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Trollhättan Declaration
Adopted by the Executive Committee
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The North Sea Commission

- with the courage to innovate -

Striving to fulfil the objectives of the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas.

The North Sea Commission recognises the relevance for the North Sea Region of the objectives of the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies, and recommends its member regions to be fully committed to the implementation of these strategies.

The regions around the North Sea have already demonstrated their capacity to innovate and respond to the challenges set by these strategies. The North Sea Commission, therefore, urges its member regions to build on these strengths and take an integrated approach that equally emphasises economic growth, social cohesion and environmental sustainability. Member regions should make use of the opportunities for economic growth by encouraging innovation in environmental and social development. It is vital to ensure a balanced provision for the needs of urban and rural areas.

The North Sea Commission will promote innovation, development of the knowledge society and encouragement of entrepreneurship. It recognises that accessibility, social inclusion and lifelong learning are essential elements needed to realise these ambitions.

In order to implement the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies the NSC regions should build on their regional qualities, resources and strengths. We therefore encourage the EU to provide more customised instruments on state aid and territorial co-operation.

The North Sea Commission also urges the CPMR to adopt this approach towards the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies.