



Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

Between:

The Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT), based at 38 rue des Bourdonnais, 75001 Paris (France), represented by its Chairman – Mister Pierre MAUROY

in the name of EUROMOT

on the one side,

and

the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), based at Enschederstr. 362, 48599 Gronau (Germany) represented by its Chairman – Mister Lambert VAN NISTELROOIJ

on the other side,

Consider that:

- This convention takes place in the context of the cohesion policy of the European Union for the program period 2007-2013 and of its objective "European territorial cooperation" as well as in the context of the approval of the Territorial Agenda last 24th and 25th of May in Leipzig and finally in the period of reflection about the European budget after 2013.

□ The Association of European Border Regions

Today, the aims and task of AEBR are, as laid down in the Statutes of AEBR, which were last amended on November 25 1994, in Triest:

These Statutes stipulate that AEBR is acting for the benefit of all European border and cross-border regions and that it has as its aims:

- to make their particular problems, opportunities, tasks and projects intelligible;
- to represent their overall interests to national and international parliaments, organs, authorities and institutions;
- to initiate, support and co-ordinate their co-operation throughout Europe (creation of a network);

- to exchange know-how and information in order to formulate and co-ordinate common interests on the basis of the various cross-border problems and opportunities, and to offer adequate solutions

It is AEBR's task:

- to implement programmes and projects, to apply for funds and to receive and to dispose of them;
- to organise events that deal with cross-border problems;
- to help to solve cross-border problems and to support special activities;
- to prepare and implement common campaigns within the networks;
- to inform European political bodies and the public about cross-border issues.

- **The Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière** has been created in 1997 starting with pilot sites which were cross-border agglomerations situated on French outer borders. They have contributed to create a strong dynamic for the MOT bringing its expertise to different sites and promoting more generally the cross-border local authorities for urban, rural or natural cross-border territories between France and its 9 neighboring countries.

The MOT thus has the main objective to facilitate the emergence and the realization of structuring cross-border projects, favoring the articulation between territories from different countries. It works on all subjects concerned by the cross-border actions (health, transport, economic development, environment, urban cooperation....). It animates and brings her operational assistance to a network of actors involved in the cross-border cooperation (project leaders, institutional actors)

As recognized actor at the European level, today the MOT conveys a politically orientated message on the development of cross-border territorial projects. Those are a specific response to the needs of the inhabitants of cross-border regions and a powerful vector of European integration of the internal borders and of a pacification of the external borders of Europe.

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, it decided a new strategic guideline of a dual nature: assertion on the political level and a clear positioning on the European level. In order to do so and following the action lead from its origin, the MOT considers to create, under the label of EUROMOT, a European network of cross-border local authorities to reinforce their local action and to pass on their message all over Europe.

The objective is to associate other cross-border sites from other European borders and to cooperate with other institutions regrouping local authorities working on cross-border cooperation. Thus will be created the EUROMOT in a progressive way, beginning at the European conference of the MOT in November 2007.

- **Thus, AEBR and EUROMOT** carry out all two and in a complementary way, within the animation of their respective networks, a reflection on current cross-border dynamics, modalities of their realization and their perspective of development on the European territory.

IT HAS BEEN AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1: OBJECT OF THE CONVENTION

The object of the present convention is to favor the partnership and to create a strategic alliance between EUROMOT, AEBR and their members. The objectives of both structures being complementary, they could carry out a partnership which will allow them to enrich mutually and to have more weight with their message on the cross-border cooperation of regions and of local authorities.

The idea is to ally their forces to have a better impact on orientations and decisions of the national and European authorities in the field of cross-border cooperation and to orientate in a sustainable way the content of the action programs concerning cross-border cooperation in Europe. The ultimate aim of this alliance is to act in common for the well-being of European cross-border populations and therefore at a successful integration of internal borders and at a pacification of the external borders of Europe.

This political agreement is accompanied by a program of common actions which will be proposed, decided and evaluated every year by the decision making authorities of the two parties.

ARTICLE 2: FIELDS OF PARTENSHIP

The approach of EUROMOT develops itself starting from cross-border local authorities with a strong activity of operational assistance for the setting up of projects, the one of AEBR starting with the border regions and euroregions with a confirmed presence at European institutions. This will allow to cover in a complementary way all the different types and scales of cross-border co-operation.

In order to set up this partnership for having a bigger attention on a European level and find concrete solutions to develop the projects of cross-border territories, the following fields of cooperation are thus proposed:

Polical cooperation

- Mutual presence in the decision making authorities (general assembly) with the possibility to intervene.
- Permanent exchange of information on cross-border cooperation and on the activities of each of the structures.
- Establish common positions in Europe towards European, national, regional, local authorities and civil society in the field of cross-border cooperation.
- Establish a close link with the European Parliament to allow a better consideration of cross-border cooperation.
- Permanencies of a link with the Council of Europe and its 46 countries, in particular through the CEMAT (European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning).
- Organization of common events (seminars, conferences...)

Technical assistance

A cooperation in the field of operational assistance can in particular carry on the following subjects:

- implementation of the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGCT) not only to carry the management of programs but also to structure projects (political governance and realisation of projects),
- the subject of health: help build up on the European borders of cross-border communities of health and put them into a network.
- the articulation of local projects as well as regional and European programmes of cross-border cooperation.
- training and research on cross-border practices.
- the neighbourhood policy and cross-border cooperation.
- preparation of the European year of cross-border cooperation 2010.

ARTICLE 3: MEANS TO REALISE THESE OBJECTIVES

Animation / training

The two structures will participate in the seminars, training, conferences having a cross-border focus, that are organised respectively by each one of them and this from the preparation of the contents until the delivery of the results.

ARTICLE 4: MODALITIES OF FOLLOW UP

The two parties agree on a regular communication of their actions. They will meet at least once a year to establish and evaluate their annual program of actions and evaluate the results of the progress of this convention.

ARTICLE 5: DURATION, MODIFICATION AND DISSOLVING OF THE AGREEMENT

- This agreement enters into force from the date of its signature. In absence of any opposition formulated by one of the two signatory institutions, it will be prorogued every year by tacit re-conduction.
- This agreement can be modified by amendment and be denounced by one or the other party with a prenotification of three months.

Signed in Lille on 8 November 2007

For the Association of European
Border Regions

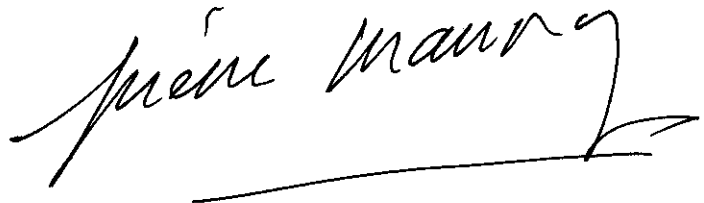
The Chairman



Lambert VAN MISTELROOIJ

For the Mission Opérationnelle
Tranfrontalière in the name of EUROMOT

The Chairman



Pierre MAUROY