

The Working Community of the Pyrenees, at the heart of the development strategy for the Pyrenean massif

The White Paper "Diplomacy and Territories" of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

"A genuine strategy for cross-border cooperation"

The members of the CNCD* approved on 23 November 2016 a White Paper entitled "Diplomatie et territoires" (Diplomacy and Territories) proposed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development. This White Paper aims to strengthen the pursuit of coherence between the diplomatic action of France and that of its local and regional authorities, through better coordination between the various tools and institutions that support the external action of local and regional authorities. This strategy document notably presents an overview of the current situation, the implications of the internationalisation of territories and 21 concrete proposals for improving the partnership between the national government and local and regional authorities. In addition to the emphasis on cross-border issues in

economic terms, it dedicates an entire chapter to the definition of a "strategy for cross-border cooperation".

This strategy is presented in four strands:

1- Developing a new coherent strategy involving all actors concerned and strengthening cross-border governance

"Cross-border concerns will be included in a more systematic manner in bilateral political and economic cooperation with our European partners, in particular at the annual summits, in the context of economic forums, etc."

"A general cross-border strategy, also adapted to each border, focusing on clear medium- to long-term priorities and mobilisation of central and local actors, will be established [...]"

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* National Commission for Decentralized Cooperation.



Jean-Marc Ayraut

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development (France)

After several decades of innovative projects undertaken between neighbouring countries, cross-border territories have become shared living spaces, and places for discovering a "European citizenship" experienced in daily life. There are currently ten million French citizens living in proximity to a border, of whom nearly 400,000 cross a border every day to go to work. In this context, the white paper entitled "Diplomacy and Territories", produced on the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, highlights the place of cross-border issues in the external action of local and regional authorities.

Furthermore, cross-border cooperation is also a factor in democratic governance and regional integration. It is for this reason that we are strengthening our support for the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière: the networking of our border territories is essential, in order to overcome obstacles to cooperation encountered locally, but also to combine our forces, exchange good practice and establish, in our territories, effective public policy in the service of our fellow citizens.

Our cross-border cooperation serves as a laboratory for the building of Europe, that allows our common good to be experienced in daily life, and must help us in our efforts to build, for tomorrow, a Europe that is closer to its citizens.



EVENTS

MOT General Assembly, 15-16 March 2017 in Belval and Villerupt, at the invitation of the GECT Alzette Belval

- 15 March 2017: MOT bodies in Belval (Luxembourg)

- 16 March 2017: field visits of Belval (Luxembourg) and Micheville (France), Technicians' Platform

More info soon

8^{ème} forum Jeunesse de l'ARFE, 2-3 décembre 2016 à Belgrade

Séminaire ESPON "Where are European cities heading? Evidence for better policy-making", 7-8 décembre 2016 à Bratislava

Séminaire doctoral "Frontières. Réseaux, Flux, Territoires", 8 décembre 2016 à Dunkerque

Conférence "La coopération transfrontalière à la frontière allemande - Défis, obstacles et opportunités de développement", 12-13 décembre 2016 à Berlin

Cérémonie de création du GECT "Eurodistrict PAMINA", 11 janvier 2017 à Haguenau

[Tous les événements](#)

The Working Community of the Pyrenees, at the heart of the development strategy for the Pyrenean massif



The Working Community of the Pyrenees (CTP) brings together the French and Spanish border regions, and Andorra. Its main objective is to contribute to harmonious and coordinated development of the Pyrenean massif.

On the occasion of the Plenary Council of the CTP, which was held this year in Bordeaux on 10 November, the presidents of its seven constituent territories formalised their commitment to cross-border cooperation with the signing of a joint declaration. This document highlights the priority thematic areas for the development of the massif: climate change prevention and adaptation, the permeability of the territory, and the promotion of languages.

In addition, the CTP is

working on the development of an action strategy which will take the form of a "road map" for the years to come.

The Working Community of the Pyrenees, currently presided over by Alain Rousset, president of the Nouvelle Aquitaine region, was established over thirty years ago. It has become a frontline actor in cross-border cooperation at the European level. Accordingly, it is the managing authority of the Interreg VA Spain-France-Andorra programme (POCTEFA 2014-2020), after fulfilling the same role for the previous programming period.

In this context, following the Plenary Council meeting, the second call for proposals for the POCTEFA 2014-2020 programme was officially launched. This call for proposals addresses five

priority strands:

- Boosting innovation and competitiveness
- Promoting adaptation to climate change, as well as risk prevention and management
- Promoting the protection, improvement, and sustainable use of local resources
- Promoting the mobility of goods and people
- Strengthening skills and social inclusion within territories.

