

Citizens' consultations on the Franco-Swiss border

Two cross-border citizens' consultations were held on 18-19 September 2018 by the MOT, the Jacques Delors Institute, the European Cross-Border Grouping and the Metropolitan Pole of the French Genevois in Saint-Genis-Pouilly and Annemasse. Around 50 citizens attended on both days to talk about their day-to-day experience of the border and express their expectations and wishes with regard to Greater Geneva and the EU. Through participatory workshops, the issues of jobs,

training and healthcare in the cross-border setting were raised, and speakers from the Greater Geneva Conurbation Forum, the Cité des Métiers and Geneva University Hospitals answered questions from citizens. The Jacques Delors Institute and the MOT presented a European perspective on the issues discussed and the experience of other territories. A document setting out the content of the discussions will soon be shared with the participants and posted online. [More info](#)

A new cross-border park between France, Spain and Andorra



On 24 October 2018, representatives of France, Andorra and Spain approved the creation of a new cross-border park: the "Three Nations Pyrenees Park". This new park results from the merger of four already existing parks: the Alt Pirineu Nature Park in Catalonia, the Ariège Pyrenees Regional Nature Park and the Sorteny Valley and Comapedrosa Valley Nature Parks in Andorra. The combined parks cover an area of 400,000 hectares, including 15 municipalities in Catalonia, 2 in Andorra and 141 in France. The agreement gives a legal and political

framework to the actions of the four parks, with the aim of enhancing their actions with respect to the local economy and tourism, through joint planning and implementation: promotion of agri-food products, improvement of biodiversity, cross-border events, etc. "We are going to forge a common image to enable us to boost tourism and economic exchanges. A working group is going to be set up that will study the creation, use and promotion of a common logo and a map of the Three Nations Pyrenees Park," explains Mathieu Cruège, Director of the Ariège Pyrenees Park. The

project is "a long story", he points out: "From the creation of the Ariège Pyrenees Regional Nature Park in 2009, we set out this cross-border ambition in our charter." The MOT was then commissioned to draw up this cross-border charter. Now it is bearing fruit! The partners are also going to study making a joint application to UNESCO to obtain the label "cross-border biosphere reserve".

[More info](#)

EVENTS

Forthcoming cross-border citizens' consultations co-organised with the MOT and the Jacques Delors Institute:

- 25 October in Haguenau in the Pamina Eurodistrict

- 27 October in Tournai with the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis: "Europe, je t'aime moi non plus"

[More info](#)

ALDE Seminar ALDE : "The EU without borders - the potential of the European Cross Border Mechanism", 18 October 2018 in Brussels

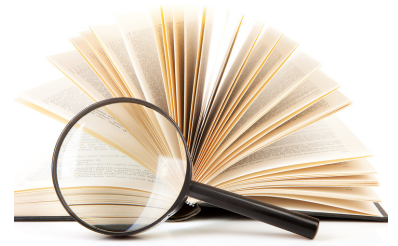
"Fair distribution of taxation and social security contributions in cross-border areas", 25 October 2018 in Geneva

International Forum on Sustainable Mobility: "rethinking mobility for the future", 15-16 November 2018 in Annemasse, Archamps and Geneva

"Lifting the curtain on the 'presential' economy: revenue to be captured, jobs to be created", 19 November 2018 in La Chaux-de-Fonds (France)

[All the events](#)

A new French law covers the posting of workers to cross-border regions



A new French law on the freedom to choose one's professional future, adopted on 1 August 2018, introduced a simplified system of administrative procedures for employers located outside France that temporarily post workers to France.

This substantial simplification of administrative procedures should in particular encourage the posting of workers within cross-border regions where people live collectively regardless of the national borders that cut across them.

Accordingly, subject to activities that relate solely to internal or administrative management, or those carried out in France in a regular and continuous manner, employers that post one or more workers to provide

short-term services or in the context of one-off events, are exempted from the obligations laid down in I and II of Article L1262-2-1 of the Labour Code. In concrete terms, in this scenario, posting by the employer in the context of a contract concluded with the recipient of the service provided or between entities from the same company/group no longer requires the prior sending of a declaration to the work inspectorate of the place where the service is due to be provided, nor the designation of a representative of the company in France responsible for liaising with the relevant supervisory officers for the duration of the service carried out. The list of the activities concerned is still to be

stipulated by a decree from the Minister of Labour.

Within cross-border territories, the growth of economic activity has been particularly affected by these administrative requirements, which are often perceived by foreign companies as insurmountable obstacles due to the delays and additional costs they generate, as well as the language barrier, itself a source of delays and costs. Now, with the simplification of common law administrative procedures, it's another step towards account being taken of the needs linked to economic integration, crucial for the development of cross-border regions.

