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Message from the Organizing Committee

The CCEDEP Conference is the First Conference organized by ACEU and marks the beginning of what we hope will be an effective and rewarding way to ensure that the members of ACEU leave their mark on the future development of the region. As a young and emerging organization ACEU has set high goals for itself and we are proud to report back that we are on track to achieving our objectives in accordance with our plans.

Today we meet in Novi Sad to discuss the issues associated with Climate Change and its effects on our economy, societies, people and the environment. As we speak the temperature outside is some 5oC above average for the city of Novi Sad and we had a very dry summer with significant effects on our agriculture. The situation is not much different elsewhere in the region. It is clear that we can not, in the short to medium term, reverse the warming trend and that actions are needed to increase the resilience of our societies and economic systems to changing climatic conditions. We are fully aware that strategies which increase the resilience to climate change of health, economic systems, property and the productive functions ofwater and land are in need. Europe has made a good start with the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. But we still must do more. The World Bank and Regional Development Banks are establishing a global Energy Investment Framework to accelerate public and private investment into energy for development, low carbon energy technologies and adaptation. Attracting this investment will require policy conditions that can mobilize international finance and domestic private sector investment. Resilience require that we adopt to the impacts of climate change and this depends not just on effective national and European regulations, but also on the extent to which climate change management can be integrated into other sectoral policies such as agriculture, water and environment, energy, cohesion, and health. Climate Change aware constituencies in the countries of the region, supporting governments towards bold oriented global climate change action and in addressing the complex multistakeholder and multilevel challenges associated with climate change resilience, mitigation and adaptation, require, as a prerequisite an appropriate knowledge base needed to support public authorities, civil society, business sector etc. As our contribution to this we also have, under the umbrella of CCEDEP, included the Round Table, Transformation into Innovative and Knowledge Society: Perspectives of the EU's Danube Strategy" organized by The New



Club of Paris and EDUCONS University as a parallel event of the CCEDEP Conference. We wish you a pleasant and productive stay at Novi Sad and Serbia and hope that you will enjoy the presentations and the discussions during the next 2 days. We use this opportunity to thank all of those associated with CCEDEP and The New Club of Paris for the support given and look forward to long term cooperation within the region.

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Prof. Prvoslav Marjanović, PhD

Chairman of the Organising Committee

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