



**Address by Staatsrat Gerhard Fuchs
at the Senate Reception, INTERREG Baltic Sea Conference,
on the “Louisiana Star”, Landungsbrücken 6-9, Hamburg, on 10 May 2007**

Distinguished representatives of the Baltic Sea Region, the European Commission, the Federal Government,

Distinguished delegates from the Asia-Pacific Region,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, I would like to welcome you most cordially here on board the “Louisiana Star”.

Following the detailed deliberations today on the basics of the new Baltic Sea Region programme, I am delighted to welcome you to this somewhat different part of the conference.

We will have an opportunity on this wonderful evening to see the nucleus of Hamburg, from a side which I believe is the most attractive – from the water.

St.-Pauli-Landungsbrücken – the landing stage from which we started our trip – is practically the heart of Hamburg; it is the place where, until not so many years ago, ships arrived with their cargoes, and from where they set sail.

And it is no coincidence that we chose this place for this evening’s event – we, too, are setting sail into a new phase of cooperation with the Hamburg INTERREG Conference. Just like the sailors, not so many years ago, we also wish to symbolise the new start which we are making in keeping with their fine tradition – working together for common goals and for the benefit of all.

Apart from the “Old City” of Hamburg, we will also see the modern areas – the Hafencity district, the modern container terminals, and the waterside residential areas. I hope that will at least give you some impression of the vitality of this great city.

I myself have now been living in Hamburg for nearly 58 years, and I have never regretted the fact that my parents moved here. So it is a great pleasure for me personally to be able to show you my home city, with the nucleus from which it grew in the past, and its gateway to the future.

For this evening, I wish you all stimulating discussions, interesting impressions and insights, and look forward to individual discussions with you.

Let me welcome you all once more on behalf of the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. I raise my glass to you, to the successful first day of the Conference, and to an enjoyable evening together –

To your very good health!