

# European Stork Need Friends

## Declaration of Rühstätt II

Of the Members of the European Stork Villages Network

On the occasion of the International Conference

of the European Stork Villages

26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 in Rühstätt, Germany

I

The “European Stork Villages Network“ is a Union of the European Stork Villages in presently nine European countries, which were acknowledged by the international environmental foundation EURONATUR. In addition the Network is open for collaboration with communities in the whole of Europe, which are characterized by a large stork population and an intensive commitment for the white stork protection.

II

The stated aim of the European Stork Villages is to stand up for an ecologically exemplary handling of nature and a sustainable regional development. In doing so the European Stork Villages Network is taking care of the communication and exchange among one another, the white stork conservation, the Europe-wide cooperation, the joint public relations and the fortification of the actors in every Stork Village, no matter where and in which country of Europe. The European Stork Villages Network is path breaking for the cooperation of rural regions in Europe.

III

The members in the European Stork Villages Network have committed themselves already to:

- take care of nature and resource protection under the sign of the white stork
- actively provide new, vivid impulses in the areas of nature conservation, agriculture, tourism, regional development as well as the preservation of traditions and the development of a cultural identity under the sign of the white stork
- find supporters and sponsors for the white stork and sustainable regional development by promoting lobby work and public relations

European Stork Villages are characterized by close collaborations among the local community, NGOs, protected areas and related authorities on regional and national levels.

The members try to achieve the goals of Article III on the basis of recommendations in Annex I of this declaration.

#### IV

The members of the „European Stork Villages Network“ are calling on the Council of Europe, the European Union as well as municipal, regional, national and European politicians, decision makers and commercial enterprises to:


- support the European Stork Villages Network“ as an outstanding example for the cooperation in Europe “bottom up”
- to promote the public relations of the network and report on the „European Stork Villages Network“ in the own media.
- respect and protect nature and natural resources and actively promote the conservation of them,
- the encourage the environmentally friendly use of rural areas,
- to vigorously support the commitment for sustainable development of rural regions in the areas of economy, human resources, ecology and culture,
- to advance projects, which combine nature conservation, regional development and development of cultural identities in exemplary way,
- change or improve support and subsidy schemes in order to achieve sustainable rural development and the conservation of biodiversity,
- strongly support natural water regimes in wetlands and riparian ecosystems connected with stork habitats and promote management of artificial wetlands in favour of white stork protection.

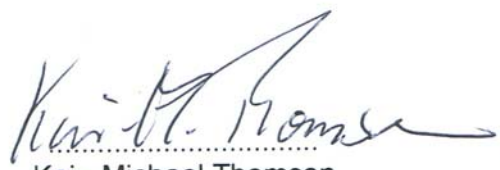
Signed 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 in Rühstädt.


  
.....  
Antonio Jiménez Manzano,  
Mayor of the European Stork Village  
Malpartida de Caberes, Spain

  
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José María Muñoz Godoy,  
TAGUS Manager, Spain

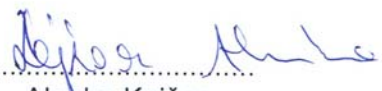
  
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Bogdan Toczyłowski,  
Owner of the Stork Village Pentowo,  
Poland


  
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Hans - Jürgen Arndt  
Amtsdirektor  
Amt Bad Wilsnack / Weisen

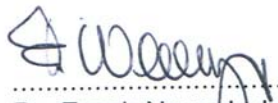
  
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Kai - Michael Thomsen  
Michael - Otto - Institut im NABU


  
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Dr. Christoph Kaatz,  
NABU-BAG Weißstorchschutz Loburg


  
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Álvaro Casanova García,  
Global Nature Foundation, Spain

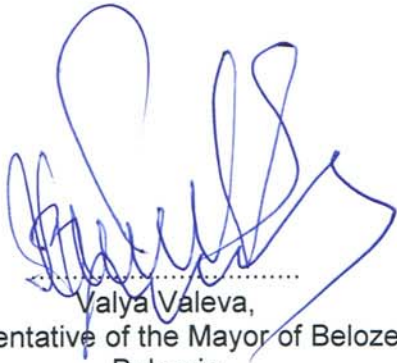
  
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Alenka Kežar,  
Tourist Association of Velika Polana  
ŠTRK, Slovenia und  
i.A. Gemeinde VELIKAPOLANA  
Bürgermeister: DAMIJAN JAKLIN

