

Position of Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) to the DG REGIO D2 consultation

Facilitating border solutions (amended proposal)

Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT*) fully supports the relaunch of the process leading to an amended proposal of facilitating border solutions.

Identifying and removing obstacles is a major challenge for cross-border cooperation.

I. The MOT's support of the European Commission's project from the beginning

The MOT (Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière) has supported the European Commission's project from the outset (see details on the website of MOT in French <http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/ressources/themes/themes/theme/show/obstacles/>):

- ▶ The work of the Luxembourg presidency of the Council of the EU (2nd semester 2015) at the Intergovernmental level when the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg first put forward the need to overcome obstacles to cooperation via new EU cross-border tools. This issue was debated during the [General Affairs Council meeting of November 17th 2015](#), and the informal ministerial meeting on spatial planning of 26 November 2015, on the basis of a study – for which the MOT was commissioned by Luxembourg – on legal solutions for overcoming obstacles to cross-border cooperation, investigating the needs for changes to law and envisaging new legal tools:
http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Documents_MOT/Etudes_Publications_MOT/2015_09_Legal_provisions_Obstacles_to_CBC.pdf
- ▶ The [cross-border review](#) launched by DG REGIO identified numerous obstacles to cross-border cooperation, which led to the publication of the communication of the European Commission on boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions (September 2017).
- ▶ Following the presidency an **informal working group** of several Member States, the Committee of the Regions, MOT, AEHR and CESCO was set up, which has met on a regular basis to further develop the tool between 2016 and 2018. The MOT was in charge of the secretary of the group:
<http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/ressources/themes/obstacles/obstacles-3/groupe-intergouv-obstacles/>
- ▶ In May 2018, the **legislative proposal** for a mechanism to remove legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context" (ECBM), was published by the European as part of the **package of legislative proposals** for a new cohesion policy framework (2021 to 2027 period): "[Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context](#)", COM (2018) 373. Even if it did not succeed in the first run, the MOT has fully supported the proposal in its position on the legislative proposals
http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Documents_MOT/Europe/Positions_MOT/FR_contribution_MOT_2021_2027.pdf

II. MOT support of its relaunch following the Gozi and Altounian reports

The 2018 legislative proposal for a "mechanism to remove legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context" (ECBM), initiated by the European Commission, has now been relaunched. **The MOT fully supports the current relaunch of the process** "EU cross-border regions – solutions to overcome legal and administrative obstacles"

- ▶ The European Parliament's report on the modification of the "mechanism for removing legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context" by Sandro Gozi MEP was adopted on September 14th, 2023, in plenary session.
- ▶ Similarly, the **opinion of the European Committee of the Regions** "European Cross-Border Mechanism 2.0" by rapporteur **Magali Altounian**, for which the MOT was an expert, was also adopted unanimously in plenary session on October 10th, 2023 (<https://cor.europa.eu/fr/our-work/Pages/OpinionTimeline.aspx?opid=CDR-6083-2022>)

Obstacles to cross-border cooperation need to be resolved at every border, but also by involving capital cities, within a European framework.

III. Many former projects would have been facilitated by the mechanism

The MOT would also highlight that previous projects such as those supported by the B-solutions initiative would have been very much facilitated by the mechanism. See in this context the reports produced by MOT on several B-solutions realised between 2019 and 2021:

<http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/la-mot/publications/etudes-mot/initiative-b-solutions-les-rapports-produits-par-la-mot/>

* The **Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)**, created in 1997, is an association that was set up in 1997 by the French government with the main objective of facilitating cross-border projects. Its network, organized as association, is comprised of players in border territories involved in cross-border cooperation and situated on both sides of the border: regions, provinces, municipalities, groupings of local authorities and territorial authorities, cross-border structures, governments, chambers of commerce and industry, federations, networks, urban planning agencies, etc. It has more than 90 members, from 9 European countries. This positioning facilitates structured dialogue between national and European authorities and local and regional players in a multi-level approach. It acts as the interface between the different stakeholders in order to find cross-border solutions at the right levels. MOT missions are operational assistance to cross-border projects (project development, legal structures, studies, etc.), to facilitate the networking of players and the sharing of experiences, to promote the interests of cross-border territories and to assist in the definition of overall strategies in cross-border cooperation, and implementation of European projects. To date, the MOT has concentrated its work on cross-border proximity cooperation and assistance in the definition of policies regarding cross-border territories. Website: www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org

Annexes / More information

- ▶ www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org
- ▶ <http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/ressources/themes/themes/theme/show/obstacles/> (French version)

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