

# Building cross-border territories: Europe for citizens

20 years of the MOT and  
perspectives for 2020

**30<sup>TH</sup> NOV.  
1<sup>ST</sup> DEC. 2017**

European Committee of  
the Regions, Room JDE 62  
Rue Belliard 99-101,  
Brussels

PROGRAM EN



# THEME OF THE CONFERENCE

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.

# THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017

## 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 Delhuyenne, 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

- Healthcare service: Xavier Faure, EGTC Cerdanya Hospital
- Strasbourg-Kehl tram: Roland Ries, Mayor of Strasbourg
- Natural area: Nicolas Evrard, Mayor of Servoz, Espace Mont-Blanc
- Integrated territorial approach: Gyula Ocskay, Secretary General, CESCO, Hungary
- Financing tools: Marc Abadie, Director of Network and Territories, Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations

## 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



Friday →

# FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2017

## 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

- 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

## 11.45 am – CLOSING STATEMENTS

- Camille Gira, Secretary of State for Sustainable Development and Infrastructures, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg
- Jacques Mézard, Minister of Territorial Cohesion, France

## 12.30 am – PRESS CONFERENCE

## 1.00 pm – END OF THE CONFERENCE