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On 22 January in Aachen, Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Emmanuel Macron signed a new treaty on cooperation and integration between Germany and France. This agreement complements the Elysée Treaty of 1963, extending it with a real strategy of convergence. France and Germany have thereby reaffirmed the strength of their partnership and asserted their desire to give concrete form to their closer relationship and their commitment to Europe by actions on the ground. In parallel, we adopted a declaration that sets out 15 priority projects designed to implement the treaty. Chapter IV of the Aachen Treaty – a chapter which the MOT helped to draft – is entirely devoted to cross-border and regional cooperation. Article 14 provides for the setting-up of a Cross-Border Cooperation Committee that will provide a framework for the dialogue that is essential for all of the players concerned. This committee will monitor the implementation of projects already listed and will identify others in the future. It will be able to propose to the national public authorities to take – in compliance with their constitutional rules – the measures needed for the better integration of territories. The different projects must be carried out with involvement from all of the stakeholders, and the support of private-sector players will be very precious. This first model, designed for the benefit of Alsace, the Moselle and the neighbouring Länder, can serve as a reference elsewhere. By taking account of the specificity of territories and responding to the aspirations of the local population in this way, the government is encouraging the deepening of cross-border cooperation, which, day by day, is becoming a major component of European construction.

## The Aachen Treaty: the cross-border dimension given full recognition

The Aachen Treaty marks a real recognition of cross-border cooperation as a central element in European construction.

The fourth chapter, which is entirely devoted to cross-border cooperation, was drafted with active participation from the MOT. Its main objective is the elimination of cross-border obstacles, in order to facilitate the implementation of projects and simplify the daily lives of border region inhabitants. To this end, “the two countries are giving territorial authorities in border territories and cross-border entities such as Eurodistricts appropriate competences, dedicated resources and accelerated procedures”; and “if no other means enables them to overcome

these obstacles, suitable legal and administrative provisions, notably derogations, can also be granted”. The setting-up of a Franco-German Cross-Border Cooperation Committee, one of the treaty’s flagship measures, will be tasked with drawing up a joint strategy and putting forward proposals to address the difficulties encountered in border territories. Among [the 15 projects announced](#) are: the expansion of programmes to encourage young people’s mobility; improvement of cross-border rail links; the redevelopment of the area close to the nuclear power plant in Fessenheim; and the creation of a Joint Citizens’ Fund aimed at supporting citizen-led initiatives. [More info](#)



# EVENTS

The MOT's annual conference:  
**Register before 4 March!**

The MOT is holding its annual event on 20-21 March in Annemasse and Geneva, at the invitation of Annemasse Agglo, the Metropolitan Pole of the French Genevois, the Republic and Canton of Geneva and the Greater Geneva, which are members of the network.

**On the programme:** meetings of the MOT's bodies, a conference on the topic of cross-border investment, and field visits will showcase the territory of Greater Geneva (the Léman Express construction site, Eaux Vives station and the cross-border greenway).

[Programme and registration](#)

**Conference CECCUT: European Capitals of Culture Cross-Border Urban Cohesion**, 7 March 2019 in Belval (Luxembourg)

[All the events](#)

# The Energy Transition Conference

The 2019 European Conference on the Energy Transition took place on 22-24 January in Dunkirk, bringing together nearly 3,500 participants around the topic "Committed and mutually-supportive territories". The MOT contributed to the discussions by organising a workshop illustrating three very concrete examples of cross-border cooperation in the area of the energy transition.

The Dunkirk Urban Community was represented at the MOT's workshop by Sylvie Delatte, Director of International and Port Strategy. Within the West-Vlaanderen/Flanders-Dunkirk-Côte d'Opale EGTC, the energy transition is addressed from the angle of low-carbon mobility. Through joint planning of cycle paths and greenways crossing the Franco-Belgian border, the primary objective is improving air quality – a priority in an industrial port town like Dunkirk. Michel Derdevet, Secretary-General of Enedis, also participated in the workshop. He is the author of a report entitled "Energie, l'Europe en réseaux - Douze propositions pour une politique commune en matière d'infrastructures énergétiques" ("Energy,



Europe in networks – Twelve proposals for a common policy for energy infrastructures") that was submitted to President François Hollande in 2015. This report aimed to strengthen economic and industrial cooperation, particularly within the Franco-German partnership, in the area of European energy networks. Supported by the European Commission, the Smart Border Initiative project between Saarland and Lorraine is a tangible result of this cooperation. Sébastien Douche represented the Metz Metropolis, a territory that is fully committed to the energy transition and which is actively participating in projects that enable the sharing of good practices in this area. Its exchanges with

the German city of Worms, within the framework of the TANDEM project, have prompted economic agents in Metz to take a genuinely fresh look at their practices. The discussions with the audience benefited from different local experiences (Pyrénées Orientales, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, etc.) that highlighted obstacles, often administrative in nature, resulting from the large number of players on the French side compared with the neighbouring countries, as well as putting forward proposals, such as the creation of new tools for micro-projects tailored to the needs of rural and mountainous areas, where the way Interreg functions is often regarded as too complex by project developers. [More info](#)

## IN BRIEF

### A new issue of INSEE Première on cross-border territories

A new issue of INSEE Première published in January 2019 focuses on the different engines of demographic growth on either side of France's borders. Most of the border areas post a natural surplus, except for the Spanish border. The study shows that France's border employment areas' attractiveness for residents varies depending on their geographical location. [More info \[FR\]](#)

### North Lorraine Border Region Metropolitan Pole set up

Created by the common desire of the presidents of eight Public Entities of Intermunicipal Cooperation, the new "North Lorraine Border Region Metropolitan Pole" was launched on 9 January 2019 in Thionville. This grouping encompasses more than 337,000 inhabitants and represents nearly 70% of the 90,000 people from Lorraine working on the other side

of the border. A consultative body, its aim is to improve cross-border cooperation with the neighbouring countries (Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany) in the areas of mobility, healthcare and higher education. It also aims to strengthen the identity of the North Lorraine territory both at national level and along its borders.

[More info \[FR\]](#)

### Fessenheim: signature of the territorial project

Signed on 1 February 2019 by the Minister for the Ecological Transition, François de Rugy, and the French and German regional players, this "territorial project" is designed to accompany the economic redevelopment of the area around the nuclear power station in Fessenheim, whose two reactors are due to be shut down in the summer of 2020. In particular, the project plans to strengthen Franco-German partnerships aimed at making the territory more attractive. In addition, it is one of the 15 priority projects identified on the occasion of the signing of the Aachen Treaty. [More info](#)

## Second call for "b-solutions" projects

The "b-solutions" initiative is one of the actions supported by DG REGIO within the framework of the Communication "Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions" of September 2017. Its aim is to identify and promote sustainable methods for overcoming legal and/or administrative obstacles encountered along the internal land borders of the European Union.

A second call for projects has just been launched focusing on the five following thematic areas: employment, healthcare, (public) transport and passengers, multilingualism and institutional cooperation. The deadline for submissions is 15 March 2019.

The call is being managed by the AEBR. The MOT is supporting its members in relation to the call and the implementation of these projects. [More info](#)

## The work of the ESPON programme and cross-border public services

The cross-border dimension was at the heart of the ESPON seminar "New Narratives for Territorial Development" which took place in Vienna on 5-6 December 2018. The MOT's Director, Jean Peyrony, took part in the policy lab "A Framework for Renewed Cross-Border Cooperation?" on the issue of obstacles to cross-border cooperation. Andreas Faludi, the author of "The Poverty of Territorialism" (see page 4), was also present. [More info](#)

**Two ESPON projects** resulted in the publication of major studies addressing cross-border issues:

- a [study on cross-border public services in Europe](#) published within the framework of the CPS project (Cross-border Public Services);

- [the final report of the COMPASS project](#) (Comparative Analysis of Territorial Governance and Spatial Planning Systems in Europe), which looks at developments in territorial governance and spatial planning systems in Europe from 2000 to 2016, with a [case study on the Franco-Spanish border](#).

## New publication: "France-Germany: cross-border observation at the heart of Europe"

Under the aegis of the General Commission for Territorial Equality (CGET) on the French side and the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community on the German side, the MOT and the BBSR<sup>1</sup> have coordinated the production of a brochure entitled "France-Germany: cross-border observation at the heart of Europe". It has just been published in the wake of the signature of the Aachen Treaty.

The editorial was co-written by Jacqueline Gourault, Minister for Territorial Cohesion and Relations with Local Authorities, and Horst Seehofer, Federal Minister of

the Interior, Building and Community (Germany). The document states the need to put in place multi-level observation of cross-border territories, setting forth examples of local tools such as the geographical information systems of the Greater Region and the Upper Rhine, as well as the tools at national level in France and Germany.<sup>2</sup>

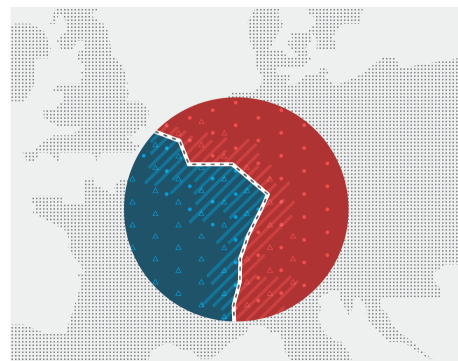
The brochure highlights the Franco-German ambition to promote this approach not only along their shared border, but also along their other borders and right across Europe. It sets out an action plan focused around three concrete measures:

- Stepping up multi-level cooperation in order to identify thematic priorities.
- Coordinating with the statistical institutes in order to gather and harmonise data.
- Cooperating with other European countries in collaboration with the European institutions in order to establish Europe-wide observation.

<sup>1</sup> Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development.

<sup>2</sup> In France, the Cross-Border Strategic Committee, which is coordinated by the CGET and for whom the MOT provides the secretariat; in Germany, the MORO project "Territorial Monitoring in Germany and Neighbouring Regions".

