

Publication of the Manifesto for cross-border cooperation in Europe

The “Manifesto for cross-border cooperation in Europe”, first publication of EUROMOT*, the European network of cross-border local authorities established in November 2007, contains **practical recommendations for making progress on cross-border cooperation in Europe**.

Within the framework of the upcoming **French presidency of the European Union**, which begins in July, the Manifesto will contribute to restoring the full measure of the European commitment. It is addressed officially to the European institutions and national governments of the succeeding European presidencies.

Cross-border cooperation is **a valuable means of boosting the construction of Europe**. It encourages **joint projects** on a given territory between authorities located on either side of borders. In this way it contributes to the **pacification of borders** and to the development of a **European citizenship**, enriched by national and regional cultures.

The recommendations of the Manifesto were produced by the twelve topic-based workshops of the Lille conference in November 2007. The workshops were prepared over the preceding year by specialist working groups and highlighted the issues and projects of cooperation in Europe topic by topic in order to produce operational recommendations.

The workshops covered the **following topics**: cross-border territories, conurbations, rural and natural territories, maritime cooperation, economic development, employment and training, health, the environment, transport, culture, legal instruments and training.

* EUROMOT at present consists of three partners: the MOT, Eixo Atlántico (network of border towns involving the North region of Portugal and Galicia in Spain) and City Twins (network of twin cities involving Germany, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Sweden, Finland and Russia). It was established in Lille during the European conference “Cross-border territories: Day-to-day Europe” (8 and 9 November 2007). From 29 May 2008 its president is Michel Delebarre, also MOT president, MP and mayor of Dunkerque, president of Dunkerque Urban Community and of the Syndicat Mixte de la Côte d’Opale, and first vice-president of the Committee of the Regions. He succeeds Pierre Mauroy, MOT president for seven years from 2001 to 2008.

Further information at www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu.

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