

## THE TRANSFRONTIER OPERATIONAL MISSION (MOT)



# TAKING ACCOUNT OF CROSS-BORDER ISSUES AT NATIONAL LEVEL

With the support of its political and institutional representatives, the MOT communicates the needs of its members to the authorities concerned at national level. If necessary, it draws up proposals for legislative and regulatory changes.



### POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES

#### The president

Christian Dupessey, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of Annemasse Conurbation, Mayor of Annemasse, President of the Pôle Métropolitain of French Geneva.

The Vice-Presidents – European and national parliamentarians

- Anne Sander, MEP

The Vice-Presidents – political representatives of the territories

- the European Collectivity of Alsace;
- the Grand Besançon Metropolis;
- the Grand Est Region;
- the Lille European Metropolis;
- the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region;
- the North Lorraine Urban Planning and Sustainable Development Agency (AGAPE);
- the Pyrénées-Orientales Department;
- the Strasbourg Eurometropolis;
- the Sud - Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region;
- the St Omer-Flandre Intérieur Urban Planning and Development Agency.

The Secretary

- the Nice-Côte d'Azur Metropolis.

The Treasurer

- the European Cross-Border Grouping (GTE).



### FOUNDING MEMBERS AND INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

- the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT);
- the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (FR);
- General Directorate of Local Authorities (DGCL)
- the Banque des Territoires (Caisse des Dépôts group).

The MOT's founding members and institutional partners take part in the meetings and activities of the network. They are involved in drawing up the MOT's work programme.

Specific agreements between each partner and the MOT set out the content and modalities of their cooperation.



### MONITORING CROSS-BORDER POLICY

The MOT monitors national legislation and public policy that have an impact on cross-border territories.

In partnership with its parliamentary and institutional representatives, it contributes to proposals for amendments to take account of the needs of cross-border territories<sup>(1)</sup>.

Following the recommendations of the White Paper "Diplomacy and Territories" of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (2016), the MOT is working alongside its institutional partners to set up "inter-ministerial coordination in charge of cross-border issues", including the implementation of an experiment in the Grand Est Region.

It also contributes to the implementation of the Treaty of Aachen, one of the objectives of which is to strengthen Franco-German cross-border cooperation, and to the development of similar approaches on other borders.

<sup>(1)</sup> For example: amendment to the NOTRe Act to add a cross-border component to the regional plans for economic development, innovation and internationalisation (SRDEII); inclusion of the cross-border dimension in the remit of the public investment bank BPI France; lowering from 20% to 15% the own funding required for territorial authorities' projects co-financed by the ERDF.

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# TAKING ACCOUNT OF CROSS-BORDER ISSUES AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

The incorporation of cross-border issues into European policies is a crucial matter for cross-border territories. The MOT defends the interests of its members at European level through numerous actions and partnerships.



## EUROPEAN CROSS-BORDER CITIZENS' ALLIANCE

While the health crisis has led to uncoordinated border measures, it has also revealed interdependencies and given rise to multiple forms of cross-border cooperation.

It is in this context that the MOT, AEBR<sup>(5)</sup> and CESCO<sup>(6)</sup>, with the political support of the European Committee of the Regions, launched a "European Cross-border Citizens' Alliance" at the 1st Borders Forum on 9 November 2020. This alliance promotes that European and national decisions should offer more resources and powers to border authorities to enable them to deepen their cooperation beyond national borders.

<http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en/activites-ue/european-cross-border-citizens-alliance/>



## INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO CROSS-BORDER SOLUTIONS

This group was set up by Luxembourg and France following Luxembourg's presidency of the EU Council<sup>(1)</sup> in 2016. Its work led to the European Commission's proposal for a new European legal instrument: the "mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context" ("ECBM")<sup>(2)</sup>.

The group's work today is to support this proposal for a regulation in the negotiations with the Parliament and the Council.

The MOT provides the technical secretariat for this group and gives access to all of its work on its website.

<http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en/activites-ue/obstacles-intergovernmental-group/>

Nombre de territoires frontaliers existants et créés par pays d'Europe en 2015

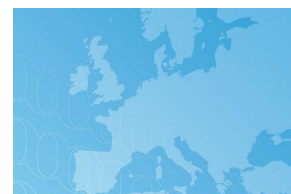


## CROSS-BORDER STRATEGIC COMMITTEE ON OBSERVATION

France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Andorra and Spain set up in 2013, a Cross-Border Strategic Committee (CSC)<sup>(3)</sup> aimed at coordinating their approaches to the statistical observation of border territories. The MOT provides the technical secretariat for the CSC, which meets once a year.

The MOT is coordinating this approach with other initiatives: German policy on observation on its borders, the work of DG REGIO, etc.

<http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en/activites-ue/observation-committee/>



## INTERFACE WITH THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

The MOT is in constant contact with the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions<sup>(4)</sup>, the Council of Europe and the EIB. It participates in the working groups on cross-border cooperation set up by these institutions.

The MOT monitors European policies and makes the voice of cross-border territories heard through the European positions it adopts on behalf of its members.

<sup>(1)</sup> In the second half of 2015.

<sup>(2)</sup> Proposal for a regulation of the EC of 29/05/2018.

<sup>(3)</sup> Made up of representatives of the ministries in charge of territorial development (in France, the ANCT).

<sup>(4)</sup> Declaration of common interest, EGTC Platform.

<sup>(5)</sup> Association of European Border Regions.

<sup>(6)</sup> Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives (association set up in 2009 in Hungary on the model of MOT).