Download the brochure: in [English](#) - [French](#) - [German](#).



## The Foreign Affairs Ministry and decentralised Franco- German cooperation

By means of a communication campaign, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs is showcasing Franco-German cooperation: "While the partnerships between municipalities are the oldest, the exchanges between regions and departments are also rich and diverse. Cooperation is particularly well-developed in border regions." Each day the Ministry is highlighting a project, such as "Réussir sans Frontière" ("Succeeding without Borders"), a cross-border initiative to support jobs and training in the Upper Rhine. [More info](#)

## Transport: European call for proposals regarding "missing cross-border links"

The 2019 Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Transport call for proposals has been launched by the European Commission. It is open until 24 April 2019. It provides for funding of €100 million for projects aimed at addressing missing links and cross-border connections in the trans-European transport network (TEN-T). [More info](#)



# PRESS REVIEW

## ▲ The European territorial authority of Alsace will have specially-designed competences

Localtis, 15 February

"On 4 February, the Bas-Rhin and Haut-Rhin Departmental Councils both voted by large majority in favour of a motion to ask the government to set up a 'European territorial authority of Alsace', by grouping together the two Alsatian departments from 1 January 2021. A green light has thus now been given for the creation by decree of the new authority, the outlines of which were set out by the 'Matignon Agreement' signed on 29 October of last year by the government and Alsace's elected representatives."

## ▲ A collaborative platform to support mobility projects in badly-served areas

Localtis, 23 January

"On 23 January, the Minister for Transport, Elisabeth Borne, announced the launch of a collaborative platform making it possible to record all of the new mobility projects undertaken in a hitherto badly-served areas and to bring stakeholders together. This initiative follows on from a call for projects aimed at 'implementing new solutions for daily mobility in rural territories.'"

## ▲ Moselle also wants its European territorial authority

La Semaine de Metz  
31 January

"He wrote to Edouard Philippe in mid-December and is going to ask the Departmental Assembly to deliberate. Patrick Weiten is calling for a European territorial authority of Moselle, like the one granted to Alsace by the Prime Minister."

## ▲ The Grand Duchy attracts fewer cross-border workers

L'Avenir, 12 February

"Job vacancies in Luxembourg are no longer being filled so easily. [...] 'More and more people are reluctant to come work in the Grand Duchy. The attractive salaries and associated benefits are no longer enough. They now think more about their quality of life.'"

## ▲ Cross-border workers' unemployment benefit cost France 710 million

Le Pays Gessien, 13 February

"In December 2018, Unédic [France's unemployment benefit agency] published a report explaining that cross-border workers represented an extra cost of €710 million in 2017."

## ▲ Nice's Mayor Christian Estrosi organises a cross-border rally in the face of the Franco-Italian crisis

Nice Matin, 11 February

"In the face of the diplomatic crisis between France and Italy that led to France's ambassador in Rome being recalled, [...], the LR Mayor of Nice is organising a counter-offensive. [...] He wants Nice to host a big cross-border rally [...] to counter these diplomatic tensions."

## ▲ Alpes-Maritimes and Monaco study the future

Nice Matin, 25 January

"The eighth meeting of the France-Monaco local cross-border cooperation commission took place on 11 January at the Principality of Monaco's Ministry of State. Among the topics on the agenda is the issue of Monaco's transport links, which is a central concern."

## ▲ Three new cross-border clusters set up

Sud Ouest, 5 February

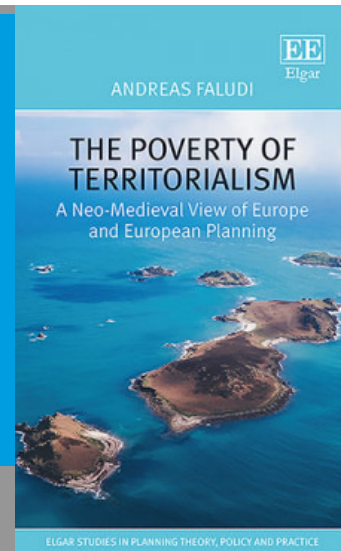
"Compétitiv'Eko has set up three new clusters to strengthen the cross-border territory in the areas of big data, additive manufacturing and healthcare. The project's aim is to boost innovation and competitiveness in the three neighbouring territories, Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarra'."

## "The Poverty of Territorialism"

Andreas Faludi, Professor Emeritus and guest researcher, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands. Published by Elgar Studies in Planning Theory, Policy and Practice, November 2018.

This book by Professor Andreas Faludi explores the issue of the democratic deficit in spatial planning and control of European territories. Public authorities are responsible for their territory delimited by borders. But the current issues in an interconnected world can no longer be contained within those borders. The author proposes a "neo-medieval" approach to Europe. Progressive and topical, this book is essential reading for academics and practitioners in the field of territorial cooperation and spatial planning in Europe. [More info](#)

This publication is referenced in the MOT's document portal [FR]. Specialising in cross-border cooperation, the portal provides more than 4,000 document references.



## CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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Production: Domitille Ayral

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