



Launching of a French parliamentary mission on cross-border cooperation

The "Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière" in the front line

The French Prime minister has just entrusted a mission on cross-border cooperation to Etienne Blanc, deputy of Ain (Department), and Fabienne Keller, senator of Bas-Rhin (Département), in contact with Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid, European deputy.

Upon an appraisal of cross-border cooperation, proposals will be formulated in order to better exploit the opportunities of the border territories:

- reinforce the economic attractivity of the French territories,
- improve the use of the cooperation tools implemented by the European Union,
- identify the expectations of the authorities in the border countries.

MOT will bring technical support to the realization of this mission. On 17th December 2009, during a press conference, Pierre Lellouche, French Secretary of State in charge of European affairs underlined the scope of the subject, which concerns 10 million inhabitants in France. Michel Mercier, French minister of Territorial planning and of the Countryside pointed out that it was necessary « to popularize cross-border questions, which are often neglected », but it is necessary that « these barriers become systems of development ».



Were also underlined:

In France, cross-border cooperation concerns 16 Regions, 28 Departments, 10 Million inhabitants, 300 000 border workers who are going to work every day in a border country

The cross-border areas are territories where competitiveness is a crucial challenge. There, the opportunities for development are important, provided that differences be transformed into complementarities. Moreover, the inhabitants of these regions are confronted with problems of the

daily life: health, transport, taxation, welfare, struggle against delinquency, education, sports and cultural facilities.

Further information:

http://www.datar.gouv.fr/fr_1/actualites_50/communiqués_presse_55/depute_ain_2790.html