

## Robert Herrmann

President of the MOT,  
President of the Strasbourg  
Eurometropolis



“In the run-up to the European elections, our work has taken on particular significance. The risk of a low turnout is encouraging us even more to continue our work of persuading our fellow citizens that they should make their voices heard regarding the kind of Europe they would like to see. The projects that were presented to us in Geneva and Annemasse, reflecting the progress in Franco-German cooperation, are exemplary. They show the way we are seeking to promote: a Europe made of concrete actions, at the service of its citizens; a Europe of territories.

Cross-border integration is a great opportunity for our territories. But it needs to be backed up by cross-border public services that cover jobs, the economy, innovation, healthcare and mobility. This integration also needs to take account of the ecological transition and a reduction in the tax and social imbalances that persist along some borders.

Cross-border cooperation is now on the political agenda of governments and the European Union. This evolution is a result of the work of the MOT, whose advantage is that it brings together, in a constructive dialogue, all of the players from all levels – local, national and European.

To combine the specificities of each territory and the overall dynamic of European integration, stronger steering at national level and interministerial coordination are indispensable. The MOT wishes more than ever to work towards this, assisting the future National Agency for Territorial Cohesion, the ministries concerned and the Banque des Territoires. To do this, it needs their constant support.”

## General assembly

# The MOT's network in Greater Geneva

The MOT held its general assembly and annual conference on 20-21 March 2019 in Annemasse and Geneva, bringing together 140 participants, at the invitation of Annemasse Agglo, the Metropolitan Pole of the French Genevois, the Greater Geneva LGCC and the Republic and Canton of Geneva. Around the meetings of the MOT's bodies, a conference on cross-border investment and field visits were organised. “What better location to host the MOT's network than Greater Geneva?” pointed out Christian Dupessey, Mayor of Annemasse, President of Annemasse Agglo and Vice-President of the MOT. This year will indeed be decisive for Greater Geneva, with the opening in December of the Léman Express, a rail

service that will link up the French and Swiss transport networks with a new cross-border regional rail-line: a “revolution that will profoundly change the territory's geography”. The participants had the opportunity of visiting the construction site of this groundbreaking project around Annemasse station, as well as the new cross-border greenway. They could also attend the two roundtables on cross-border investment: “From planning to management” and “Government and EU support”. Financing tools to support territories were also highlighted, such as those of the Banque des Territoires and the European Investment Bank.

[More info – all the documents.](#)



# EVENTS

**European citizens' consultation: "Europe, je t'aime, moi non plus?"**, 18 April 2019 in Lille (France), organised by the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis

**International conference to mark CESC's 10th anniversary**, 25-26 April 2019 in Budapest

**"Interreg 2 Seas: mid-term review"**, 25-26 April 2019 in Ghent (Belgium)

**"Europe, governments, territories: a dialogue of the deaf?"**, 14 May 2019 in Strasbourg, seminar organised by the Strasbourg-Kehl Euro-Institut

**"Making maps: cross-border and intercultural representations from Antiquity to the present day"**, 20-22 May 2019 in Mulhouse

**Interreg annual event**, 22-23 May 2019 in Bucharest (Romania), organised by DG REGIO

[All the events](#)

## Results of ADEUS's conference on the Strasbourg-Karlsruhe area

ADEUS\* and the heads of the two cities on either side of the Rhine held a conference in Strasbourg on 27 February entitled: "What are the issues facing a cross-border metropolitan area Strasbourg- Karlsruhe and their Eurodistricts?". The presentations are now available.

Two plenary sessions and three workshops provided a forum to discuss the opportunities, models and challenges that have emerged following the signature of the Aachen Treaty. The speakers gave an assessment of the concrete actions being implemented on the ground, pointing out the barriers, but also providing ideas, analyses and proposals to remove them.

**Summaries of a few of the presentations:**

**Anne Pons, Director General of ADEUS**, set out the metropolitan issues regarding the Strasbourg-Karlsruhe area, which has a population of 3 million inhabitants, highlighting the

cross-border synergies to move from a "territory passed through" to a "territory with a project", and the complementarities to be strengthened between the cities, towns and rural areas. [The presentation.](#)

**Gerd Hager, representative of the Cross-Border Metropolitan Regions Initiative (IMEG, Germany)**, presented the concept of metropolitan regions in Germany. On the basis of the IMEG obstacles and first successes in identifying metropolitan functions along Germany's borders, he described the cross-cutting levers (governance, observation) and policies to promote national strategic coordination in Germany.



