

# Bad Windsheim Declaration

## of the European Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg (EMN)

The Nuremberg Metropolitan Region is a voluntary alliance of 33 regional administrative bodies in the North Bavarian region and was created for the purpose of increased cooperation. Its goals are to strengthen the metropolitan functions, joint international location marketing, co-determination in Europe and development of intra-regional integration. The cooperation promotes the development of the regional decision-making process of stakeholders from politics, business, science, culture and other social fields. EMN sees itself as a regional community of responsibility.

1. The focus of our activities and the basis of the community of responsibility for EMN are equal living conditions – the goal and criterion for our actions.
2. The spatial structure of EMN is polycentral, i.e. besides the cities, there are a variety of centers of various sizes and axes between these centers, which act as crystallization locations for social and economic development.
3. The general conflictive representation of urban and rural regions is objectively incorrect and does not conform to the reality of life in Bavaria. Urban and rural regions have always been interlinked in diverse ways, and developments have never been isolated and insular, but always the result of mutual exchange processes. As a result, the small parishes are today extensively integrated with their respective central locations (e.g. intermediate centers) and via these with the regional centers. The possibilities of modern mobility have shifted and even resolved distance, geographic, economic and cultural limitations. The Metropolitan Region as a large cooperation region is an answer to these changes.  
In the competition for public funds, the allocation should therefore be based on the criteria of structural weakness and special burden. Structural policy should start where it is necessary – whether in urban or rural areas.
4. Rural regions have widely varying competencies. These include their functions as residential and business locations and as nature, green belt and recreation areas. The long-term development of these competencies and the efficiency of local infrastructures is also the task of the community of responsibility in the Metropolitan Region.  
One of the major “soft” location qualities of EMN is the high quality of life and its roots in tradition and history. Local culture, culinary lifestyle and traditional events in the rural regions and their centers are rooted far more deeply than in urban regions.

5. Our Metropolitan Region cannot work miracles, but sees itself as a regional community of responsibility. It offers affiliated cities and districts new development opportunities beyond the classic structural and regional policy. For the rural regions, “strengthening strengths” means that their structures are strengthened by close integration with urban regions.
6. Against this backdrop, EMN will particularly tackle fields of action such as the following:
  - a) EMN together with existing initiatives will intensively deal with the field of action of regional economic cycles and regional products/specialties as a marketing instrument and for strengthening intra-regional integration.
  - b) EMN will continue to expand its activities in the field of action of tourism. In domestic tourism, it is a question of retaining the spending power in the region. To gain new tourists from outside, the highlights in the entire region are to be given a stronger profile through joint efforts.
  - c) A good transport network in the region is a basic requirement for utilizing the available potential. EMN is therefore focusing on further improvement of mobility by expanding the VGN integrated transport network and optimizing regional transport. The same applies to motorways and federal highways.
  - d) EMN will ensure that its cluster policy particularly takes into account the strengths and structural features of the rural regions. Here special attention should be given to fields of competence like energy, automotive engineering, new materials, food and nutrition, and a large number of small and medium enterprises.
  - e) EMN has special competencies in European and intercultural cooperation, which applies to a special degree to the districts and cities in marginal areas. These competencies are to be especially activated and valorized for the gateway function of the Metropolitan Region.

Bad Windsheim, 20.7.2007