The allocated budget amounts to 71.2 million euros. The call for proposals comprises two phases. The project leaders must make a first simplified application between now and 13 December 2016. The list of projects accepted for the second phase will be published in April 2017.

www.ctp.org
www.poctefa.eu

Seminar: "The Grand Est region and its neighbours"



Close to 300 people gathered in Strasbourg for a major seminar on the cross-border relations of the new "Grand Est" region of France. Organised by ADEUS (the Strasbourg Conurbation Development and Town Planning Agency), in partnership with the MOT, the FNAU (Federation of French Urban Planning Agencies), the Strasbourg Eurometropolis and the Grand Est Regional Council, the day was organised

around two roundtables - introduced by presentations of successful experiences - which included:

- "Development models for cross-border regions"*
- "Levers for the development of our cross-border territories"

Concluding, the President of the Grand Est Region, Philippe Richert, underlined the eminent cross-border character of his region: "with 45% of France's borders, and 5 countries, our region is a territory that makes a mark on Europe. We cannot build its future without taking into account our neighbours!" Proceedings will be published by the end of the year.

* Moderated by the MOT.

"Skills Without Borders" project launch

The project "Compétences sans Frontières" (Skills without Borders) was launched on 1 October 2016. Its goal is to contribute to reducing the imbalance of supply and demand in the job market of the France-Wallonia-Flanders cross-border region. It brings together numerous French, Walloon and Flemish partners. It is led by the West Flanders Development Agency and is financed by the Interreg V France-Wallonie-Vlaanderen programme.

[More info](#)

Creation of a cross-border chamber of commerce

The directors of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Perpignan, Girona, Lleida and Andorra have officially launched the cross-border Chamber of Commerce and Industry "Pirineus Med": a new body which aims to develop exchanges and cross-border knowledge, and whose goal is to "establish trade relations in the cross-border territory". Another cross-border chamber of commerce ("Bihartean"), a member of the MOT, was established in 2010 on the Basque side of the French-Spanish border.

[More info](#)

EUROPE NEWS

ITEM Conference in the Netherlands

ITEM (Institute for Transnational and Euregional cross border cooperation and Mobility at Dutch borders) held its annual conference on 28 October 2016 in Maastricht, on the topic "Europe under pressure: effects for border regions – 25 years after the Maastricht Treaty".

The ITEM annual report, which analyses each year the impact of legislation on the border territories of the Meuse-Rhine Euroregion, was presented and discussed. The document is available online in French, English, German and Dutch. Jean Peyrony, director general of the MOT, participated in one of the roundtables at the conference.

[More info](#)

NETWORK NEWS

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"[...] in order to better guide the work of bilateral commissions and dialogue with our foreign partners, in close consultation with the local and regional authorities and technical administrations concerned."

"This cross-border strategy will identify major projects for each border capable of helping to strengthen the competitiveness and attractiveness of these territories". "As the ambassador for cross-border questions, the DAECT [Delegation for the external action of local and regional authorities] and diplomatic advisors of prefects in border regions will need to intensify their coordination with the local and regional authorities concerned, and their groupings, in close cooperation with the SGARs (general secretariats for regional affairs) and the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière."

2- Leveraging diplomatic advisors of regional prefects

"Diplomatic advisors posted to border regions will be particularly attentive to:

- Effective coordination of actions and projects supported within the framework of cross-border cooperation programmes with the regional or interregional operational programmes, the State-Region plan contracts (CPER), national policies [...], as well as with the actions and projects led by the neighbouring States within the framework of intergovernmental conferences.
- Facilitating the link between the other national programmes or policies.
- Ensuring coherence of these strategies with neighbouring States.
- Providing the link between the network of the services of the State (departmental prefects), and the French ambassador in the

neighbouring country. They will also need to participate in driving cross-border cooperation on each border."

3- Strengthening the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière

The role of the MOT "must be strengthened to increase the services offered by this resource centre [...], to contribute to the definition of strategies and priorities defined by border [...], to play a supporting role to intergovernmental work [...], to pursue its mission of technical innovation and support in cross-border cooperation".

4- More effectively mobilising all actors concerned

"At the level of the State, [...] the establishment of an interministerial steering committee for monitoring cross-border policies, with the support of the MOT, would improve coordination between the competent central administrations".

Call for proposals for facilitating transport connections in Europe

Within the framework of the Connecting Europe Facility, the European Commission has launched three calls for proposals concerning the implementation of large European transport networks, amounting to 1.9 billion euros. One of the main goals of these projects focuses on interoperability and the reduction of "missing links" in infrastructure, at a cross-border scale. The deadline for submission of propositions is 7 February 2016.

[More info](#)

A European Parliament study on territorial cooperation programmes

A study by the European Parliament analyses the territorial cooperation programmes for the 2014-2020 period. It offers an overview of the current situation, presents strategies for Member States and programme authorities, and analyses the possible synergies with other instruments and tools (such as EGTCs, or macroregional and sea basin strategies).

