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
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.
02.00 pm – ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

02.30 pm – OPENING STATEMENTS

Michel Delebarre, Former Minister of State, 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
Magali Castex, Auditor of the IHEDATE, working group “Cross-border citizens in European construction”

Moderator: Véronique Auger, Journalist
Kotte Ecenarro, Mayor of Hendaye, Councilor of the Basque Conurbation Community, Co-leader of the Basque Eurocity
Citizen forum: Loïc Delhuvenne, Director, Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis
Small project funds: Patrice Harster, Director, EGTC Eurodistrict PAMINA
Citizen experience: Quentin Mayerat, France-Switzerland border

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

05.00 pm – SPECIAL DINNER

06.00 pm – CLOSING STATEMENT

Christine Moro, Ambassador, Delegate for external action of local authorities, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France

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)
Michel Delebarre, President of the MOT
Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President, European Committee of the Regions
Ariane Fradcourt, Cabinet of Willy Borsus, Minister-President of Wallonia
Roland Ries, Mayor of Strasbourg, First President of MOT
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,
TOWARDS 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
• Christian Dupessey, Mayor of Annemasse, President of Annemasse Agglo
• Mathieu Bergé, Regional councillor, Nouvelle Aquitaine Region
• Hugo Bevort, Director of Territorial Strategies, General Commission for Territorial Equality, France

11.45 am – CLOSING STATEMENTS

• Camille Gira, Secretary of State for Sustainable Development and Infrastructures, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg
• Marc Lemaître, Director General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

12.30 am – PRESS CONFERENCE

1.00 pm – END OF THE CONFERENCE