



*Us, Pietro Riva Mayor of Oggiono, Stephan Heiner Mayor of Leisnig, freely elected by our citizens,*

*certain to be answering the profound aspirations and real needs of the populations with whom we have daily relations of which we must be responsible interpreters,*

*aware that the European civilization had its roots in our ancient municipalities and local autonomies, whose freedoms were conquered and defended with heavy sacrifices and long efforts, but that currently the European populations feel the lasting political divisions, of sovereign national states, of wounds received in bloody civil and continental wars, which have repeatedly put one against the other in our communities, in which manifestations of nationalism and mutual mistrust and sometimes of intolerance persist,*

*conscious that local autonomy means freedom from central power, but that it must at the same time give an important contribution, beyond borders, to the interdependence of various democratic levels (municipal, regional, national, European) even of supranational Union, for a great global economic and social development,*

*we restate that the European dimension has become for us an undeniable component in individual and social life and that the same local community dilates its interests and its initiatives beyond borders, in search for new solidarity with territorial entities of other countries,*

*considering the needs to respect the principle of subsidiarity as well as of growing interdependence of various national communities and of the requirement for an international, global democratic order which is the condition for true peace:*

*today solemnly pledge*

*to develop and maintain permanent relations not only between our administrations, but also and especially between our respective populations, in order to ensure better mutual understanding, efficient cooperation, the feeling of a common destiny and therefore a reciprocal assistance in facing the administrative, economic, social and cultural problems, developing solidarity and participation of all those which live and operate in our towns, with special involvement of young people;*

*to join our efforts to help to the best of our possibilities for the success of this effort, as conceived by the founding fathers and which should characterize the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: the effective construction of a united Europe.*

*Oggiono, 14 June 2008*

*Riva Pietro  
(Major of Oggiono)*

*Stephan Heiner  
(Major of Leisnig)*