

# Cross-Border Rail Connections :

## fostering cohesion between regions and their citizens

11 June 2021

Proposing a method to solve obstacles to cross-border cooperation  
The example of infrastructures

Philippe Voiry

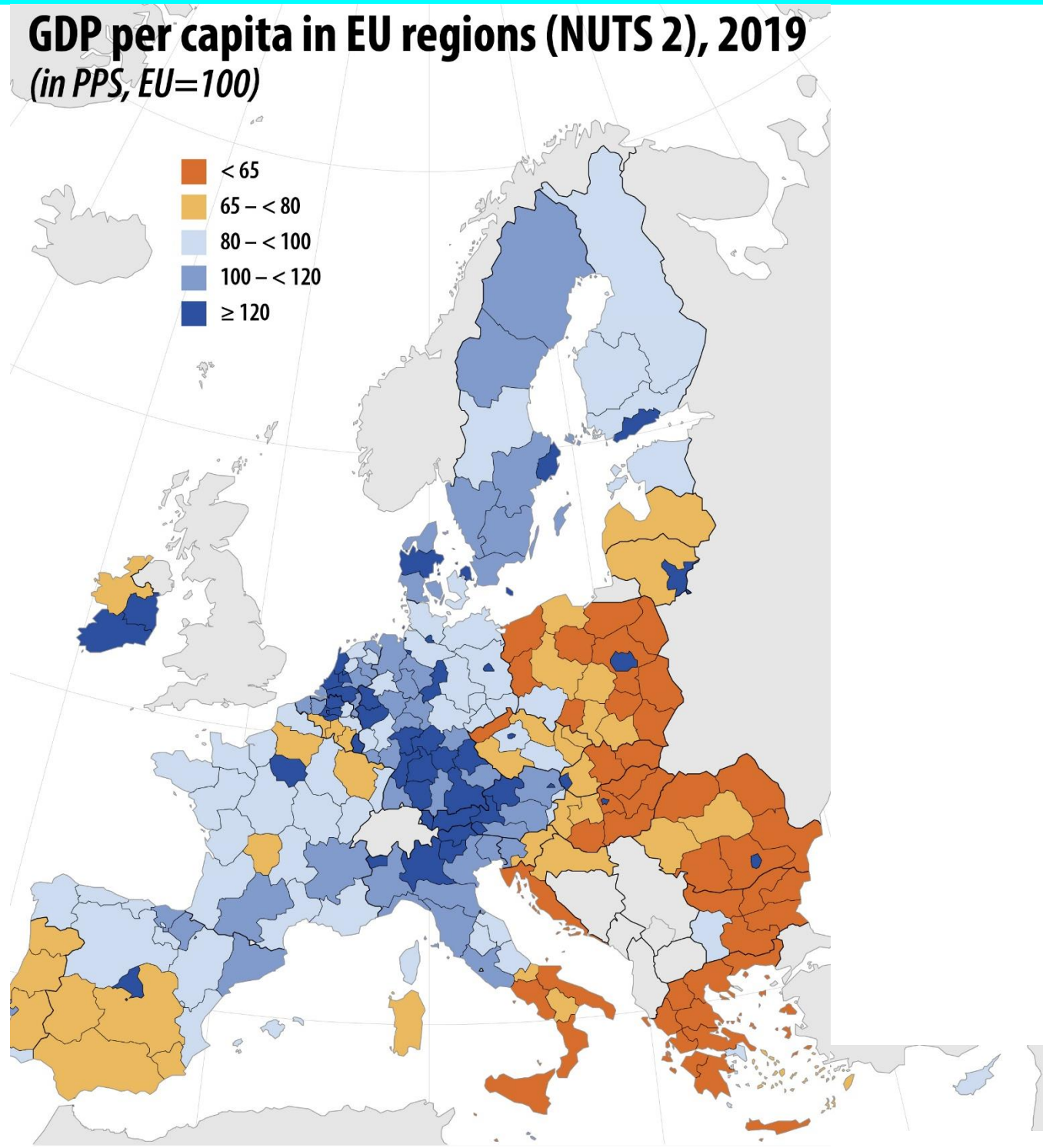
Ambassador for cross-border cooperation  
French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs

*Ideas expressed in this presentation are solely those of the author and do not commit the French government*

