

MOTIVATION FOR THE CANDIDACY OF HERWIG VAN STAA

PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS



Herwig van Staa brings along lots of political experience on local, regional and European level. He has been active in leading positions on all of these tiers for more than 15 years – in the City of Innsbruck and in the Association of Austrian Cities, in the Region of the Tyrol, in the Committee of the Regions of the European Union, the CEMR, the CALRE and in particular in the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in the Council of Europe.

All of his political functions can be seen on the CV in the attachment.

All these activities in leading political functions on so many different levels (local, regional, European) have given him a profound knowledge of the questions, problems, challenges and chances people have to face. These different political functions have given him lots of experience in finding possible solutions by evaluating all possibilities, discussing and negotiating them with all possible partners and coming to a final decision.

During his entire political career one of his most important political goals have been to strengthen and to safeguard the role of local authorities and regions all over Europe. He played a leading role in the negotiations that lead to the European Charter of Local Self-Governance and to the Framework of Regional Democracy as a step in the right direction towards a binding rule. The monitoring reports on elections as well as on local and regional democracy all over the 47 members states is one of the core competences of the Congress and the Congress has to uphold his leading position in this fields. Human rights must keep playing an important role in our reports too.

Another priority of his political career is transfrontier cooperation. People on both sides of borders should be able to cooperate in order to achieve added value for both sides and to strengthen social cohesion all over Europe. A new EGTC legislation should provide and promote EGTCs between regions in EU member states and regions in non EU member states. Creating such EGTCs will help us to increase efficiency and in particular to social cohesion all over Europe.

Herwig van Staa has always been promoting the accession of Council of Europe member states to the European Union. Hence he has always stood up for the reinforcement of well-established transfrontier networks – like for example CORLEAP - as well as bilateral cooperation with the Russian Federation. Such cooperation instruments proof as efficient links that promote social cohesion.

Herwig van Staa very actively stands up for local and regional democracy and the rule of law. He has been taking part in many observation missions of the Congress. Furthermore several months ago he has been jointly elected rapporteur on corruption by the Contact Group of the Congress and the Committee of the Regions.

Against the background of the present difficult situation in Europe, leading personalities of the political groups of the Congress have asked Herwig van Staa to put once again his long-time experience and his profound knowledge of European institutions, European politics and European development at disposal and to stand as a candidate for the office of the President of the Congress 2012 - 2014.