Dear Sir or Madam,

The mission taking place as part of the presidency of Baden-Württemberg is leading the Four Motors for Europe to the centre of the Southeast Danube Region for two reasons: Firstly, by staging a political conference we aim to build a bridge from our long-standing partnership in Western Europe to a new partnership in the Southeast Donau region. Secondly, we intend to open up new perspectives to strengthen the “Europe of Regions” and to exchange information on how interregional cooperation works in practice.

The question is how competitiveness and innovative drive in the Danube Region can be strengthened by the experiences of the Four Motors regions. A company networking event, for instance, can bring companies from the regions together. Additionally, successful models of cross-border cooperation have been developed at the Rhine, Lake Constance and in the Four Motors regions. We want to present these models in the Southeast Danube Region, whose history has been a troubled one up until recent times.

Overcoming boundaries, building new bridges - for the conference in Novi Sad at the EXIT Festival due to be held in Novi Sad!

You will see that Vojvodina, populated by 26 nations, with six languages in the official use, is the most diverse European Region. It is what we have inherited, are proud of and what we cherish with particular care. In terms of economy, Vojvodina is a well-developed region, whose development potentials are most evident in agribusiness, pharmaceutical, electro-mechanical and automotive industry and information and communication technologies. The specified potentials of Vojvodina would not be as significant without the University of Novi Sad and the developed science sector as partners in the economy.

By organising the “Mission of Four Motors for Europe within the Framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region”, we initiated the establishment of the efficient new relations between Baden-Württemberg, Lombardy, Catalonia and Rhône-Alpes, as the leaders among European regions on the one, and AP Vojvodina and counties from Hungary, Croatia and Romania on the other hand. History has taught us that institutional networking often result in an overall economic development, which is why we are committed to cooperation and development of communities capable of producing innovative and concrete solutions to the benefit of all.

Sincerely,

Peter Friedrich
Minister for the German Federal Council, Europe and International Affairs

Respectfully,

Bojan Pajić, SJD
President of the AP Vojvodina Government

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear guests, please feel welcome!

This encounter in Novi Sad could, without exaggeration, be referred to as a historical one: Vojvodina, which is itself a “Europe in a nutshell”, connecting for centuries what is best in all the nations living in it. With help from a variety of institutions, we have to host such a significant event, to be an interlocutor and participant in strengthening the EUROPE OF REGIONS.

You will see that Vojvodina, populated by 26 nations, with six languages in the official use, is the most diverse European Region. It is what we have inherited, are proud of and what we cherish with particular care. In terms of economy, Vojvodina is a well-developed region, whose development potentials are most evident in agribusiness, pharmaceutical, electro-mechanical and automotive industry and information and communication technologies. The specified potentials of Vojvodina would not be as significant without the University of Novi Sad and the developed science sector as partners in the economy.

By organising the “Mission of Four Motors for Europe within the Framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region”, we initiated the establishment of the efficient new relations between Baden-Württemberg, Lombardy, Catalonia and Rhône-Alpes, as the leaders among European regions on the one, and AP Vojvodina and counties from Hungary, Croatia and Romania on the other hand. History has taught us that institutional networking often result in an overall economic development, which is why we are committed to cooperation and development of communities capable of producing innovative and concrete solutions to the benefit of all.

Sincerely,

Peter Friedrich
Minister for the German Federal Council, Europe and International Affairs

Respectfully,

Bojan Pajić, SJD
President of the AP Vojvodina Government

Monday | 01 July 2013

14:30
Political opening event in the Governmental Hall of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina
The Cooperation of the Regions in the Strategy for the Danube Region

Address by the Prime Minister of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Mr Bojan Pajić and the President of the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Mr Ivan Puzátor

Address and introduction to the Four Motors mission from the perspective of Baden-Württemberg by Minister Peter Friedrich

Key note speech:
Mr Vincent Defert, Ambassador, Head of Delegation of the European Union in the Republic of Serbia

