

3rd European Symposium for Protection of the Night Sky

Stuttgart, Germany
12-13 September 2003

Declaration of Stuttgart on Protecting the Night Environment for Present and Coming Generations

We, the participants at the 3rd European Symposium for Protection of the Night Sky:

- are unanimously concerned about the vanishing night skies and the rapid growth of light pollution in Europe and the world. This light pollution is characterized by increasing glare, energy waste, sky glow, and harm to the nighttime environment.

- note that some European countries have taken action to control light pollution as evidenced by new national and regional laws, zoning restrictions, educational campaigns, and research.

- commend the regional parliament of Lombardy, Italy, the national parliament of the Czech Republic, the Catalonia Region of Spain, and others for their new legislation to protect the quality of the nighttime environment for their citizens.

These actions are important steps forward, but more actions are required in these and many other countries to reverse the adverse impacts of light pollution.

Therefore, we unanimously request that all European governments and the European Union take immediate action to control light pollution. These actions should include educational campaigns, new legislation, and support of research.

We further declare that the solutions which promote quality nighttime lighting are attainable now and that everyone benefits from these actions. Everyone should use the correct amount of light and only when and where it's needed. People would then see better, save energy and protect the nighttime environment.

Signed by all attendees on 13 September 2003

International Dark-Sky Association (IDA has members in 75 countries)

IDA Austria

IDA Czech Republic

IDA Switzerland

Executive Committee of IDA Europe

The Campaign for Dark Skies of the British Astronomical Association

Astronomical League (international association with 20,000 members)

Fachgruppe Dark Sky der Vereinigung der Sternfreunde of Germany

Verein Kuffner-Sternwarte of Austria

Platform Lichthinder of the Netherlands

Werkgroep Lichthinder of VVS in Belgium

Bond Beter Leefmilieu in Belgium

Carl-Zeiss-Planetarium Stuttgart

Schwäbische Sternwarte e.V.

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Astronomie und Astrophysik

Sternfreunde Durmersheim und Umgebung e.V.

Association Nationale pour la Protection du Ciel Nocturne (France)

Individual attendees: