

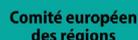
BORDERS FORUM 2022 on 21-22 June in Paris and online *Cross-border territories, leading territories of the European Green Deal*

The last six years have been the hottest for 150 years, sea levels are rising by 3 to 4 mm per year, and greenhouse gas emissions have doubled in 50 years! **While the IPCC¹ has just forcefully reminded us of the climate emergency, the 2nd edition of the Borders Forum is devoting a large part of its programme to the green transition.**

The cross-border territories, which represent 30% of the European population, have a double legitimacy to play a "flagship" role in the European Green Deal. As a matter of course, climate and nature do not stop at borders. They also benefit from more than 30 years of strong cooperation experience, particularly through the Interreg programmes and the implementation of cross-border governance.

The 2nd Borders Forum, as a meeting place for stakeholders in cross-border territories, will devote three round tables to the ecological and energy transition. The first edition in 2020 held in a context of health crisis that provided a wealth of information on the brakes and levers of European integration. In 2022, for the first time, **the event organised by the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, in partnership with the European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions, and with the support of the Agence nationale de la Cohésion des territoires, will be held at the Cité Internationale Universitaire in Paris on 21 and 22 June 2022, as part of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.** This edition will confirm the strategic place of these territories in the acceleration of the green transition, whose energy challenges are further highlighted by the war in Ukraine.

[The programme is online](https://bordersforum.eu) and [registration](https://bordersforum.eu) is now open on the event's website: bordersforum.eu.



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THE CROSS-BORDER EUROPE, LEADER IN ENERGY TRANSITION

Qualified as true laboratories of European integration, « *cross-border regions can be test-beds for a local approach to the Green transition and can thus boost cross-border cooperation* » said **Apostolos Tzitzikostas, President of the European Committee of the Regions**.

- ≡ The 1st round table will bring together **Carole Delga***, **President of the Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion**, and **Antoine Troesch, Director of Investment at the Banque des Territoires**, to present the issues related to major energy corridors, such as the European "H2" corridor. This project, supported by the Occitanie region, aims to develop a complete ecosystem around hydrogen for transport on a North-South axis from the Mediterranean to the North Sea. **Tineke Bolhuis, Business Developer in charge of regional and cross-border development of the Hydrogen Delta network in the Netherlands at the Dutch network operator Gasunie**, will complete the panel.

« *Border regions can also play an important role in renewable energy production, if we let them access local and regional electricity grids across borders and foster stronger citizen energy communities* », explained **Elisa Ferreira, European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms**.

*to be confirmed

COORDINATED RESPONSES TO ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCIES

The consequences of global warming do not respect borders. The North Sea is very much affected by the rise in sea level, and the French, Belgian and Dutch coasts are suffering. In 2021, storm Alex caused major damage in the French Maritime Alps and on the Italian side of the Alps. The major rivers that cross Europe will see their flows similarly affected by drought peaks...

Cross-border regions have a very varied geography: rural or metropolitan, mountain or coastal territories. Thus, they cover all the issues of adaptation to climate change, including risk prevention and resilience to natural disasters. **Gaetano Vivo, Deputy Head of Unit, Disaster Risk Management, Directorate General for Civil Protection and**

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Humanitarian Operations (DG ECHO), will highlight the added value of a coordinated European approach to respond effectively to disasters.

The EU's efforts to prevent natural risks will also be presented by **Iliyana Cvetanova, Coordinator of the Cross-border cooperation in Forest Fire Fighting project**, on the prevention and management of forest fire risks on the border between Bulgaria and Northern Macedonia.

For his part, **Xavier Pelletier, Prefect in charge of the reconstruction of the valleys of the Alpes Maritimes**, will review the way in which the French and Italian authorities have organised themselves to respond effectively to the devastating consequences of storm Alex.

FOR LONG-TERM ALLIANCES FOR THE GREEN TRANSITION

With 80 European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), cross-border actors have been thinking and organising their cooperation for many years. But these governance models must now evolve and be supplemented in order to strengthen our joint capacity for resilience and adaptation to climate change in the long term.

Jean Rottner, President of the Grand Est Region, will present the cross-border initiatives he supports on this subject, and in particular the EEIG Grande Région Hydrogen in charge of regional and cross-border hydrogen development and the MosaHYc (Moselle Saar HYdrogen Conversion) network project.

Anna-Karina Kolb, Director of the External and Federal Department of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, will remind us of the environmental ambitions of Greater Geneva, where the water issue has been the catalyst for cross-border organisation.

" When restoring biodiversity, we must ensure that there are enough ecological corridors for wild life to freely move around our continent", underlined Elisa Ferreira.

Finally, since these large-scale challenges require the mobilisation of all stakeholders, **Damian Cortinas, Director of the European coordination system at RTE and member of the ENTSO-E board**, will explain the role of ENTSO-E in terms of coordination of electricity transmission system operators in Europe, and more particularly the TYNDP²,

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which plans cross-border connections by 2030.

The various examples that will be discussed during the 2nd Borders Forum are sources of inspiration for the New European Bauhaus³ to guide Europe towards climate neutrality by 2050, the objective of the latest climate package "Fit for 55"⁴.

1 - IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report published on 4 April 2022

2 - [Ten-Years Network Development Plan](#)

3 - The European New Bauhaus is an initiative supported by the European Commission to design the transformation of living spaces in order to make them more consistent with the ecological transition objectives of the European Green Deal. This interdisciplinary reflection, which keeps social inclusion in mind, is at the crossroads of Science and Technology, Arts and Culture. For the period 2021-2022, approximately 85 million euros are dedicated to New European Bauhaus projects in the EU programmes.

4 - Reduction of 55% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990). Target included in the European Climate Pact.

About the MOT

The Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) is an association that was set up in 1997 by the French government. Its role is to assist project developers, to promote the interests of cross-border territories and to create networks of players and experiences. It serves as an interface between the different stakeholders to help them find cross-border solutions at the right levels.

www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org

About the Borders Forum

The Borders Forum is the meeting place for cross-border players. The first edition of the Borders Forum took place entirely online, in November 2020. It brought together more than 1000 participants from over 40 countries and highlighted the specificities of cross-border territories as well as the equilibria to be found on either side of borders.

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

BORDERS FORUM, 2nd edition - 20 and 21 June 2022

Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris

Access to the Konrad Adenauer Room (1st floor) from the entrance hall

17 boulevard Jourdan 75014 Paris

www.ciup.fr

Opening hours of the Cité Universitaire: 8:30AM - 4PM

Registration on www.bordersforum.eu

SOME ARTICLES AND LINKS TO FURTHER CONTENTS

- ["The ecological transition – an issue for border areas at the heart of the upcoming Borders Forum"](#): Elisa Ferreira, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, and Apostolos Tzitzikostas, President of the European Committee of the Regions, have the floor
- [Green transition and cross-border cooperation](#)
- MOT Guide, [The energy transition and cross-border cooperation](#), January 2019
- [Coopération transfrontalière 2021-2027 : à vos projets !](#)
- [Urgence climatique : les collectivités misent sur l'Europe](#)
- Starting from 34'43 : [Conférence de presse du président de la République sur la Présidence française du Conseil de l'Union européenne](#)

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