Address and introduction of the Four Motors regions:
Mr Mario Metazzoli, Minister for Industrial Activities, Research and Innovation of the Lombardy
Mr Gérard Perrissin-Fabert, President of the Commission Europe, International Relations and Solidarity of the Regional Assembly of Rhone-Alps Region
Ms Mar Ortega Puetzeh, Head of the Delegation of the Government of Catalon to Germany, Catalon

15:00 Coffee break

16:15 Moderated discussion by the participating regions
Where does the EU stand today? The role of the Danube Strategy and the Cooperation of the Regions
Moderation: Daniela Schlitz, Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationalen Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Belgrad

Representatives of the Four motors and Autonomous Province of Vojvodina with the Representatives of the neighboring regions:
Mr Calin Dobra, Vice-president of the Timiș County Council, ROU
Mr Lele Ivan, Vice-president of the Vukovar-Srijem County Council, HRV
Ms Anna Magyar, President of the Csongrád County, HUN
Mr Gábor Bányai, President of the Bács-Kiskun County, HUN
Mr Gábor Bányai, President of the Baja-Kiskun County, HUN
Mr Bala Balá, member of the Assembly of Baranya County, HUN
Mr Dragan Vulin, Deputy president of the Osijek-Baranja County, CRO
Mr Gligorij Curić, Deputy president of the Vukovar-Srijem County, CRO

17:45 Keynote Speech, Mr Erhard Busek The macroregional strategy for the Danube region – development and first conclusions
Former Vice-Chancellor of Austria, former Special Co-coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

18:05 Summary and conclusions
Minister Peter Friedrich, Baden-Württemberg
Adoption of a final declaration and Joint Communication between the Four Motors of Europe and the AP Vojvodina

In Novi Sad, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina / Republic of Serbia
from 30 June to 3 July 2013