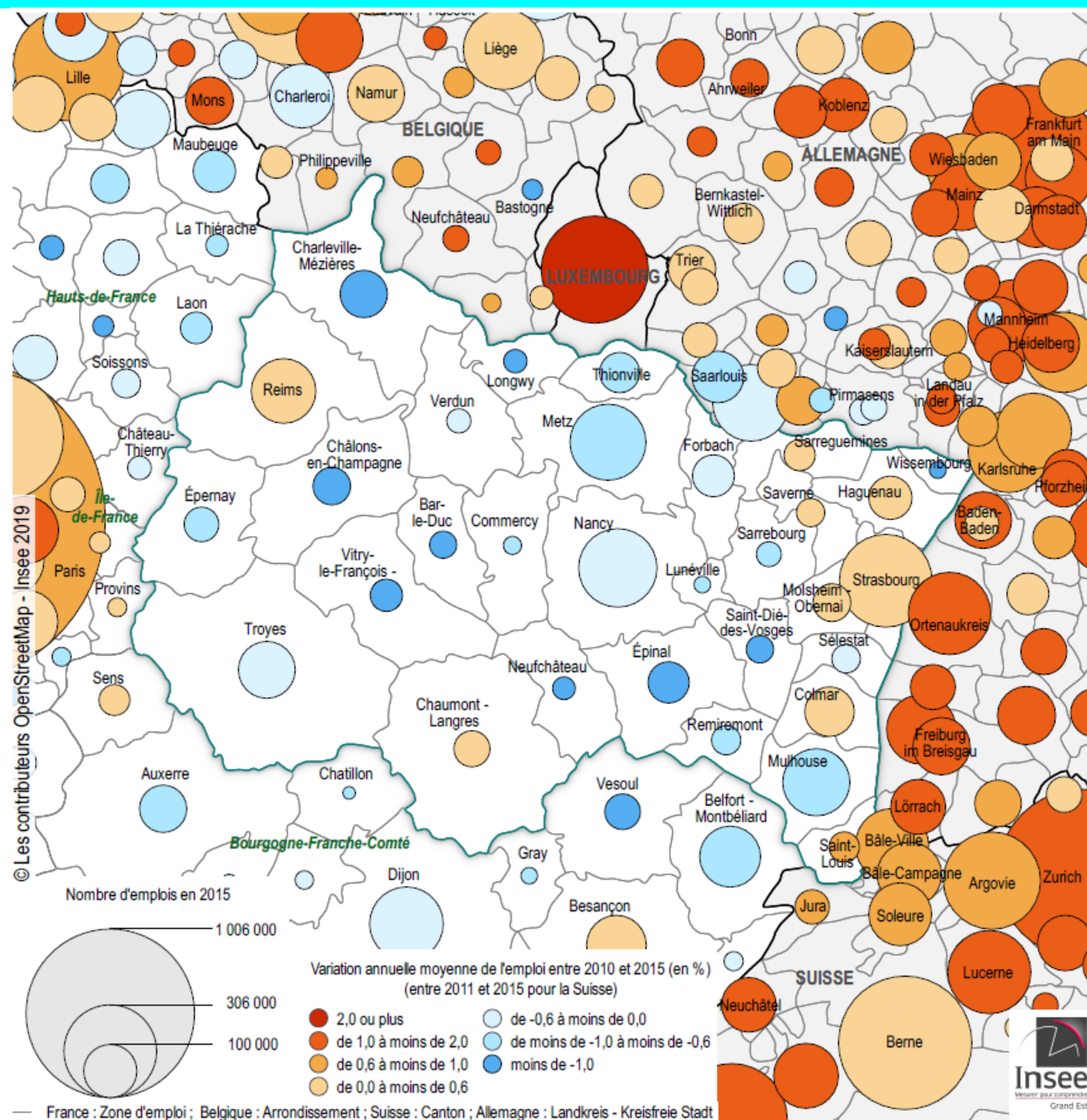
# The European networks connect all territories to ...