[The presentation.](#)

**Jean Peyrony, Director General of the MOT**, presented metropolitan cooperation initiatives in France and their application in cross-border settings, with the examples of the three cross-border cooperation models on which the MOT works for the metropolises of Lille, Strasbourg and Nice. He notably highlighted the different levels of cooperation – cross-border territory, Euroregion, macroregion – and the need for vertical cooperation between institutions. [The presentation.](#)

\* Agence de Développement et d'Urbanisme de l'Agglomération Strasbourgeoise – Strasbourg Conurbation Development and Urban Planning Agency

## IN BRIEF

### Mobility Portal in the PAMINA area

The PAMINA Eurodistrict and the Karlsruhe TechnologieRegion have inaugurated a new web portal dedicated to cross-border mobility. With 300,000 consultations a day, it is one of the main online journey planning services. Launched in Germany, it has expanded over the border and now provides traffic data for the towns of Haguenau, Saverne and Wissembourg in Northern Alsace and the Bas-Rhin Department.

[More info](#)

### The Franco-German Assembly

The new Franco-German Assembly, set up in parallel with the Aachen Treaty, held its first session on 25 March in Paris. It will bring together at least twice a year 100 French and German parliamentarians in equal numbers, meeting in turn in France and Germany. Its mandate is "to ensure the application of joint decisions by the executives, to monitor international affairs of common interest and to work to improve the lives of cross-border populations".

[More info](#)

### The Alsatian departments launch their "OR Strategy - Oberrhein / Rhin Supérieur"

The two departments, which will soon be grouped together as the European territorial authority of Alsace, wish to step up cross-border cooperation with their German and Swiss neighbours straightaway. The "OR Strategy – Oberrhein/Rhin supérieur" that they have just presented formalises these reflections and expert assessments.

[More info](#)

### A network for European capitals of cross-border culture

On 7 March 2019 in Esch-sur-Alzette, a city selected to be European Capital of Culture in 2022, an event was held to launch the Jean Monnet "CECCUT" project (European Capitals of Culture and Cross-Border Urban Cohesion). The event brought together players and experts from cross-border capitals of culture – past, future and candidate – from Estonia to Portugal, by way of Lille 2004 and Mons 2015.

[More info](#)

# MOT and EU NEWS

## Work of the MOT's bodies and Technicians' Platform

The network's bodies approved the 2018 activity and financial reports, the 2019 work programme and the joining of two new members: the Saint-Avold Synergy Conurbation Community and the French Mountaineering Clubs Federation. At the technicians' platform, several topics of interest were raised by members: healthcare, cross-border metropolitan cooperation, the "town centre action" challenge for medium-sized towns, and the issues of mobility and land and housing. These themes could guide the MOT's work programme as of 2019.

[More info](#)

Two press articles published at the time of the general assembly:

- "[La coopération transfrontalière à la croisée de l'Europe](#)" [FR] (interview with Jean Peyrony), Localtis - Banque des Territoires, 19/03.

- "[Le transfrontalier, c'est innover sur la base du vécu quotidien](#)" [FR] (interview with Robert Herrmann and Christian Dupessey), Dauphiné libéré, 21/03.

# NETWORK NEWS

## General assembly

## The cross-border dimension on "the Government's agenda"

Around Robert Herrmann, the MOT's President and President of the Strasbourg Eurometropolis, the representatives of the French Government at the MOT's general assembly emphasised the favourable political context for cross-border cooperation.

According to Jacques Champagne de Labriolle, Ambassador for Cooperation and Border Issues at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the cross-border dimension is now "at the heart of the French Government's concerns". The Government wishes to position itself as a "facilitator of initiatives". The Aachen Treaty provides for the introduction of experimentation on the Franco-German border; this will be complemented by the creation of the European territorial authority of Alsace. These

advances show the Government's openness with respect to experimenting and taking account of the specificity of cross-border settings. The "Franco-German cross-border cooperation committee provided for by the Treaty will be the body that ensures coordination of players and the political level, in a border-by-border approach that is designed to be duplicated".

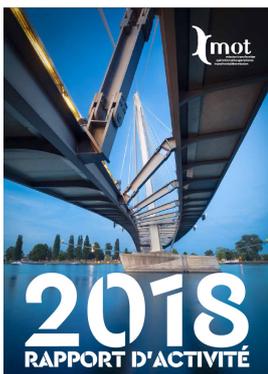
In concluding the general assembly, Serge Morvan, General Commissioner for Territorial Equality (CGET), presented the progress made in setting up the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion, which will replace the CGET in 2019. He passed on a message from the Minister Jacqueline Gourault to the network: "The MOT is an indispensable tool – a fine

structure for technical assistance, creating networks and producing resources that is recognised in France and across Europe." Lastly, he set out the challenges for the new agency: "It is an agency that is born from the idea that projects are created in the territories but that they struggle in terms of feasibility due to a lack of resources and technical expertise, the complexity of standards and rules, and the large number of interlocutors. The purpose of the new agency will be to simplify this by coordinating administrations at national level and positioning itself as an interlocutor for territories, via the prefects." He emphasised that the cross-border dimension will have "a cross-cutting place in this mechanism". [More info](#)



## The MOT's activity report

The MOT has published its 2018 activity report. [Consult it \[in French\]](#).



