



MINUTES

2nd meeting of the interregional group on cross-border cooperation (and EGTC)

Thursday, 11 February 2016, 08:00 – 09:00

Brussels, Committee of the Regions, JDE 63 (Rue Belliard 99-101)

1. Activities of the intergroup – latest development, future events

- Pavel Branda, chairman of the intergroup

- the intergroup has now 30 members

- last plenary session – for the first time we managed to table amendments together – Territorial vision 2050

- possibility of organizing a conference in May/June on topic of CBC: suggestion natural disasters and cross-border crisis management – proposal for possible speakers, case studies to be sent by email

2. Territorial impact assessment from the cross-border cooperation point of view

- Slaven Klobucar - TIA: Coordination of CoR Territorial Impact Assessment

- presentation by Mr. Klobucar in annex

- in December – new strategy for TIA adopted

- in the past: testing different methodologies - some excellent (up to one year)

- now: looking for shorter and less expensive

- providing analytical support of rapporteurs

- recently using TIA ESPON quick scan tool (experts view + statistical data (mostly from Eurostat and ESPON))

- cross-border aspects: TIA does not allow to consider spill out effect at the moment – but CoR is working with ESPON and DG REGIO to make this possible to improve the tool

- members welcomed the efforts of CoR in the CB TIA, small chapter “effects on borders” should be part of every TIA (Suggestion of pres. Lambertz)

- Martin Guilermo: AEBR has group of experts – preparing a project, toolkit is already developed - now the main task is finding funding

3. CoR activities in the field of CBC and EGTC

- Marek Bobiš, COTER secretariat, CoR

- *2 days ago: Bureau adopted annual working programme of the EGTC platform*
- *training session on EGTCs 19.-20. 4. – in cooperation with Interact*
- *21.4.: Annual meeting + award*
- *5.6.2016: thematic workshop EGTC and cross-border cooperation*
- *Open days EGTC platform Seminar in October*
- *study on obstacles on CBC – review – own initiative opinion on the results of cross-border review*

4. News from the European Commission

- Zsolt Szokolai, DG REGIO, Senior expert for Urban and territorial development

- *All the CBC programmes adopted and started*
- *informed about the first results of CB review – financing cannot resolve all the problems*
- *public consultation lasted for 3 months – 623 replies*
- *most relevant types of obstacles: legal-administrative, language, accessibility*
- *CB obstacles study – currently in progress: 200 collected*
- *removing an obstacle could lead to deepening cooperation that can create more obstacles*
- *EC would welcome own initiative opinion on the results*
- *2 workshops organized with experts – Sept. and January*
- *study should be ready 2016/2017*

5. Latest development and activities of AEBR, future events and possible involvement of CoR

- Martin Guillermo-Ramírez, Secretary General, Association of European Border Regions

- *focus on closing programmes*
- *opening of the new programmes – implementation obstacles: problems with SPF - hopefully big misunderstanding*
- *AEBR annual conference in Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa in September will focus 7th cohesion report and cross-border labour market*

6. Introduction of MOT and its activities and possible cooperation with CoR

- Jean Peyrony, Director General, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière

- *introduced the MOT*
- *focus on collection of CB data – introduction of MOT*
- *annual conference: Borders: a resource for the inhabitants of border regions to take place 24-25 May 2016 in Paris*

- great potential for future cooperation of the intergroup with MOT – MOT will be invited to all meetings

7. Opinion “Indicators for territorial development – GDP and beyond” – how to measure integration of border regions?

- Pavel Branda, chairman of the intergroup

- P. Branda tabled 1 AM that was adopted:

<i>Draft Opinion</i>	<i>Amendment</i>
	<i>highlights in this context the different focus of cohesion policy's European Territorial Cooperation objective. In particular, the development of cross-border collaboration aims to support the integration of border regions in all areas of people's lives – thus going above and beyond the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy. Methods and indicators need to be worked out in this area that would map and evaluate this kind of progress better;</i>

Reason
The CoR has already pointed out, in its opinion on the sixth cohesion report, that insufficient account has been taken of European territorial cooperation. Due to its increasing importance it makes sense to focus on evaluating progress made in this area.

7. Other business

- 3rd Meeting of The EP Working-Group on Cross-border Cooperation

“Reform Schengen: what impacts for border areas?”

Thursday, February 25th, 2016, from 8 am to 9:30 am in the European Parliament in Brussels

Member's Salon

8:00 – 8:10 : Introductory remarks - Anne SANDER (MEP)

8:10 – 8:20 : Presentation of the Study : “The Economic Cost of Rolling Back Schengen”

Vincent AUSSILLOUX - Head of Department Economics and Finance – France Stratégie

8:20 – 8:30 : The need of controls?

Pascal SCHUMACHER – Justice and Home Affairs Adviser - Permanent representation of Luxembourg to the European Union

8:30 – 8:40 : On the ground : what impacts for road transport?

Marc BILLIET - EU Goods Transport & EU Environmental Affairs – International Road Transport Union Permanent Delegation to the EU

8:40 – 8:50 : State of play of Commission proposals

Oliver SEIFFARTH - European Commission Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs - Unit C2 Border management and Schengen

8:50 – 9:00 : What options for the future of Schengen?

Axel VOSS – Member of the European Parliament

9:00 – 9:25 : Questions and answers

9:25 – 9:30 : Conclusion