

VIER MOTOREN  
FÜR EUROPA

QUATRE MOTORS  
PER A EUROPA

QUATTRO MOTORI  
PER L'EUROPA

QUATRE MOTEURS  
POUR L'EUROPE



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## COMMON DECLARATION

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The Four Motors for Europe, an interregional association consisting of Baden-Württemberg, Catalonia, Lombardy and Rhône-Alpes, has been working for more than 20 years for the European and international projection of our governments, as well as for the promotion of the socioeconomic, scientific, academic and cultural actors of our four territories.

The constitutive declaration of the network, signed in 1988, established the union of the four most dynamic economic regions in Europe in order to join strategies and strengths to boost European integration and economic activation.

Assembled in Barcelona on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2015, the presidents and representatives of the Four Motors for Europe reaffirm their commitment with this network and its high relevance to meet the current challenges our respective territories must face to become a *smart*, sustainable and inclusive society.

This common position is reaffirmed in the framework of the Catalonia presidency of the Four Motors for 2015 whose main focus is the development of *smart* Regions for a *smart* Europe.

In particular, they pledge to:

I. Highlight the role territories play as economic driving forces of Europe

All our territories, comprising over 33 million people, represent 6.6% of the total EU population and 7.8% of Europe's GDP. In addition, we are leaders in the fields of research, higher education and in the economy.

Today, more than ever, in a context of a timid economic recovery, it is necessary to claim the role of our regions as European economic driving forces through projects that enable concrete actions to contribute to a stronger economy.

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In the short term, measures to palliate the negative effects of the crisis should be applied, taking into special consideration the most underprivileged social sectors, and the economy must be focused on the correct way to achieve growth and create sustainable wealth.

In the medium and long term, we must work together in order for competitiveness to increase wealth and improve the welfare state through the transformation of our model into one that enables us to be more efficient, more open to global trade and more innovative; and at the same time, capable of being economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. In summary, it is necessary to establish the foundation for a new model of growth based on innovation, while embracing technology in industry and developing a knowledge-based economy.

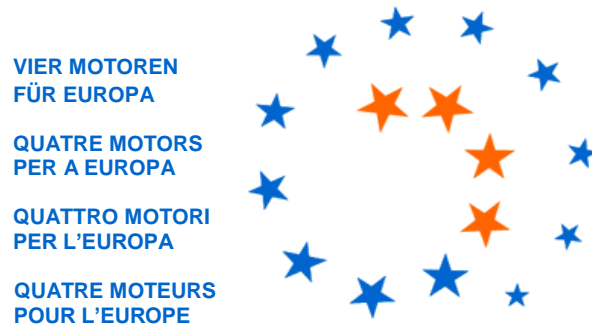
## II. Strengthen our commitment to develop the ICT sector as a motor of change and progress for our territories

The Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have frequently been identified as a strategic element to overcome the international financial crisis and to implement policies for economic promotion in both developed and developing countries and territories, both in rural and urban settings.

The reason for the ICT's status is due to its dual nature: firstly, it is a sector that exists due to its capacity to improve the competitiveness of the other activities in an economy, and secondly, it is a sector that is capable, in itself, to become one of the motors for economic growth and the creation of jobs.

The Four Motors for Europe consider ICT and *smartcity*-related technologies to be a strategic driver to stimulate the transformation of traditional industrial sector into emerging industries and to foster eco-sustainable and social innovations.

For this reason, the partner regions of the Four Motors for Europe emphasize the role of ICT as an essential tool that acts as a motor of economic and social transformation, fostering innovation, economic growth and a better quality of life for our citizens. In this regard, it is proposed to carry out joint actions to promote this process of digital transformation in order to ensure that the benefits of the information society become more tangible for citizens and business.



### III. Continue supporting the European Digital Agenda and work together for the development of a *smart* Europe

The Four Motors for Europe recognize the importance of the Digital Agenda for Europe to achieve sustainable socio-economic development according to the Europe 2020 strategy. The regions are guarantors of economic growth and social equity in Europe. They are facing similar challenges for a sustainable growth and should therefore find common solutions that could be shared at a European level. This should be done in collaboration with citizens, social groups, industry and public administration.

In this context, cities and territories, have defined *smart* strategies to manage public affairs using technology and digital information, with the objective to obtain a more efficient management in areas such as mobility, environmental sustainability, economic activity, social inclusion, citizens' quality of life and the relationship between the administration and citizens.

The Four Motors for Europe aspire to become leading international *smart* territories that will use advantages of technology and digital information to innovate public services, boost economic growth and become a more intelligent, sustainable and inclusive society. We propose joint action promoting network connectivity amongst regions, in order to strengthen European platforms and establish a framework of cooperation to develop and implement *smart* regions for a *smart* Europe.

### IV. Highlight the present and future common actions of the network

We want to emphasise the excellent task carried out by the working groups in the fields of economy, culture, information society, education, youth and sports, research and environment. Through their actions they promote common projects and make them more dynamic, resulting in positive synergies that enrich and complement the individual actions of our respective governments. We want to express our commitment to continue and further advance the activities of the Four Motors working groups not only within Europe but also at global scale.

On this occasion, we want to give special attention to the declaration signed in Milan in 2014, which highlights the importance of innovation and

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internationalization as key driver for industrial policies and for the enhancement of the competitiveness of our economies. Within this context, we encourage the implementation of new joint actions among the four partners, in coherence with EU Strategies and Funds.

Barcelona, June 10<sup>th</sup> 2015

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