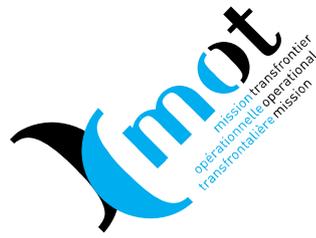


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Press review

Interim report for the ETB-TEB

"The cooperation is more intense than ever", stressed Guy Morin, president of the Basle Trinational Eurodistrict (ETB-TEB) and the Basle city government, on 20 April at a press conference reviewing the actions of the ETB-TEB after five years of existence.

The first example given was IBA Basel 2020, a cross-border international architecture exhibition, a European first, aiming to boost urban development and urban culture*. Strategic transport projects were also highlighted, such as the establishment of a rail link with EuroAirport, the construction of cross-border tramways, the setting-up of a trinational fare zone, the development of a trinational Rhine port, and a

project on cross-border mobility which should lead to the provision of cross-border park-and-ride facilities.

The press conference was also the opportunity for Jean-Marie Zoellé, mayor of Saint-Louis, to officially launch the project submission phase for obtaining grants from the ETB-TEB microprojects fund. The fund has €400,000 earmarked for 'small' cross-border projects, backed by civil society, aiming to strengthen the trinational identity within the population (for example sports tournaments, exhibitions, exchanges between associations and between inhabitants). Projects can be submitted up to the end of 2014.

* Further information: www.iba-basel.net - www.eurodistrictbasel.eu



West-Vlaanderen/Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d'Opale

Two countries as a tourist destination

The "Côte à côte/Van Kust tot Kust"* project, led by the AGUR** and 14 French*** and Flemish partners, is intended to promote cross-border tourism on the French-Belgian coast.

In 2007, the results of the tourism promotion actions in the territory were very encouraging. Only reservation: the statistics showed a mainly local clientele. How could a more varied clientele be attracted, coming from further away and visiting the cross-border coast?

On the basis of this observation and the

corresponding question, the project, which started in 2009 with Interreg funding, defined its principal goal: generate greater consistency and better cross-border attractiveness. The challenge was to position the territory as a cross-border tourist destination through targeted attractions, built on a common identity, on complementary facilities and on emerging attractions.

The project, planned to run until December 2012, has initiated practical actions, such as the introduction of a cross-border tourist pass, the

publication of a joint magazine of tourist and cultural attractions and facilities, a calendar of events, a web portal and a number of measures to encourage "accessibility".

Contact: Pascale Montéfiore (p.montefiore@agur-dunkerque.org)

* Meaning "coast-to-coast" or "side-by-side".

**Agence d'urbanisme et de développement de la région Flandre-Dunkerque (Flanders-Dunkirk area urban planning and development agency), a MOT member, leader of the project.

*** Including the Communauté urbaine de Dunkerque (Dunkirk urban community), also a MOT member.

EVENTS

MAY-JUNE-JULY

MOT working group on "Renewable Energies"

29 and 30 May 2012 in Lauterbourg, organized by the MOT and the Eurodistrict Regio Pamina

Seminar on "Multi-level governance in cross-border cooperation"

30 May 2012 in Innsbruck, organized by the Council of Europe

Debate on the future of the 2014-2020 cohesion policy

2 June 2012 in Paris

Interact conference "Sustainable growth in Europe through ETC and its links with other EU funds"

5 and 6 June 2012 in Firenze

Seminar "Cross-border business takeovers: the aspects of the transaction"

21 June 2012 in Forbach, organized by the MOT and the Eurodistrict SaarMoselle

CECICN congress: "Territorial Cooperation fostering European integration: Cities and Regions linking across borders"

25 and 26 June 2012 in La Coruña, Spain, organized in partnership with the AEBR. Registrations on <http://cecicn.eu>

13th tripartite congress of the Upper Rhine metropolitan region

27 June 2012 in Landau (Rhineland-Palatinate)

TEIN conference [Euro-Institute/MOT/AEBR]: "The future of European territorial Cooperation: Capacity building in cross-border territories"

10 July 2012 in Brussels

Further information:

<http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu>

Questions for Claude Gengler Director of the Forum EUROPA* foundation

You have been guiding and stimulating the development of the Grande Région for ten years now. Has the situation changed, in your opinion?

The world, Europe and of course the Grande Région have changed a lot in ten years. Cross-border flows have increased considerably (today the Grande Région has more than 230,000 border workers, a quarter of all EU border workers), interactions and interdependencies have grown, some divisions have deepened. Although I see a real increased awareness of the cross-border reality in political discourse, unfortunately projects are taking a long time to put into practice.

How can this institutional unwieldiness be explained?