Forword

Programme
PILLAR 1: REGIONAL INNOVATION STRATEGIES FOR SMART SPECIALISATION (RIS 3)
Venue: University of Novi Sad, Tg. Došitaia Obradovica 5, Novi Sad
Chair: Prof. Miroslav Veskovsk, PhD, Policy area Coordinator PAC 7, to develop the Knowledge Society - research, education and ICT of the Danube Strategy
Morning session: sharing experiences - regional innovation strategies and territorial co-operation
Key areas: private sector development, Innovation, strengthening regional assets, SME development, cluster formation, technology transfer systems, Business environment, support-systems
09:00 Welcome address: Sharing Experience: The European Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
• Prof. Miroslav Veskovsk
• Dr. Hans-Peter Hendtlass, European Strategy for the Danube Region, Priority Strategy Coordinator PAC 7, Competiveness and Cluster Policy
09:15 Opening Address EU Smart specialisation (RIS3): A Key-element in the European Regional Policy
• Dr. Aleš Grumus, European Commission DG JRC, Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS)
Knowledge for Growth (Seville, Spain)
09:30 Lessons learnt from the development of RIS3 strategies: Strategies for socio-economic transformation: Good practices from EU-Danube Regions
• Romania: Ms Raluca Cibu-Buzuc, Director of the Regional Policy and Internationalization Directorate, West Regional Development Agency, West Region
• Hungary: Mr Tamás Gulyás, Regional Expert, Regional Innovation Agency of South Great Plain Association of Public Utility
09:50 Strategies of innovation leaders: Examples from the Four Motor Regions
• Catalonia: N.N.
• Rhône Alpes: N.N.
• Lombardy: Ms Roberta Negriolli, Regione Lombardia
• Alpine-Space: Mr Ramon Pinós, Generalitat of Catalunya
10:10 First comments, remarks and observations: Welcome and introduction
• Mr Freek Janmaat, Head of European integration and economic section of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia
• Mr Aleksandar Stojkov, CEO Vojvodina Investment Promotion (VIP)
10:30 Welcome and introduction
• Mr Predrag Novokv, Director of European Affairs Fund- Autonomus Province of Vojvodina
• Mr Branislav Bugarski, Provincial Secretary for Interregional Cooperation and Local Self-governance of the Province Vojvodina
10:45 Challenges in developing cross-border cooperation*”
• Mr Josipa Frpić, M.D., President of the Euro-Institute (Kief, Baden-Württemberg)
10:55 Building the Triborder Metropolitan Region of the Upper-Rhine Mr Johann Calauhn (secretary Upper-Rhine conference)
11:00 Coffee break
11:20 Cross-border cooperation between Annemesse and Geneva Ms Catherine Vermès, Conseil Regional Rhône-Alpes
11:25 Round table/discussions with experts from the 4 Motors and the Danube region and all participants: success factors and lessons learned
PILLAR 2: INTERREGIONAL B2B EVENT WITH 4 MOTORS FOR EUROPE Venue: Master Congress Center, Novi Sad Fair
09:30 Welcome speeches
• Mr Miroslav Vasin, Member of the Government of AP Vojvodina and Provincial Secretary for economy, employment and gender equality
• Prof. Milan Stojkoski, CEO of Vojvodina Investment Promotion
• Mr Andreas Pflister, Project Manager for International Business Cooperation, BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG INTERNATIONAL
09:45 Economic aspects of Serbia’s EU Integration Mr Freki Jarmann, Head of European integration and economic section of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia
10:15 The region of Vojvodina, its economy and business opportunities Mr Aleksandar Stojkov, CEO Vojvodina Investment Promotion (VIP)
Followed by B2B meetings between companies 13:17
13:17 Lunch break
14:00 Cross-border cooperation in South East Europe: regional coopera- tion perspectives from the Province Vojvodina Ms Ana Martinović, European Affairs Fund-Autonomus Province of Vojvodina
14:25 Supporting capacity-building in the Danube region: Two project examples supported by the Land of Baden-Württemberg Gaining with training: Mr Florian Setzmann, State Government Baden-Württemberg, DANTE 4, Mr Sebastian Rihm, Euro-Institut on Danube
15:05 The work of the European house of Vukovar Ms Slajdana Tribun
15:30 The importance of cultural cooperation for the Danube Strategy Mr Cristian Ermia Ghiha, Priority Area 3 Coordinator on Culture of the European Strategy for the Danube Region, Ministry of Culture Romania
16:05 Coffee break
16:30 The Danube network of local and regional authorities Ms Sabine Meigel, Donauunion Ulm
17:00 Cooperation in the social sector and with local and regional authorities Ms Sabine Meigel, Donauunion Ulm
17:20 Round table/discussions with experts from the 4 Motors and the Da- nube region and all participants: success factors and lessons learned
Wednesday | 03 July 2013
Topic 3 Workshop: developing joint projects and networks Moderation: Ms Anne Thevenet, Deputy Director, Euro-Institut
09:30 Presentation of two project examples developed within the con- text of Gaining with training: The Supernatural project, Mr Srdjan Stankovic - The Lamps Foundation, Mr Zsolt Farkas
10:15 3 Interactive marketplaces for projects and ideas Market place 1: Mr Florian Setzmann; EU-Fund opportunities Mr Matthias Holzer: Danube Strategy support mechanisms Market place 2: Mr Sebastian Rihm: Developing good project-propo- sals & Anne Thevenet: Specifics of cross-border projects
12:30 Discussion with participants: success factors for improving civil-society involvement in the Danube Strategy
13:30 Lunch break - Afternoon: Cultural programme / Sight Visits (Donauan- del project)
Organisation/concept: Pilar 1 and 2: Michael Gerner, Ministerium für Finan- zen und Wirtschaft Baden-Württemberg (Michael Gerner@mfw.bwl.de, Tel: 0049 711 123 2179)
Organisation/concept: Pilar 3: Matthias Holzer, Staatssekretarius, Ministerium Baden-Württemberg (Matthias.Holzer@bwl.bm.de, Tel: 0049 711 2153 432)