...the backbone of Europe where regional wealth per capita is highest

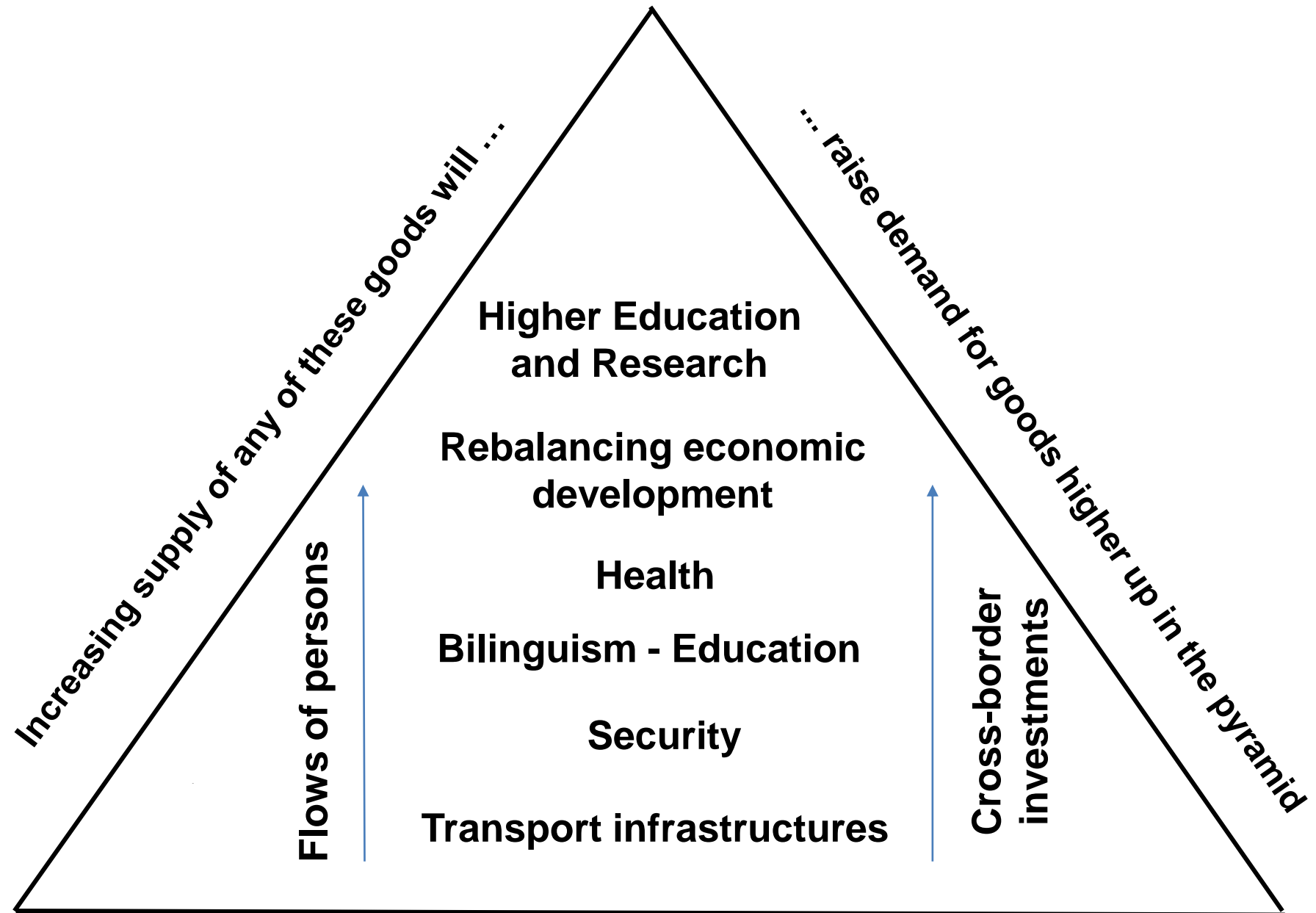


# Fostering the diffusion of growth across the border is key to creating employment



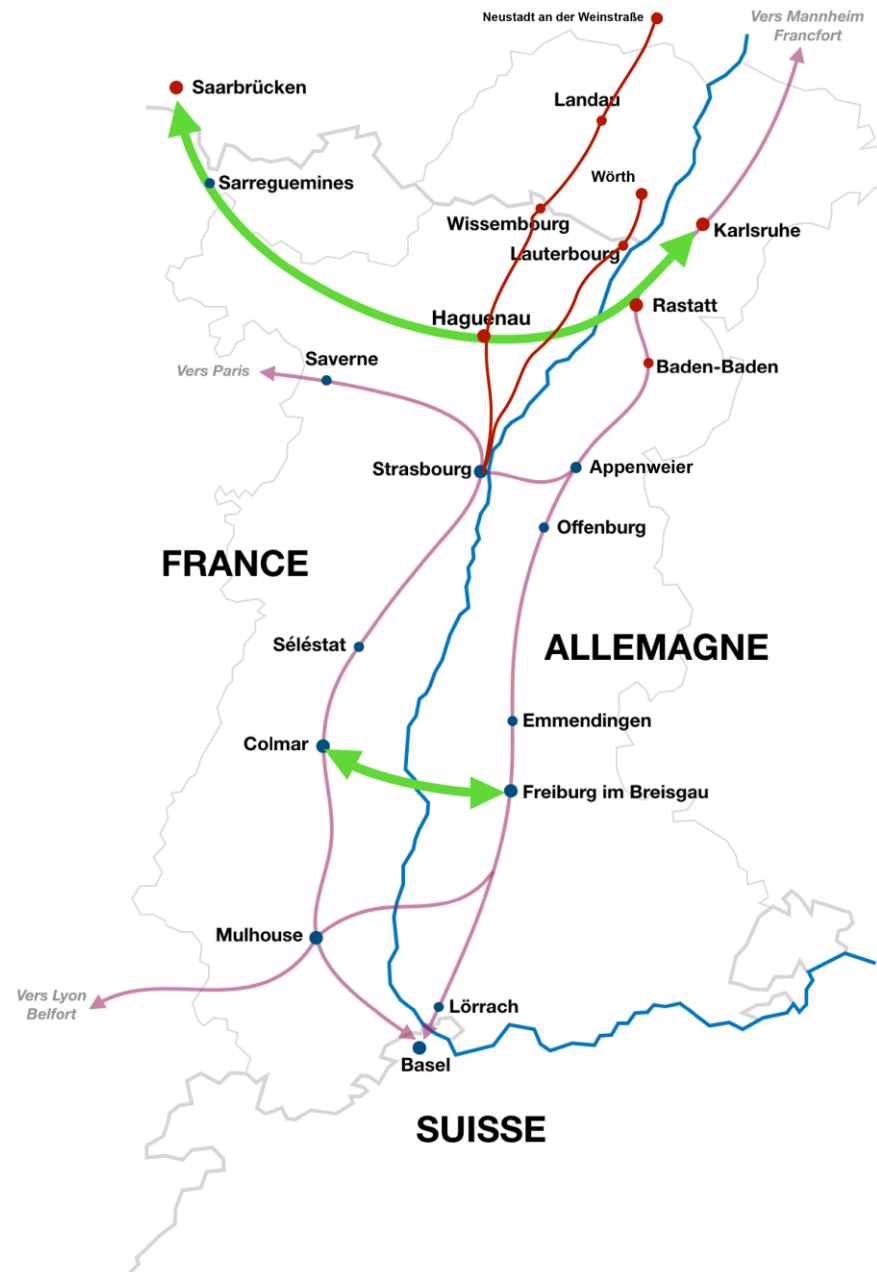
Sources : Insee, Estel 2010 et 2015 ; Eurostat ; OFS - STATENT 2011-2015.

# An efficient transport system is the basis for further development of cross-border cooperation





# Connecting European corridors along the Rhine valley



# Implementation of Aix-la-Chapelle Treaty and new projects

**Declaration of the Franco-German Council of Ministers, 31 May 2021**

« 9. In order to improve cross-border connections, we study the possibility of restoring the rail link between Freiburg and Colmar (with a first economic assessment due in 2022) ; we will also examine the possibility of restoring the rail connection between Rastatt and Haguenau so as to reinforce both European corridors along the Rhine, in particular for freight traffic. We will set up a Franco-German task force, with all stakeholders, to work on the establishment of a direct rail connection between Strasbourg and Frankfurt Airport. »

