

Final Declaration of the IVth European Conference of the Danube Cities and Regions in Budapest on 11th June 2009

- In the sense of the European principle "the Europe of the future is a Europe of cities and regions" and with regard to the significance of the cities and regions along the Danube, in which European identity first developed;
- in consideration of the "Ulm Declaration" of 12th July 2008, which determined: "With our common projects in culture, science, education, ecology and economy and the meeting of our young people, we, the Danube cities and regions, make an important contribution to European integration and particularly to the Danube cooperation process with fixed structures associated with our cities and regions";
- With reference to the final declaration of the Danube summit in Ulm on 6 May 2009, in which the representatives of the Danube states and regions "support the development of a European Union strategy for the Danube area which fully embraces the specific requirements of this area and includes existing institutions, organizations, federations and networks in the Danube region," and for this reason "ask that the European Institutions themselves clearly acknowledge the Danube area as a single development and cooperation region";
- in the spirit of the final declarations of the European conferences of the Danube cities and regions in Ulm 2003, Novi Sad 2005 and Vidin 2007, where it was declared: "Democracy, tolerance, humanism, respecting religious freedom and unconditional will, opposing any form of nationalism and extremism, are the foundations of our mutual development"

the cities and regions represented here in Budapest found here a **Council of Danube Cities and Regions**, which will represent their interests to European institutions, such as the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the EU Committee of the Regions and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) for South Eastern Europe, and which represents a concrete initiative to create an integrated European Danube region from the Black Forest to the Black Sea.

The council is made up of representatives from the Danube cities and regions and representatives of the Donaübüros (Danube offices).

Projects

The cities and regions represented in Budapest agree to continue or develop joint projects in the following areas:

- **Youth meetings**
 - Continuing and expanding the "Tolerance Camps" for young Europeans from the Danube countries
- **Inter-regional and inter-municipal cooperation**
 - Know-how transfer and training of municipal professionals by developing joint learning and exchange programmes.
- **Economy and infrastructure**
 - Supporting inter-regional transport planning and joint interest representation (Paris - Budapest highway, European transport corridor)
 - Exchange of experience in the area of municipal and regional economic development
- **Science and training**
 - Setting up a joint European Danube Academy as a platform for cooperation in culture and science
 - Expanding cooperation in the area of professional training
- **Environment**
 - Developing joint projects to improve water quality in the Danube and its tributaries
 - Know-how transfer for municipal and regional water/waste water and waste disposal companies
 - Developing a flood early warning system
- **Culture**
 - Setting up a network of cultural festivals along the Danube through co-productions and artist exchanges
- **Tourism**
 - Planning the cycle track along the Danube to the Delta as a European model project for environmental and cultural tourism

Committee



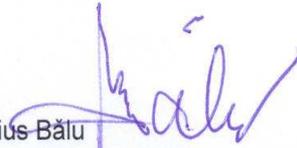
Ivo Gönner
Lord Mayor of the City of Ulm



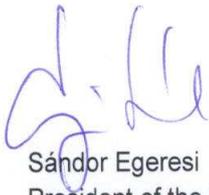
Dr. Gábor Demszky
Lord Mayor of the City of Budapest



Dr. Michael Häupl
Mayor of the City of Vienna



Marius Bălu
President of the Mehedinti district



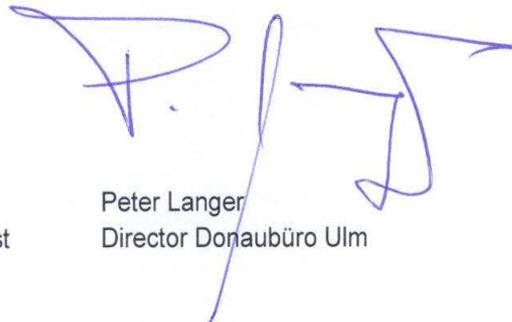
Sándor Egeresi
President of the Parliament of AP Vojvodina,
Danube Office Novi Sad



Rumen Vidov
Mayor of the City of Vidin,
Danube Office Vidin



Peter Gauder
Director of Studio Metropolitana, Budapest
Danube Office Budapest



Peter Langer
Director Donaubüro Ulm