



Ladies and gentlemen!

I grew up in the countryside and experienced the meaning of the rural area as supporting pillar of our society and homeland from childhood on. The efficiency of the regions is substantial not only for the regional economic policy of a country, but also for its cultural identity.

In difficult times like these, we are bound to stand up to the crisis together. The European Union undertakes substantial efforts on all levels and with all instruments, in order to secure the function of the financial markets and the financing of the national economies and the regions. Cooperation and the willingness to negotiate are the correct means to take responsible actions.

Since the regions carry promising potential and power of innovation, they are important allies for me. They are not only responsible for a large share of public investment, they also take responsibilities in social welfare. Together we will take reasonable measures and will strive for the future with optimism and drive.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in green ink, which appears to read 'Josef Pröll'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and 'P'.