  
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Ewa Kozłowska,  
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Dr. Frank Neuschulz  
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(Abteilungsleiter Naturschutz)

  
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Damijan Jaklin  
Bürgermeister der Gemeinde  
Mala und Velika Polana  
(Slowenien)

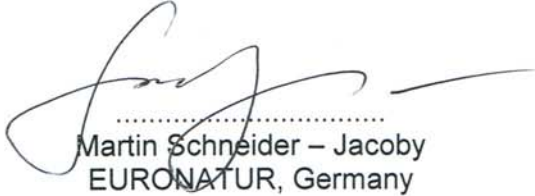
  
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Prof. Dr. Leszek Jerzak,  
Liga Ochrony Przyrody, Zielona Gora



Valya Valeva,  
Representative of the Mayor of Belozem,  
Bulgaria



Elena Kmetova,  
Green Balkans Federation,  
Bulgaria



Martin Schneider – Jacoby  
EURONATUR, Germany



Goran Gugic,  
Head of National Park Lonjsko polje, Croatia



Akos Gaborik  
Duna-Dráva National Park, Hungary



Ilona Farkasné Zsobrak  
(Teacher in Primary School Nagybjom),  
Hungary



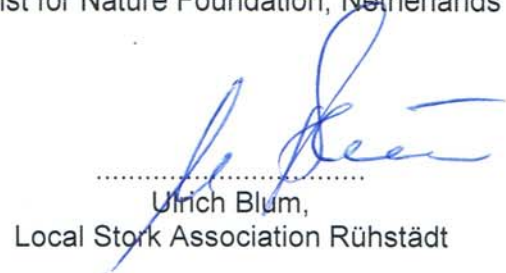
Reto Zingg,  
Project Leader Foundation Ciconia,  
Liechtenstein



Dr. Manuela Seifert,  
Artist for Nature Foundation, Netherlands



Jürgen Herper,  
Mayor of the European Stork Village  
Rühstädt



Ulrich Blum,  
Local Stork Association Rühstädt



Ulrike Hastedt,  
Biosphere Reserve Riverscape Elbe-  
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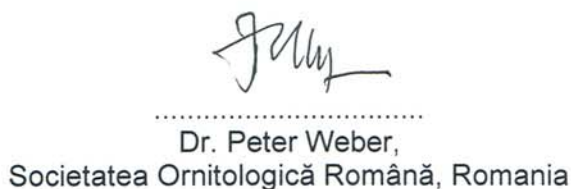
Kathleen Awe,  
German Association for Nature Conservation  
(NABU), Germany



Prof. Dr. Ismet Arici,  
Uludag University Bursa, Turkey



Franziska Arici,  
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Turkey



Dr. Peter Weber,  
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Daiva Norkuniene,  
Sartai Regional Park, Lithuania

## Annex I

The members of the European Stork Villages Network work on the following conceptual formulations:

- The conservation of habitats ranks first for the protection of the white stork. Measures for the improvement of the nourishment situation are essential in all stork villages.
- The nest in the villages have to be preserved, new nesting have to be installed and roofs should be repaired, if necessary. For this financial support is needed.
- Agroenvironmental programs for the conservation of moist grassland as an important nourishment habitat for storks do not exist in all European countries. Possibilities for support of sustainable land use should be examined.
- The white stork is a “decoy“ for tourist in all European Stork Villages. Information and visitor centres are a prerequisite for the development of sustainable tourism. The actors work on a prolongation of the season by implementing nature experience offers, also outside of the “stork season”.
- White stork protectionists need new blood too. The stated aim is to win young people for nature conservation and the development of the regions.
- The mutual public relations in the European Stork Villages will be strengthened by a joint internet presence and a brochure.
- The communication and exchange between stork protectionists and other interest groups like municipal representatives, farmers, the youth and women will be promoted.
- The protection and improvement of resting zones during migration as well as the elimination of sources of danger during migration and in the breeding areas is a stated aim.
- In search of possibilities for financing the projects the network members will advise and support each other.