

**Greeting from Karl von Habsburg
for the Michelangelo Future Congress**

**Dear Sir or Madam,
Dear participants
of the Michelangelo Future Congress,**

We live in a time of great global challenges. Economic uncertainties, geopolitical tensions, climate change, and other issues challenge us all. But it is precisely in times of crisis, it becomes clear how crucial forward-looking action, sustainable strategies, and international cooperation are.

The Michelangelo Future Congress and the associated Think Tank address precisely this issue: they bring together leading minds from business and science, from art and culture, from politics and society to develop practical solutions for a resilient and sustainable future.

Particularly impressive is the holistic approach, which focuses on economic stability as well as social responsibility and the responsibility of us all

The focus on the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is not only a commitment to sustainable economic activity, but also a strategic necessity in order to strengthen the Alpe-Adria region as a dynamic business location.

Another central concern of this initiative is the protection of cultural assets, which is particularly important to me personally. Cultural assets are, so to speak, the repository of the knowledge that we humans have produced over generations and that essentially define our civilization.

That is why I have been involved for many years in the international cultural property protection organization Blue Shield, which—with the international legal mandate of the Hague Convention of 1954 and its two additional protocols, supports UNESCO with valid expertise and critical information on the situation of cultural heritage in conflict, disaster, and operational areas around the world.

This is an essential and sustainable contribution to the preservation of our cultural heritage for our future – a contribution that, in view of the current and evolving challenges described at the outset, is of crucial importance for the prosperity and shaping of the communities and societies of the future.

For without an understanding of the past, we also lack an understanding of how we can create an optimal future.

This is also where my thoughts on the importance of efficient, innovative, and transnational disaster control come in. In times of increasing



environmental disasters and geopolitical uncertainties, these issues are of existential importance. The Michelangelo Future Congress provides important impetus here to raise awareness, promote international cooperation, and develop practical solutions in the Think Tank.

I congratulate the organizers on this important initiative and thank everyone involved for their commitment. The Alpe-Adria region has the potential to be a model for sustainable economic activities, innovative strength, and crisis resilience—and it is precisely such platforms that are crucial for realizing this potential.

I wish the congress inspiring discussions, groundbreaking insights, and above all sustainable results that will have an impact far beyond this framework. Since I am unable to attend this year due to scheduling conflicts, I will prepare a recording on relevant topics and also discuss them in the podcast Die Zukunfts-Gestalter (The Future Shapers).

Best regards,

Karl von Habsburg