

Joint Declaration
on interregional economic and technical cooperation
between the regions of the FOUR MOTORS FOR EUROPE and Associates
(European Union) and the Sverdlovsk region (Russian Federation)

Following the meetings held on 7th up to 9th April 2008 in Ekaterinburg, the political representatives of the regions of Baden-Württemberg (Federal Republic of Germany), Catalonia (Kingdom of Spain), Lombardy (Republic of Italy), Rhône-Alpes (Republic of France), Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium) and Sverdlovsk region (Russian Federation),

- with a view to expanding reciprocal contacts between Sverdlovsk region and regions of the European Union,
 - based on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) that establishes partnership between on the one part, the Russian Federation, and on the other part, the European Communities and its Member States,
 - in the conviction that collaboration at regional level makes an important and indispensable contribution towards strengthening relations and consolidation of the strategic partnership between the Russian Federation and the European Union,
 - in an awareness of the fact that the Russian Federation is a member of the Council of Europe,
 - with consideration to the fact that the European Union is currently the most important trading partner of the Russian Federation, and also that the Russian Federation is the strategic partner of the European Union,
- 1) hereby express their interest and their willingness to expand bilateral economic and trade relations and to develop interregional cooperation between their regions, in the following specific areas:
- a) economic collaboration in areas that are of importance to both parties, by establishing more intensive direct contacts between business entities from the regions of the FOUR MOTORS FOR EUROPE and Associates (European Union) and the Sverdlovsk region (Russian Federation),
 - b) consideration of proposal made by the Sverdlovsk region Governor E.E. Rossel to include the Sverdlovsk region (Russian Federation) in associate membership of european regional association FOUR MOTORS FOR EUROPE,
 - c) informational exchange, for example through the exchange of delegations and through training,
- 2) keeping one another reciprocally informed of events, projects and measures that may help to promote the development of regional collaboration, and

3) making efforts to achieve concrete measures that are capable of expanding regional cooperation.

Identically worded Joint Declarations are being drawn up in English and Russian, both texts being equally authentic.

Ekaterinburg, 9 April 2008.

On behalf of the district of Sverdlovsk
Alexander Levin



On behalf of the state of Baden-
Württemberg
Richard Drautz



On behalf of Catalonia
Enric Aloy



On behalf of Lombardy
Claudio Daniele Mose Morpurgo



On behalf of Rhône-Alpes
Francois Boissac



On behalf of Flanders
Andrè De Rijck

