

**Building cross-border
territories: Europe
for citizens**
20 years of the MOT and
perspectives for 2020

**30TH NOV.
1ST DEC. 2017**

European Committee of
the Regions, Room JDE 62
Rue Belliard 99-101,
Brussels

PROGRAM EN



THEME OF THE CONFERENCE

Today, citizens wonder what they gain from Europe; the opening of internal borders is questioned by some. However, cross-border employment, the availability of common services and a shared heritage embody a daily and visible Europe that benefits cross-border territories. These laboratories of European integration must contribute to the inhabitants taking ownership of Europe. What ambition should we have for **these specific areas that are true territories of European cohesion?** What challenges lie ahead? What answers must be found on a local, regional, national and European level?

For its 20th anniversary, the MOT offers to discuss the achievements of 20 years of cross-border cooperation, but also the obstacles that remain and, so as to solve them, the European policies post-2020.

THURSDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2017

2.00 pm – ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

2.30 pm – OPENING STATEMENTS

- Corina Crețu, European Commissioner for Regional Policy
- Michel Delebarre, President of the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)
- Anne Sander, MEP, Vice-President of the MOT

03.00 pm – FORUM 1 CROSS-BORDER CITIZENS, EUROPEAN CITIZENS

Every day, millions of people cross internal European borders, to work, study, buy, access services or just to exchange with their neighbours. What hopes, difficulties, and perceptions do these people have? How do they take part in their common cross-border territory? Do border citizens feel European?

Introduction: Olivier Denert, Secretary General, MOT

- IHEDATE Seminars: Cross-border citizens in European construction

Moderator: Véronique Auger, Journalist

- Education project
- Citizen forum: Loïc Delhuyenne, Director, Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis
- Small project funds: Patrice Harster, Director, Eurodistrict PAMINA
- Citizen experience

04.30 pm – FORUM 2 CROSS-BORDER ACHIEVEMENTS FOR A VISIBLE EUROPE

To improve the welfare of the inhabitants of cross-border areas, politicians and technicians have developed shared public services (public transport, healthcare, employment and training, economic development, environment, etc.) and cross-border political backing especially with the support of Interreg programmes. What has succeeded and what obstacles remain? How do the achievements of yesterday and today help prepare the cohesion of cross-border territories and a visible Europe for tomorrow?

Introduction: Jean Peyrony, Director General, MOT

Moderator: Véronique Auger, Journalist

- Healthcare service: Xavier Faure, EGTC Cerdanya Hospital
- Strasbourg-Kehl tram: Roland Ries, Mayor of Strasbourg
- Natural area: Nicolas Evrard, Mayor of Servoz, Espace Mont-Blanc
- Integrated territorial approach: Gyula Ocskay, Secretary General, CESC
- Financing tools: Representative of the Caisse des Dépôts

06.00 pm – CLOSING STATEMENT

- Nathalie Loiseau, Minister for European Affairs, France (*TBC*)

06.30 pm – END OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE CONFERENCE

07.00 pm – FESTIVE EVENT FOR THE MOT'S 20th ANNIVERSARY

Location: Centre belge de la bande dessinée (Belgian comic strip center)

- Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President, European Committee of the Regions
- Representative of the Walloon Region



Friday →

FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2017

08.30 am – ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

09.00 am – INTRODUCTION

- Birte Wassenberg, Contemporary History Professor, Institut d'Etudes Politiques (IEP), Strasbourg University

09.30 am – THE MOT'S STRATEGIC POSITION POST-2020

- Jean Peyrony, Director general, MOT

09.45 am – FORUM 3 POST-2020, TOWARD MORE CROSS-BORDER INTEGRATION

This session will be an opportunity to react to the European Commission's proposals (communication on cross-border cooperation, report on cohesion) and to debate on what must be the great axes of European policies post-2020 in favour of cross-border integration. It will also echo the proposals by the intergovernmental working group that was put together following Luxembourg's presidency of the Council in 2015, to create a new legal tool and a multi-level problem solving European platform.

Moderation: Véronique Auger, Journalist

- Urban level: André Rossinot, President, Pôle Métropolitain Européen du Sillon Lorrain *(TBC)*
- Regional level: Mathieu Bergé, Regional councillor, Nouvelle Aquitaine Region, Secretary General of the Communauté de Travail des Pyrénées
- National level: Jean-Benoît Albertini, General Commissary for Equal Territories, France *(TBC)*

- National level: Camille Gira, Secretary of State for Sustainable Development and Infrastructures, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg
- European level: Marc Lemaître, Director General for urban and regional policy, European Commission

11.45 am – CLOSING STATEMENTS

- Philippe Richert, President, Grand Est Region
- Camille Gira, Secretary of State for Sustainable Development and Infrastructures, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg
- Jacques Mézard, Minister for the Cohesion of Territories, France *(TBC)*

12.30 am – PRESS CONFERENCE

1.00 pm – END OF THE CONFERENCE