



VII. Bled Forum Declaration on Global, EU and Regional Challenges and Foresight

Through the VII. Bled Forum on Europe Declaration we seek to draw the attention of those holding power within the UN, the EU, other states and NGOs to the necessary considerations regarding future developments and challenges as defined in the conclusions of the VII. Bled Forum on Europe.

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

- a) Urge the institutions of the EU (European Commission, Council of the EU, European Parliament) to implement efficient measures to support sustainable social and economic developments that lead to a significant improvement of the quality of life of citizens around the world.
- b) Encourage global, EU and national institutions to support foresight as a tool for anticipating major changes within societies and responding to the global challenges. The foresight process is highly instrumental for tackling complex issues: by bringing together the relevant stakeholders – businesses, researchers, policy-makers, citizens, NGOs – and their wide range of expertise and accumulated skills it is possible to:
 - i. identify and systematically analyse possible future phenomena (opportunities and threats) by taking social, technological, economic, environmental and political factors into account, as well as the value systems of the stakeholders so as to
 - ii. devise appropriate policies and strategies based on a consensus among these stakeholders.

In particular, we urge the EU member states' governments to include foresight and criteria relevant to the quality of life when preparing their national programmes of structural reforms and the national Lisbon programmes.

- c) encourage the countries of the South-east European region to consider examples of successful regional co-operation, the use of foresight and adapt good practices to their specific needs.

In light of the above considerations we have gathered together at the VII. Bled Forum on Europe and call upon all the institutions and individuals addressed in the preamble to take an active role in responding to the global, European and regional challenges in order to create a platform for the development of a knowledge-based society around the world. The potentials of cultural diversity should actively contribute to the further development of social and economic prosperity both in Europe and globally.

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