[More info](#)

France-Switzerland: "Back to work for cross-border workers"

In a press release issued in September, the European Cross-Border Grouping provides updates on the major issues of the autumn for Franco-Swiss cross-border workers, such as the "national preference lite" introduced in Switzerland*, the payment of cross-border workers' unemployment benefit by Switzerland and taxing income at source.

[More info](#)

** In July the Swiss Confederation voted to adopt a "national preference lite" aimed at limiting the entry of foreign labour into Switzerland. In September, it introduced compensation for cross-border workers who are made redundant, who will be able to "register at employment centres in the canton where their last job was, have access to job vacancies, and be supported in their search for work like any native unemployed person".*

Construction of Greater Geneva: disappointment on the French side

On 14 September the Swiss Government introduced its bill concerning the funding of "Third generation conurbation projects". The Greater Geneva partners on the French side like the Metropolitan Pole of the French Genevois speak of "real disappointment": the extension of the Geneva tramline to Saint-Genis-Pouilly and phase 2 of the Geneva-Annemasse tramline have not been taken into account, 'which amounts to putting a brake on cross-border construction,' said Gabriel Doublet, first Vice-President of Annemasse Agglo. [More info](#)

Cross-border citizens' consultation in Nice with French and Italian high-school students

Why is Europe disorganised? What cross-border projects does the EU fund? Why is it important to vote in the European elections?

On 5 October a cross-border citizens' consultation was organised in Nice by the MOT, the Jacques Delors Institute, the Nice-Côte d'Azur Metropolis and the Alpes Maritimes European Movement. Ninety high-school students from Nice and Ventimiglia exchanged views with the MEP Jean-Marie Cavada, in the presence of Laurence Navalesi, Nice city councillor and Secretary of the MOT, Enrico

Iocolano, the Mayor of Ventimiglia, and Raffaele De Benedictis, Italy's Consul General in France.

Participatory methods were used to allow all of the young people to have their say.

In their own or their neighbours' language, they called on governments to take an interest in what happens on the other side of the border in order to cooperate and act in solidarity, and also asked for more communication on Europe and its projects in the school curriculum.

[More info](#)

Relaunch of the Cross-Border Strategic Committee on observation

On 18 September 2018 the sixth work meeting of the Cross-Border Strategic Committee (CSC) took place, which had not met since April 2015. Set up in 2013, the CSC brings together representatives of the ministries in charge of territorial development in France and its neighbours: Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg, Belgium and Andorra, as well as their statistical institutes. It is a single place of governance that enables impetus to be given to priorities and joint work to coordinate and harmonise the partners' approaches to cross-border observation. The sixth meeting, in the presence of DG REGIO, made it possible to identify priority topics (such as travel to work, and property prices), and to launch a project to produce a joint publication on the actions implemented in the area of cross-border observation by France and Germany, which can serve as an example for other territories.

[More info](#)

EGTC Platform

The MOT took part in the 8th EGTC Platform, which took place on 8 October at the European Committee of the Regions in Brussels. The meeting was an opportunity to celebrate the activities of the groupings and to welcome the new EGTCs. Presentations on the ECBM, as a new tool available to EGTCs, and the Athens Declaration on the future of Europe helped to put their activities in context.

[More info](#)

MOT NEWS

MOT-UMS RIATE seminar on cross-border observation: towards better decision-making in Europe

The MOT and UMS Riate* hosted a seminar entitled "Territorial observation and assistance with decision-making in cross-border regions" on 17 September in Paris. It brought together 60 people in order to discuss this crucial subject.



Bringing together specialists in territorial observation, public players and practitioners from the MOT's network, and researchers from different backgrounds and borders was the first objective of the seminar. Against the backdrop of the negotiations on European cohesion policy post-2020, the importance of cross-border issues has reasserted itself – and territorial observation is crucial in order to implement appropriate cross-border public policies.

Nine presentations were made during the day. The morning was devoted to cross-border observation tools and to different studies, such as those carried out as part of the DG REGIO's "Border Region Data Collection" project and the "MORO" project on cross-border observation in Germany.

The discussions on the different

projects yielded the same assessment: there is a lack of data on these territories and a lack of harmonisation between them.

The second part of the day focused on practical implementation, with presentations explaining how territorial observation can be used to rethink public policy and inform decision-making, as shown by the Grand Est Region and Greater Geneva's territorial development projects. A method known as "Planspiel" used to understand the practice of cross-border territorial development was also presented by researchers from the University of Luxembourg.

Giving fresh impetus to observation in Europe

The discussions also addressed the prospects for cross-border

governance in Europe post-2020, with the new 2021-2027 programming period being an opportunity to highlight local priorities and ensure greater account is taken of cross-border areas. The day thus provided a chance to announce the relaunch of the Cross-Border Strategic Committee on observation (see opposite) aimed at coordinating the actions of neighbouring states and their statistical institutes, as well as mobilising the different European programmes such as Interreg, in order to anchor cross-border observation in a genuinely European dynamic.