[More info](#)

MOT Network Day



The president of the MOT, Michel Delebarre, welcomed members of the MOT network on 16 November on the invitation of the Ministry of Overseas France in Paris for two meetings: the Advisory Committee meeting, where activities were presented and the reports made on the functioning of the MOT; and the Technicians' Platform meeting, which was the occasion for interactive exchanges with

members. Particular themes of interest included the implementation of the French territorial reform, cross-border investment, housing and social inclusion, and health. The meeting decided on the establishment of a working group that will be set up in 2017 on "Twenty years of the MOT: Results and Prospects".

[More info in the Members' Area](#)

PRESS REVIEW

The Channel Tunnel accounts for 25% of trade between the United Kingdom and Europe

Journal des Entreprises, 14 November

"According to a report published by EY this Monday 14 November, the Channel Tunnel represents a quarter of trade between the United Kingdom and Europe. 115 billion euros: the value of commercial exchanges between the UK and Europe passing through the Channel Tunnel each year."

Viroin-Hermeton, UNESCO Geopark?

L'Avenir, 18 November

"The Ardennes and Viroin-Hermeton nature parks are working towards an ambitious goal: the creation of a geopark recognised by UNESCO."

Villerupt-Esch: the cross-border run is revived

Le Républicain lorrain, 14 Nov.

"At the heart of a sector expected to undergo profound transformation with the Alzette-Belval Operation of National Interest, what could be more unifying for strengthening ties between France and Luxembourg than a foot race? In any case it is what the members of the European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation had in mind when they contacted the Triathlon Grand Villerupt 54 (TGV54) to put back on the rails this event that was abandoned several years ago."

Cross-border relations: a major asset for the region

lesfrontaliers.lu, 10 November

"While the Grand Est region has not yet attained the attractiveness of the south of France, the proximity with the Grand Duchy and the other bordering countries helps attract new residents. INSEE has published a study on the influx of jobs and residents in the region."

Sent to all elected representatives under the aegis of the "Greater Geneva Manifesto"

Le Dauphiné libéré, 17 November

"Very complete and structured, the work of Bernard Gaud was published in the form of a small brochure by the association La Salévienne. It will be distributed under the aegis of the 'Greater Geneva Manifesto', a pressure group in favour of Greater Geneva' according to the definition of Claude Barbier, one of the members of this binational circle formed several months ago and bringing together figures from civil society and politics."

In Geneva, border workers account for nearly 20% of the GDP

Courrier International, 14 Nov.

"Two recent studies enable precise measurement of the economic contribution of those who cross the border every day to go to work."

Switzerland-Europe: Towards a compromise on quotas for cross-border workers

Eco des Pays de Savoie, 11 Nov.

"The National Council has adopted an implementation text for the initiative 'against mass immigration'. [...] While the question is at the centre of discussions with the European Union, the Swiss authorities find themselves in a delicate situation: satisfying the Swiss people, of whom a majority voted for the establishment of quotas, while satisfying Brussels, which is threatening to close the door to the single market, if said quotas were to be established."

1st Nouvelle Aquitaine/Navarre cross-border networking event

CREA Aquitaine, 14 November

"The first cross-border networking event took place on 8 and 9 September 2016 in Spain. This initiative of the CREA 'Club des Créateurs et Repreneurs d'Entreprises Aquitains' (Aquitaine Business Creation and Acquisition Club) arose from the observation that 'despite being neighbours, inhabitants of Nouvelle Aquitaine and Navarre have practically no regular exchanges'."

The Swedish fed up with anti-migrant controls at the borders

Le Monde, 17 November

"In Malmö, commuters sometimes lose more than an hour when travelling to work in Denmark."

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

Atlas of Greater Geneva: taking stock for sustainable progress

Charles Hüsey, honorary professor at the University of Geneva; Éditions Slatkine, Geneva/La Salévienne, 2016; 30 CHF.

Original title: Atlas du Grand Genève : état des lieux pour un progrès durable

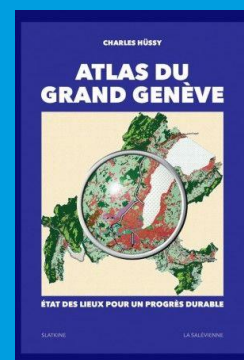
The work of 174 pages offers an environmental, social and economic inventory of the cross-border territory of Greater Geneva on the French-Swiss border. Illustrated with numerous maps, tables and figures, it comprises three chapters: "sustainable joint development"; "a socially acceptable human environment"; "a well-performing cooperation".

[More info](#)

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](#)

NB: the downloading of online documents is reserved for MOT members and, on request, students and researchers.



CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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