

Joint statement

Representatives of 10 dynamic regions - Baden-Württemberg, Catalonia, Flanders, Karnataka, Lombardia, Maryland, Nord-Pas de Calais, Québec, Scotland and Shanghai - convened on 19 February in Leuven. They discussed their pioneering economic role at the international conference 'Districts of creativity meet @ Flanders'.

In line with the theme of the Conference, they emphasise that:

- a sustainable economic growth is essential to maintain wealth and wellbeing within their regions for the future
- creativity and entrepreneurship are key ingredients of an economic policy aimed at strengthening regional competitiveness
- talent, technology and tolerance are the main driving forces for the renewal of economic structures in a creative economy.

Creativity is seen as the ability to develop significant new concepts. It is the source of innovative ideas and offers opportunities to reinforce the competitiveness of an economy. Creativity also implies that traditional patterns are being broken. The stimulation of public-private partnership between knowledge centers, companies and government on the one hand, and international collaboration between regions from different continents on the other hand, as in the case of the Flanders DC project, contribute to the reinforcement of our economies.

Being conscious of the fact that in this globalized world cross-border collaboration can contribute to a creative and entrepreneurial environment, these regions jointly undertake to:

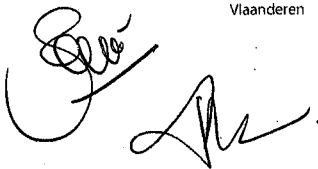
- foster the exchange of experiences and to enhance cross-fertilization with regard to the development of a creative economy as the driving force for competitiveness and wealth creation, as is intended by today's conference 'Districts of Creativity meet @ Flanders'
- encourage bilateral and multilateral actions that are aimed at exploring business development opportunities with partners from companies, knowledge centers and the governments of the participating regions.

The representatives of these regions also encourage co-operation with other regions or countries in the world that want to strive for an integrated approach to creativity in their economic, technological and cultural dimensions.

Baden-Württemberg
Dr. Horst Mähländer
Staatssekretär
Wirtschaftsministerium
Baden-Württemberg

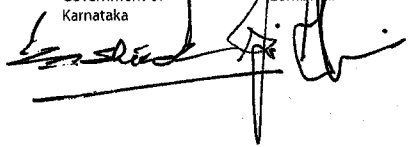


Catalonia
Mr. Rañé i Blasco
Conseller de Treball
i Indústria
Generalitat de Catalunya



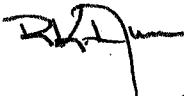
Flanders
Mevr. Patricia Ceysens
Minister van Economie,
Buitenlands Beleid
en e-Government
Vlaanderen

Karnataka
Mr. D. B. Inamdar
Minister for Information
Technology
and Bio-technology
Government of
Karnataka

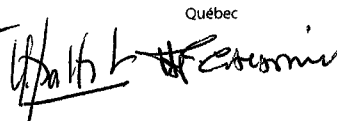


Lombardia
Mr. Pozzi
Minister of Handicraft,
New Economy, Research
and Innovation
Lombardia

Maryland
Mr. Karl Aumann
Secretary of
State Maryland

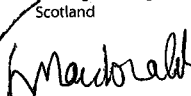


Nord-Pas de Calais
Mr. Battist
Député Délégué
du Président
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Québec
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