[More info](#)

** The interdisciplinary network for territorial development and cohesion in Europe and neighbouring countries, tasked by the CGET (General Commission for Territorial Equality) to act as the ESPON contact point in France.*

The MOT present at the AEBR conference

On 20-22 September 2018 the General Assembly of the AEBR was held in Oulu, in Finland – in the heart of the Bothnian Arc, the Nordic countries' cross-border organisation supported by the Nordic Council. At this gathering, many European cross-border regions, starting with the host Finnish-Swedish region, had the opportunity to present their current projects. The European



Commission, as well as the European associations, the AEBR, the MOT and the CESCO, all reiterated their support for them.

[More info](#)

New section on France's overseas territories on the MOT website

The MOT has created a new section on its website devoted to cross-border cooperation in France's overseas territories. It consists of an introduction to the geography of and important issues in these areas, then describes the cooperation in three regions concerned: the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean and Amazonia.

[More info](#) [FR]

PRESS REVIEW

▲ “Towards a new approach to cross-border issues”

Revue Administration, No. 258, July 2018.

Interview with Jacques Champagne de Labriolle, Ambassador for intergovernmental commissions, cooperation and border issues (Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs): “The current period is seeing some French territories benefit substantially from growth in neighbouring territories and the emergence of new “living areas”; but it is also seeing the return of structural imbalances between French territories and their neighbours.”

▲ The Cross-Border Job Happening — going to work without borders

Nord Littoral, 20 September

“This year once again, the Cross-Border Job Happening is putting the spotlight on measures that are crying out to be known about.”

▲ Wallonia, Flanders and France join forces around the migrant issue

L'Avenir, 26 September

“On Tuesday in Ostend, the Province of West Flanders, Wallonia and the Hauts-de-France Region launched a cross-border cooperation programme to improve the way in which migrants are integrated.”

▲ School adapted to the cross-border setting

L'Ami Hebdo, 9 September

“More than 3000 Thionville toddlers have gone back to their nursery and elementary schools in the town. With school hours and arrangements adapted to the cross-border situation.”

▲ Promoting its assets to win over its German neighbours

Les Echos, 7 September

“Metz is counting on its technological, scientific and university offer to attract German companies.”

▲ Nuclear: the redevelopment plan for Fessenheim

Le Monde, 5 October

“A business area will be created, and the local tax loss compensated over 10 years to the tune of €30 million. [...] A Franco-German public-private company, set up in January, will be in charge of the redevelopment.”

▲ Unemployment of cross-border workers costs France 300 million a year

Le Dauphiné libéré, 11 September

“While cross-border workers pay their social security contributions in Switzerland, it is the French benefit system that pays them their corresponding benefits. As this situation is the same between all of the countries of the European Union, generating unfairness between countries, the EU ministers of social affairs arrived at a new funding agreement on 21 June of this year. The principle agreed upon is that cross-border workers’ unemployment benefit should be paid by the country where they have worked and no longer by their country of residence. When it comes to be applied, this new system will not necessarily be advantageous for those concerned [...]”

▲ The car-sharing revolution is on its way in Greater Geneva

Le Dauphiné libéré, 18 September

“Increasing the modal share of car-sharing from 4% to 6%, as we are aiming to do, will save 30,000 car trips across the French Geneva Area,” explains Ludovic Antoine, who is in charge of transport and mobility in the Metropolitan Pole of the French Genevois.”

▲ Lyon-Turin rail link: Brussels presses Rome and Paris to act

Les Echos, 2 October 2018

“The Commission is talking about potential additional funding of €860 million to finance the work. And is threatening, if the project remains blocked, to ask for the subsidies already paid out to be reimbursed.”

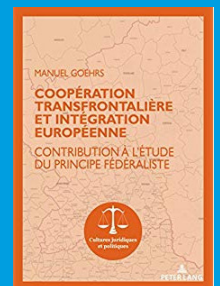
[Consult all of the press articles*](#). Reserved for members – in French. * Each month, the MOT posts online around 100 articles about cross-border cooperation.

“Cross-border cooperation and European integration: A contribution to the study of the federalist principle”*

By Manuel Goehrs, published by Peter Lang, 2018. In French*.

“By observing the mechanisms of cross-border cooperation in the European Union, this book proposes to investigate the legal bases for an ‘integral’ federalism or a ‘personalist’ federalism. [...] The proliferation of European groupings of territorial cooperation (EGTCs) allows us here to envisage a federal society conceived on the basis of individuals located in ‘a graduated superimposition of communities that are both constituted and constituting’, with each of these communities possessing its own normativity.” [More info \[FR\]](#)

* Original title: “Coopération transfrontalière et intégration européenne : Contribution à l'étude du principe fédéraliste”



This publication is available in the MOT's document portal [FR].

Specialising in cross-border cooperation, the portal provides more than 4,000 document references. [More info](#)

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