



## **IX. Bled Forum Declaration on Foresight Knowledge Based Governance Responses to Climate Change**

### ***"It is too late to say later"***

(Jerome C. Glenn, Director of the Millennium project– Bled Forum Award 2008 winner)

Through the IX Bled Forum on the Europe Declaration we seek to draw the attention of those holding power within the EU (EU Presidency, EU Council, European Commission, European Parliament), the UN, other states and NGOs to the necessary considerations regarding future developments and challenges as defined in the conclusions of the IX Bled Forum on Europe.

We acknowledge that:

- the topic of climate change was defined as an important topic by the governments of EU member states and is therefore included in the Treaty of Lisbon that was signed in December 2007;
- climate change is occurring and human activities are having a significant negative and potentially dangerous influence;
- the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible co-operation and participation in an effective and appropriate international response within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ('UNFCCC') framework, including all large emitters;
- the leading role of the EU in international climate change negotiations and the EU's commitment to reducing its overall emissions to at least 20% below 1990 levels by 2020, and that it will scale up this reduction to as much as 30% under a new global climate change agreement if other developed countries make comparable efforts;
- the European Commission 'Climate action and renewable energy package' of January 2008 that will deliver on the European Union's ambitious commitments to fight climate change and promote renewable energy up to 2020 and beyond;
- the 2007 Green Paper 'adaptation to climate change in Europe – options for EU action', and the forthcoming white paper on adaptation;
- climate change will have far reaching effects on the people and economies of South-east Europe, impacting on the economy, society and environment;
- an adequate response to climate challenges must be based on scientific evidence which has to be used for knowledge-based governance and the precautionary principle should be applied when dealing with climate change topics;
- the business sector should not be seen as a source of problems related to climate change but should be included in the search for solutions as a responsible partner which sees new opportunities and challenges;
- in the case of an appropriate response to climate change the economic costs of the new type of society should be marginal, especially when compared with 'catastrophic scenarios'; and
- foresight should be used as a key instrument to develop knowledge-based policy-making in the future.



... with the aim of dealing with future challenges we:

- call for the promotion of understanding the impacts of climate change and the need for a knowledge-based response at all levels, including adaptation policies with a special focus on the countries of South-east Europe;
- call for the creation of a global strategy needed to address global climate changes. The mainstreaming of environmental factors into all other policies is becoming indispensable;
- call upon the international community, including all large emitters, to endorse the shared vision for long-term action that would limit global climate change so that global average temperature increases do not exceed pre-industrial levels by more than 2°C;
- call for a rethinking of the core values of mankind. The problems of growing populations and energy consumption related to climate change should be put high on the public agenda. The core of the current production system (energy-intensive system) should also be addressed;
- call on all actors within civil society (especially those with a significant impact on social values) to take their share of responsibility and involvement in the climate change debate;
- call upon developed countries to lead the way towards a low-carbon society by reducing emissions by 25% to 40% compared to 1990 by 2020 and to make it their duty to help those less developed countries tackle climate challenges;
- call on developing countries to contribute to low-carbon development paths according to their capabilities;
- call upon international financial institutions to take climate change effects into account when deciding on financial support for projects;
- call for co-operation between all sectors – political, business and non-governmental – to make the climate change debate clear, concise and comprehensible to all;
- support the creation of ‘transinstitutions’ bringing together self-selected state actors, business and NGOs within a new kind of synthetic organisation;
- encourage global, EU and national institutions to support foresight as a tool for anticipating scenarios of the impacts of climate change. The foresight process is highly instrumental for tackling complex issues: by bringing together the relevant stakeholders – businesses, researchers, policy-makers, citizens and NGOs; and
- call on the countries of South-east Europe to consider good practices from other countries and to build favourable conditions for the sustainable growth and social responsibility of all key players.

In light of the above considerations, we have gathered at the IX Bled Forum on Europe and now call on all institutions and individuals addressed in the preamble to take an active role in responding to the global, European, regional and local challenges regarding climate change and to create the conditions for the development of knowledge-based governance and policy-making so as to provide the basis for a proper response to the challenges of the future.

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