It must not be forgotten that the Grande Région is a very large and very complex cross-border space, with its five regions and its four States. The powers are not the same, and they are not distributed in the same manner either side of the borders. As Alain

Lamassoure** has said, what we have here is a "grey area": certain problems encountered on the borders are of such importance that they cannot be dealt with properly in the local or regional context. At the same time, they are not sufficiently serious and urgent to have priority in the capitals, in Paris, Berlin or Brussels. The economic and financial crisis makes the task still more difficult: the public coffers are empty, or nearly; cross-border affairs are often last on the agenda; there is sometimes a return to egoistical, protectionist and national reflexes.

The Lorraine region will soon have held the presidency of the Grande Région for eighteen months. Has there been genuine progress?

We are currently experiencing the best French presidency of the Grande Région since the first Summit (1995), even though it is always possible to do better. I see a real interest in wanting to reposition the Lorraine with regard to its cross-border issues. The



region continues to suffer - more than others - from the crisis; it will have to play the card of cross-border cooperation more openly and more systematically. In this context, the announced establishment of a cross-border polycentric metropolitan region must be welcomed. It remains to be seen what the right governance will be, as cross-border affairs are not just the business of managers.

* The Forum EUROPA foundation in Luxemburg was set up ten years ago to promote cross-border cooperation in the SarLorLux/Rhineland-Palatinate/Wallonia Grande Région.

(claud.gengler@forum-europa.lu)

** Member of the European Parliament, vice-president of the MOT.

Transport Day in SaarMoselle



On 13 June 2012 in Saarbrücken, the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict is organising a **SYMPOSIUM: Cross-border public transport day in SaarMoselle**. Plenary sessions and workshops will provide forums for discussions and deliberations between the territorial partners, experts and public transport professionals, with the participation of many institutions, personalities and qualified speakers, including the MOT.

Further information and on-line registration at
<http://saarmoselle.evenementcom.net>

A new name: "Grand Genève"



The Swiss and French inhabitants have chosen the new name of the France-Vaud-Geneva conurbation: "Grand Genève" (Greater Geneva). For five weeks, on a dedicated website, they could express their preference between "Grand Genève", "Genevagglo" and "le Genevois". A total of 5031 persons voted. On 28 June the conurbation project

will enter its second phase, with the signature of a new charter between the partners. The cross-border steering committee, informal so far, will transform itself at the beginning of 2013 into a local cross-border cooperation grouping (LCCG) under Swiss law. The civil society input will be organised as a Forum, which will assist the LCCG.

Note: "Grand Genève" will have the sub-title "Agglomération franco-valdo-genevoise" (France-Vaud-Geneva conurbation) in smaller characters, so that all the territory partners are still mentioned.

The Commission proposes employment measures

In April 2012 the Commission published a communication in which it sets out practical measures for employment. These are intended to establish a European job market in its own right: "To improve labour mobility, the Commission is fully committed to removing legal and practical obstacles to the free movement of workers such as improving the portability of pensions, the tax treatment of cross border workers or awareness of rights and obligations."

In this context, remember that in Europe nearly 196 million citizens, 40% of the population, live in border regions. There are no less than 350,000 border workers on the French borders.

Further information:
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=fr&catId=89&newsId=1270&furtherNe>

MOT position paper on the preparation of the 2014-2020 common strategic framework

Following the publication of the proposed regulations for the 2014-2020 cohesion policy, on 14 March the Commission published a working document presenting the priorities of the common strategic framework (CSF).

The objective of the CSF is to assist Member States in the preparation of the future programming period and, especially, the partnership contracts and the programmes. It will be adopted in its final form within three months of the adoption of the legislative package on the 2014-2020 cohesion policy funds.

The position of the MOT, drafted after consultation of its network, covers the aspects of the CSF that concern cross-border cooperation. Here are a few extracts:

"The MOT hopes there will be **greater integration between the two goals** of the 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy: **"Investment for growth and jobs"** and **"European territorial cooperation"**.

"The investment priorities for the ETC goal should be defined in the first part of the CSF that sets out the key actions, thus emphasizing the **complementarity between the two main goals of the cohesion policy**".

"The MOT considers **paramount that the cross-border and transnational strands be clearly distinguished**."

"The MOT is highly positive to the emphasis given [...] to the **partnership between ministries and managing authorities** in the implementation of the CSF. The MOT particularly supports the **reinforcement of the place of sub-national authorities** [...] in the elaboration, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the partnership contracts."

"**Neighbouring partnership contracts** should articulate their chapters on CBC and ensure that other aspects linked to strategy of implementation with an impact on CBC are coherent."



"The necessity to ensure the **articulation between the Cohesion Policy financing instruments and the other EU policies** is a position shared by the MOT [articulation with] the internal market, competition, employment, maritime affairs, rural development, transports, environment, etc."

"The MOT fully supports the **instruments to implement integrated approaches to territorial development** and believes that the CSF should provide **more details about the functioning of these instruments** in order to make sure their implementation will be straightforward in a CBC context."

Download the MOT position paper: [click here](#).