# **The Committee for Cross-Border Cooperation established by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle**

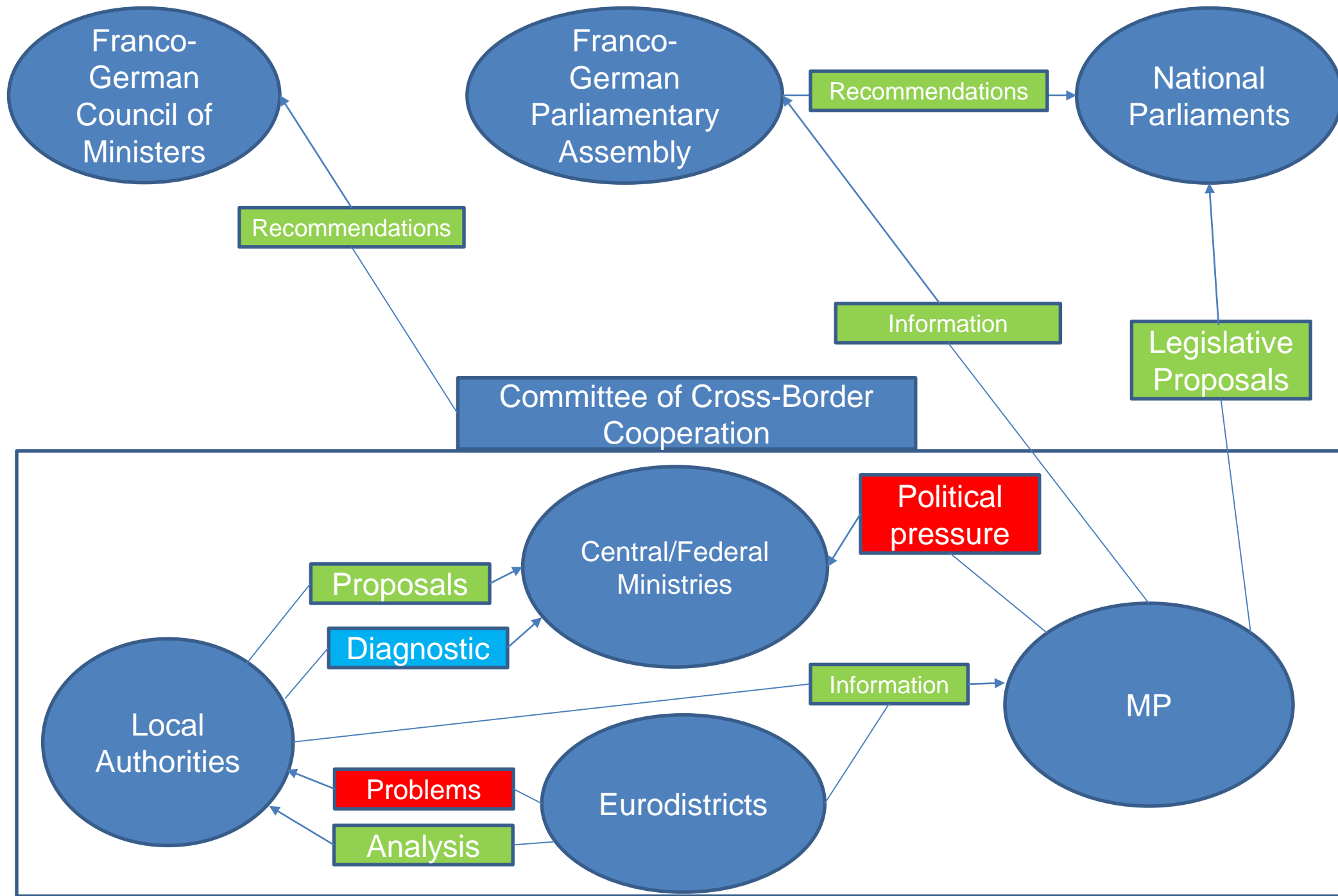
- local authorities (region, départements, Länder, city of Strasbourg, and the prefect as the local representative of central government on the French side)
- representatives of federal/central government : ambassadors for cross-border cooperation, and if need be, representatives of relevant ministries
- representatives of Eurodistricts (European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation)
- Members of Parliament



# The Committee's internal dynamic

- Work programme includes a mix of concrete and systemic projects :
  - obstacles to be solved
  - long-term projects
- Responsabilising members : each member is a rapporteur/sponsor of a project on the work programme :
  - In such committees, the custom was to continuously bring new problems to be solved, have the committee adopt recommendations on them and send the recommendations to the capitals, « hoping that a miracle would happen »
  - Now, if you bring a problem to the committee, chances are high that you be responsible for finding a solution, along with a partner from the other country. You do not need to be legally in charge of that problem in your country to become rapporteur on it.

# The Committee's interaction with other bodies



“DETERMINED to lay the foundations of an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe”

Treaty on the functioning of the EU

Thank you for your attention