



## Preamble

At the International Danube Soya Congress 2012 in Vienna agricultural experts and policy makers from 17 Danube countries have expressed their will to strengthen the cultivation of soyabeans in the Danube region and thus contribute positively to a European Protein Strategy.

Today, on 19th January 2013 in Berlin, the signatories commit to the goals of the joint statement below and will work to achieve their goals.

The signatories state want to support the agricultural policy goals of the declaration and do so in the knowledge that the financing of the project Danube soy should be achieved through separate agreements and measures. The signing of the Danube Soya Declaration is thus a conceptual support of the following goals formulated

## The Danube Soya Declaration

The signatories firmly believe that Europe needs a comprehensive new protein policy for agricultural and food production that will make better use of domestic resources and counteract excessive dependence on the overseas import of soyabeans for food and feed. The goal of more efficient utilisation of resources should be addressed directly by making fuller use of nutritionally valuable soybeans in the human diet as well as in feed through the optimization of pastures and grasslands and by improved use of available local resources such as rapeseed meal and cultivation of protein fodder (e.g.. alfalfa). Above all, the cultivation, processing and use of GMO-free Soya in food and feed should be significantly expanded, the objective being to reduce the overseas import of soybeans In the long term to the greatest extent possible.

The goal is to build a high quality European protein supply that is customized to the requirements of the European market and European agricultural protein. This initiative will also addresses the European consumer's increasing demand for foods derived from domestic GMO-free soyabeans as well as soya protein feed.

The signatories therefore see the planned promotion of soya cultivation along the Danube as great medium and long-term opportunities for:

- > improvement of the European protein supply in the context of a comprehensive strategy based on domestic resources
- > a targeted development of GM-free food production and its attendant quality standards in terms of traceability, sustainability, and regional supply chains
- > improvement of the CO2 balance in European agriculture and food production
- > important stimulus and investment in rural areas

To these ends, research is needed in the areas of breeding, production, plant protection, processing and marketing, which together form the basis for competitive European soyabean cultivation.

The Danube soy initiative is an excellent platform for an alliance between all stakeholders (government, academia, industry and the consumer) with which to realize the expansion soyabean cultivation in the Danube region as part of a European protein strategy. The Danube region provides favorable climatic and agricultural conditions for soya cultivation, and Danube Soya's initiative focuses on Europe's growing demand for GMO-free soya.

The project's vision and scope must be long-term in order to tackle the variety of challenges that can only be solved by strengthening cooperation in the European Union. The signatories are committed to the following goals:

- > developing useful cooperation programs with partner countries and regions in Europe
- > accelerating the expansion of production of European protein crops including soya with appropriate incentives in the context of the CAP at the EU level
- > meeting consumer demand for freedom of choice by creating transparency and traceability in production, credible and controlled product labelling for brand programs and clear labelling for GMO-free plant-based and/or GM-free fed animal foods.
- > intensifying research on the expansion of soya cultivation in the Danube Region (breeding, cultivation, processing, production-related criteria, ecological aspects, market research on potential demand and implementation)
- > developing programs, know-how transfer and better practice models to support soybean cultivation along the Danube river basin
- > establishing reliable supply and value chains as well as complete quality control systems to ensure sustainable production and processing

Berlin, 19.1.2013

For the  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development  
Minister Tihomir Jakovina, Croatia

For the  
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management  
Federal Minister Nikolaus Berlakovich, Austria

For the  
Federal Office for Agriculture  
Secretary of State Bernard Lehmann, Switzerland

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For the  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management  
Secretary of State Danilo Golubović, Serbia

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For the  
Ministry of Agriculture and Environment  
Minister Franc Bogovič, Slovenia

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For the  
Ministry of Rural Development  
Secretary of State György Czervan, Hungary

For the  
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For the  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Romania

Bucharest 06.02.2013  


Berlin, 17.01.2014

*Stanisław Kalemba*

For the  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland  
Minister Stanisław Kalemba

Augsburg, 25. November 2013



For the  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Bulgaria  
Deputy Minister Byurhan Abazov

Wien, 13. 06. 14

For the  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova  
Minister Vasile BUMACOV

*[Handwritten signature]*

Berlin, 17. 01. 2015

For the  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic  
State secretary Magdalena Lacko-Bartošová

*[Handwritten signature]*

Kyiv, 5/06/2015

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'VR' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

For the  
Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine  
Deputy Minister for European Integration  
Vladislava Rutytska