits of Ulm on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2001, Melk on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2001, Esztergom on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2002, Passau on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2003 and Stuttgart on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2005,

with regard to preparatory work of the European Commission on an EU strategy for the Danube Region,

in continuation of the previous work of the Committee of the Regions, in particular through the foundation of the cross-party group of the “Danube Region”, the work an initiative report for an EU strategy for the Danube Region,

taking into consideration the declaration of the European Council on the Eastern Partnership of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and the communication of the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council of 11<sup>th</sup> April 2007 on the Black Sea synergy, as well as the relevant statements of the European Parliament and the Council in this regard,

in continuation of the successful work of the various corporations, networks and institutions which are active at the level of the European Union and at international, national, inter-regional, regional and local level, and through social, scientific and charitable supporters in and for the Danube Region,

in continuation of the results of the Danube Conference, held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2008 in the representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union in Brussels,

the assembled delegations of the Danube neighbouring states and regions have agreed on the following:

## **Final declaration of the Ulm Danube Summit of 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

The representatives of the states and regions of the Danube  
assembled on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009 in Ulm

1. support the development of an EU strategy for the Danube Region, within the scope of their institutional competence and capabilities, and view this as an exceptionally positive and encouraging signal from the European Union,
2. request that the heads of state and government of all the states and regions of the Danube, within the scope of their institutional competence and capabilities, support an EU strategy in the conclusions of the European Council, which caters for the specific requirements of this region, and includes the existing institutions, organisations, associations and networks in the Danube Region,
3. request that the European institutions acknowledge the Danube Region as a region of European cooperation and development,
4. taking into consideration the Lisbon strategy, which is also aimed at sustainable development, see important starting points, particularly in trans-European transport connections, innovative areas of action as well as economic and ecological fields, for the long term improvement of living conditions of the people in this region. This applies in particular with regard to overcoming the effects of the current economic crisis. In this respect, a central role should be allocated in particular to the greater support of small and medium-sized enterprises, cross-border and inter-communal cooperation, exchange at the administrative level and the joint further development of the society,
5. advocate that the European Union, with regard to the strengthening of the territorial, economic and social cohesion, structures its programmes in the new funding period from 2014 in a way which meets the special geographical and political requirements and goals of the Danube cooperation, in particular in the strategic political areas of energy and the environment, transport and infrastructure, professional training and mobility, research and innovation, arts and cultural activities as well as sustainable economic activity and tourism, and simultaneously support projects and measures aimed at sustainably improving the water quality of the Danube and its tributaries.
6. wish to strengthen bilateral cooperation amongst each other.



Günther H. Oettinger MdL  
Minister President of the  
State of Baden-Württemberg



Emilia Müller  
State Minister for Federal and European  
Affairs of the Free State of Bavaria



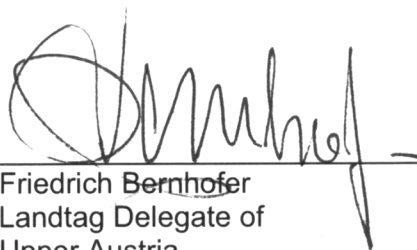
Dr. Meglena Pughchieva  
Deputy Prime Minister of the  
Republic of Bulgaria



Maja Vrtaric  
State Secretary in the Ministry for  
Foreign Affairs and European Integration  
of the Republic of Croatia



Peter de Martin  
Director of the Working Community  
of Danube states, State  
Government of Lower Austria



Friedrich Bernhofer  
Landtag Delegate of  
Upper Austria



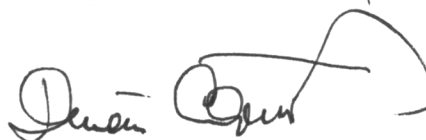
Dr. Christian Prosl,  
Ambassador of the Republic of Austria  
to Germany



Vasile Blaga  
Minister for Regional Development and  
Housing of Romania



Božidar Djelić  
Deputy Prime Minister  
of the Republic of Serbia



Dr. Dušan Čaplovič  
Deputy Prime Minister of  
the Republic of Slovakia



Prof. Péter Balázs  
Foreign Minister of the Republic  
of Hungary



Rudolf Schicker  
City Councillor of the State of Vienna