



### **Draft declaration of the EA group**

## ***THE DANUBE DELTA – A COMMON EUROPEAN HERITAGE***

### ***TULCEA, ROMANIA***

***18 June 2010***

The European Alliance group at its meeting in Tulcea, Romania on 18 June 2010 highlights the priceless natural and cultural heritage of the Danube Delta while at the same time expresses concerns over its conservation and environmental economic and social sustainability.

Acknowledging the Danube River is a vital link for European states (both within and outside the EU), the EA members welcome the EU leaders willingness to set a strategy for the entire Danube region and support a macro regional approach aimed at promoting economic development, environmental protection as well as security and peace.

The European Alliance group:

- sees a huge potential for territorial cooperation, where projects and best practices are shared at the local level, and points out that interregional links aimed at tackling common challenges help consolidate social and cultural cohesion as well as contribute to create a clear European Identity in the region.
- calls for a new technologically driven vision leading to an efficient, sustainable "green" strategy which is able to achieve both goals of connectivity, navigability and economic development while ensuring due respect for natural resources and biodiversity.
- urges Member States, in close partnership with local and regional authorities, to take actions to reduce vulnerability to climate change extreme events such as deforestation, floods, droughts, improve the water quality, reduce pollution and chemical contamination , protect natural habitats and species.

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- believes strongly that the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Danube region needs to be preserved and enhanced.
  - believes that tourism, when kept in harmony with environment, can be a major factor in the economic development of the region.
  - emphasises the key role of human capital development in the Danube region through education and training for sustainable socio-economic development and suggests to base the future development on the promotion of innovative knowledge society thereby providing sustainable economic development and social inclusion.
  - welcomes the recent proposal on European Heritage Label and recalls on the European Commission to introduce more measures in the field of cultural and heritage sites, which would not only be restricted to Structural Funds.
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