CECICN meetings in Brussels

On 2 May 2012 in Brussels, the members of the CECICN presented the programme of the 1st European congress on "smart cooperation", which takes place on 25 and 26 June in La Coruña, Spain, to the senior representatives of the European institutions, along with a strategic document that will be debated at the congress to affirm the decisive role of territorial cooperation in achieving the objectives of the single market and of the Europe 2020 strategy. The

CECICN members also met with the president of the Committee of the Regions, Mercedes Bresso, the chairman of the COTER Commission, Michel Delebarre, the deputy director-general of DG REGIO, Normunds Popens, and the deputy director-general for the internal market and services of DG MARKT, Pierre Delsaux. The European institutions showed strong interest in the technical expertise of the CECICN and wish to strengthen the future collaboration, in particular

by developing a role of observer and relay for the CECICN, to be defined following the 2012 Open Days.

The Executive Bureau then met on Thursday 3 May, at the permanent representation of the Caisse des Dépôts in Brussels.

Further information about these meetings in the letter from the President of the CECICN, Mr Andersen, addressed to the network: [click here](#).

For further information and to register for the European congress: <http://www.cecicn.eu>



PRESS REVIEW

French borders: To Have and Have Not?

Le Monde, 4 May -

Article by Michel Foucher, geographer – "We have known since Claudio Magris that the European borders had been idols demanding human sacrifices. [...] The future of our country does not involve turning inward behind an iron curtain like Vauban's fortifications. This is not the time for forming a glacis around a domain sworn to an illusory autarchy, but rather for the public announcement of a project and of a long-term strategy of inserting France into the world as it has the inconvenience of being."

The European regions take up a position on the cohesion policy

Localtis, 9 May - "The CoR wants a more flexible and equitable regional policy, in order to meet the specific needs of the territories without penalising the States, whose budgets are sliding out of control. While the States have not yet negotiated the crucial points of the reform, the local authorities handed in their paper on regional policy on 3 May."

Become an apprentice in the Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict

DNA, 27 April – "A new memorandum of understanding broadens the opportunities for French apprentices to receive the theoretical part of their training in a CFA (apprentice training centre) in Alsace and the practical part in a German company in the Ortenau and vice versa."

Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai: sharing this quality higher education

Croix du Nord, 4 May

"The Eurometropolis is examining the potential synergies of its grandes écoles and its universities."

A centre against energy-wasting buildings

Le Républicain lorrain, 3 May

"A cross-border cooperation centre on eco-construction or eco-renovation of buildings has just opened."

Formation of the Alzette-Belval public development corporation

Le Moniteur, 11 May

"Decree no. 2012-327 of 6 March 2012 – French Ministry of ecology, sustainable development, transport and housing."

Employment and housing divide Grand Genève (Greater Geneva) in two

Les Echos, 15 May

"The France-Vaud-Geneva conurbation (915,000 inhabitants) becomes Grand Genève. On the eve of having an executive, a white paper stresses its imbalances."

They are working on the future Cottian Alps Geopark

Le Dauphiné libéré, 12 May

"The Alcotra cooperation programme and the High Valleys cross-border integration plan provided the framework for the Cottian Alps Geopark project. With the L'Argentière-la-Bessée town council and Raymond Cirio, president of the CBGA (Briançon district alpine geology centre), Gino Baral, from the Italian Piedmont region, is an originator of the project and is now its coordinator."

Navarre and Pyrénées-Atlantiques strengthen their cooperation

EITB, 25 April

"The president of the Pyrénées-Atlantiques department council and the president of the Navarre government have decided to boost some fifteen bilateral cooperation projects. At a meeting in Pau this Tuesday, the two presidents discussed the cross-border cooperation agreement signed last year for the period 2011-2014..."

For a local agriculture on both sides of the Pyrenees

La Gazette Ariégeoise, 4 May

"The European cross-border cooperation project AgriProxi, in which the Ariège chamber of agriculture participated, has just ended with a seminar to discuss 'feedback from experience'."

Third report of the Observatoire des territoires (territory monitoring unit):

"Dynamics, interdependence and cohesion of the territories"



Published by the DATAR, the 2011 edition of the report of the Observatoire des territoires assesses the disparities and the major trends at work in the French territories. It analyses the issues of territorial cohesion at different geographical levels and the principal challenges with which the territories are confronted today.

A new feature worth noting: a chapter is dedicated specifically to "cross-border spaces: territories of diversified functional and political integration". This MOT contribution refers to a study being produced by the MOT and the FNAU (French national federation of urban planning agencies) for the DATAR: "Comparative study and statistical monitoring of cross-border conurbations".

Organized in a network and coordinated by the DATAR, the Observatoire des territoires summarises and puts into perspective the information on the territories produced by government departments, local authorities and analysis and research organisations. It is required to produce a report to the Prime Minister every three years, submitted to parliament. A part developed in cooperation with the MOT and the FNAU is devoted to cross-border territories.

<http://territoires.gouv.fr/le-rapport-de-l-observatoire-des-territoires-etabli-par-la-datar-intitule-dynamiques-interdependance>

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