



FOUR MOTORS FOR EUROPE

JOINT DECLARATION

on the occasion of the meeting of the Presidents

The Four Motors For Europe are committed to actively supporting a **strong role for regional governments** in terms of implementation of European Union strategies and internationalisation of their respective territories.

In the year in which the Lombardy Region served in the presidency, the Four Motors for Europe worked to develop **institutional alliances and cooperation projects in the fields of research, innovation, the environment, sustainable development, culture and food security.**

Furthermore, the four regions are committed to facilitating the creation of **cooperation platforms** with an expanding of the network to international partnerships, such as with Québec where an economic and institutional mission recently took place. Here we signed a Partnership Agreement with the Canadian province, allowing it to become a cooperation partner of the partnership.

This international expansion of the association therefore opens it up to important opportunities in markets beyond Europe as well as to the reciprocal exchange of information for strategic industries in the territories of all of the partners.

For the future, the Four Motors regions will continue to work to reach the objectives of the partnership with specific attention paid to topics that are particularly important and current.

1. On a European Union level, **the Four Motors for Europe recognise the importance of macroregional strategies** as a further means to intensify cooperation among territories and increase visibility as a key player in European policies. This is why the organisation is working to support the success of current macroregions, with a particular focus on the Alpine region, use the experience and contacts established in the Danube Region Strategy and promote the creation of new macroregions.

2. **The Four Motors For Europe confirm their shared interest in participating in Expo Milano “Feeding the Planet. Energy for Life.** In addition, the regions are planning collaborative initiatives during the Universal Exposition. The Four Motors For Europe are convinced that their participation in Expo can showcase the role and potential of their cooperation model and will enrich this Universal Exposition, which also opens up to regions, in addition to countries and international organisations.

3. **The governments of the four regions believe it is important to maintain a united front in the fight against food counterfeiting.** The Four Motors For Europe regions, which are characterised by a high level of food production in terms of quality and innovative systems behind this production, share the ideals contained in the Lombardy Region’s Document on the Fight Against Food Counterfeiting. The Four Motors express their satisfaction with the substance and the quality of the exchange on this matter during specific bilateral visits promoted by Lombardy in the respective regions and/or countries (Catalonia, France, Germany as part of the World Expo Tour) and during multilateral meetings (meetings of presidents/delegates in Milan; the joint institutional and economic mission to Québec...). In terms of their presence during Expo Milano 2015, the Four Motors For Europe regions confirm their commitment to continuing this collaboration in terms of the fight against food counterfeiting. This includes involving participants (organisations, institutions, associations, agencies, etc.) that work in the agro-alimentary industry, organising meetings during the Universal Exposition and creating cooperation projects on food security.

Milan, 23 January 2015

Region Lombardy

Roberto Maroni, President

Rhône-Alpes

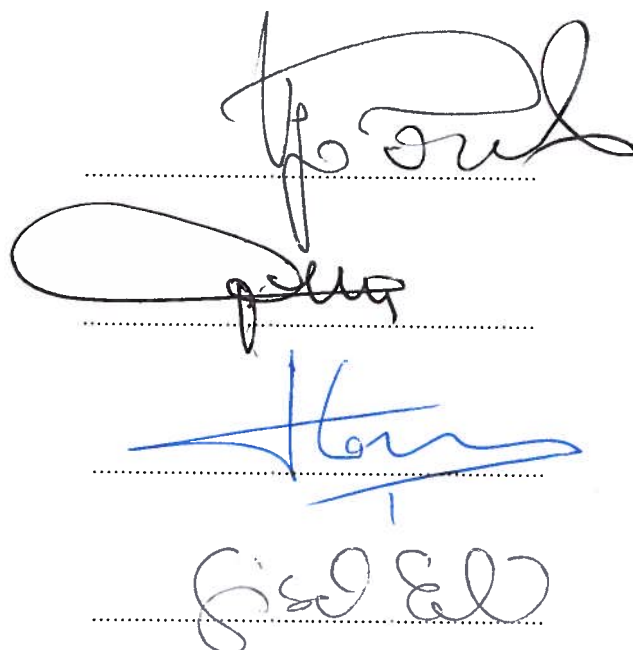
Jean-Jack Queyranne, President

Catalunya

Francesc Homs, Minister of the Presidency

Baden-Württemberg

Gisela Erler, State Councillor



The image shows four handwritten signatures, each positioned above a horizontal dotted line. From top to bottom: 1. A black ink signature that appears to be 'Roberto Maroni'. 2. A black ink signature that appears to be 'Jean-Jack Queyranne'. 3. A blue ink signature that appears to be 'Francesc Homs'. 4. A black ink signature that appears to be 'Gisela Erler'.