## The MOT's contribution to the Great Debate

Highly attentive to citizens' concerns sparked by the four themes of the Great National Debate in the cross-border regions, where national issues sit alongside dynamics that transcend the border, the MOT wished to take part in this unprecedented exchange of views by contributing its concrete proposals.

[Download the MOT's contribution \[in French\]](#)

## Annual report on intra-EU labour mobility

The European Commission has published its 2018 report on intra-EU labour mobility. Data concerning cross-border workers are set out on pages 77-80 of the report, which records 1.9 million cross-border workers in 2017 (including EFTA countries as countries of residence and work). Data by country are set out in a table on page 79.

[More info](#)

## The EU is going to change the rules on unemployment insurance for cross-border workers

On 20 March 2019, the Commission, the Parliament and the Council reached an agreement on the revision of European rules regarding coordination of social security. From 2021 onwards, unemployed cross-border workers will have their benefit paid by the country where they have worked and no longer by the country they live in. This reform will eventually save the French unemployment insurance system hundreds of millions of euro. The provisional agreement must now be officially adopted by the European Parliament and the Council. [More info](#)

# PRESS REVIEW

## ▲ What the Ardennes 2022 Pact could change in Belgium

L'Avenir, 22 March

"On 15 March, the French Ardennes signed the Ardennes 2022 Pact with the French Government. This strategic pact proposes 128 actions and projects representing an investment of €50 million. Some of the measures could have repercussions in Belgium."

## ▲ Belgian specialists to arrive at the Givet medical centre

Radio 8, 28 March

"While people often speak about the exodus of doctors from the department [...], there is good news for the medical centre, which is expanding with the arrival of new specialist doctors from Namur University Hospital willing to cross the border."

## ▲ Cross-border healthcare: we're making progress

La Semaine de Metz, 14 March

"Every week on average, someone from Moselle is treated at the German hospital HerZentrum in Völklingen, twenty minutes by road from Forbach, for a cardiological emergency. This treatment is made possible by the signature in 2013 of an agreement between this clinic and the Forbach district SMUR (mobile emergency and resuscitation service), giving a concrete illustration of the need for East Moselle to look to its neighbour with respect to healthcare."

## ▲ Elisabeth Borne in Schengen for automated and connected driving

La Semaine de Metz, 31 January

"The French Minister of Transport, Elisabeth Borne, will attend on Wednesday 3 April in Schengen in Luxembourg the inauguration of the cross-border test site for automated and connected driving being developed by France, Germany and Luxembourg."

## ▲ Widening of the A31: Bausch is not giving up hope, but...

Le Quotidien, 12 March

"The calling into question on the French side of the widening of the A31 to 2x3 lanes, designed to mirror that of the A3 between Dudelange and Luxembourg, is worrying the [Luxembourg] Minister for Mobility and Public Works."

## ▲ UNESCO intangible cultural heritage: application for the Jura Arc watchmaking expertise

Macommune.info, 25 March

"The application for 'Expertise in watchmaking and artistic mechanics' was officially submitted on 25 March 2019 to UNESCO, with a view to it being included on its representative list of humanity's intangible cultural heritage. Switzerland submitted this application jointly with France."

## ▲ When Geneva finally starts to build houses

Le Messenger, 28 March

"This news has been warmly greeted on the French side. Whereas for many years the canton has been criticised for lack of action with respect to housebuilding, the figures for 2018 represent the beginning of a revolution."

## ▲ Franco-Italian projects for over 25 years

Le Dauphiné libéré, 22 March

"Cooperation between Val d'Aoste and Haute-Savoie is nothing new. In particular, the territories of the Alpine Arc (Val d'Aoste and Mont-Blanc Valley) have been working together on cross-border projects for over 25 years through the Espace Mont-Blanc."

## ▲ 2019 Assembly of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarra Euroregion

Website of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, 27 March

"The Nouvelle-Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarra Euroregion will increase by 20% its budget for funding aimed at cooperation projects implemented by players in the three territories."

## "Enhancing Healthcare cooperation in cross-border regions"

Brochure produced by the European Commission, December 2018

Published following the European conference "Enhancing Healthcare Cooperation in Cross-Border Regions (CBHC)" that took place in December 2018 in Brussels, this 31-page document sets out 12 good practices that illustrate the value added and keys for success for cross-border cooperation in the area of healthcare.

[https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/system/files/qed/booklet\\_enhancing\\_health\\_care\\_cooperation.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/system/files/qed/booklet_enhancing_health_care_cooperation.pdf)

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



## CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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