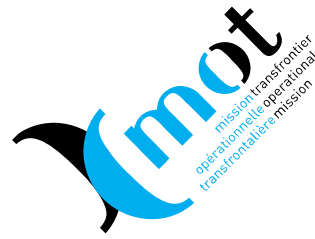


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Edouard Jacque

President of Grand Est Cross-Border Workers; Regional Councillor, Grand Est Region



"The only border that exists in the Grand Est is that which we have 'in our hearts'. It is part of our emotional relationship to our history, now turned towards the future, in which on a daily basis we shape a territory that is open in all directions, open to the need to cultivate our differences as they are an asset, and open to cooperation in all areas: be it providing responses to the challenges of AI, research programmes or university projects; or be it encouraging young people to become multilingual, bringing a railway line back to life, building a cycle path or developing an area of countryside working together in a network – because it's above all a story of human beings. A complex story certainly, but all the more exciting for that. It's our role to 'facilitate these complexities'. They won't stop existing, and that's a good thing. Those that consist in improving the living conditions of those who are, aspire to be or have been cross-border workers, and those of people living near the border, whether in cities or sparsely populated areas..."

This is our mission – that of a network for cross-border workers. It is being built step-by-step, with the support of the region, Europe and many local authorities – and thanks to our digital platforms*, which provide expert answers to hundreds of thousands of people; and to the Task Force, the employment observatory and all of the local structures such as the Maison de l'Allemagne, the Maison du Luxembourg, the Infobests and soon the Maison des Ardennes, all able to provide responses on a human scale."

* Grand Est Cross-Border Workers (Frontaliers Grand Est), the European Centre for Consumer Protection and the Euro-Institut.

Why does Luxembourg continue to attract so many cross-border workers?

In spite of its small surface area, the Grand Duchy continues to attract skills from all over Europe. A symbolic milestone was passed in 2018, when the number of commuters reached 100,000. This is the count of French cross-border workers who every day make the journey to this country located at the heart of European exchanges. This figure will rise to close to 150,000 over the next 15 years.

This country owes its prosperity historically to its steel industry, and more recently to its financial sector. But, contrary to widespread preconceptions, it also owes it to the diversification of its economy in the industrial domain and the development of services, and to an unprecedented social policy constructed by consensus through coalition agreements and co-construction with the social partners, which provide services to employees. With a minimum wage at 1 January 2019 of €2071.10 gross per month and an increase of €200 scheduled during

the year, Luxembourg holds the record for the highest minimum wage in Europe.

Its family policy (benefits, significant subsidies for pre-school childcare) also contributes to this attractiveness.

Moreover, it has been announced that childcare centres and music lessons will be made free. From the earliest age, children learn three languages and this has an impact on the country's ability to export and to be open to the world.

The country has high levels of immigration, and it is clear that this contributes to its prosperity. These elements reinforce this attractiveness among cross-border workers, who have become essential to Luxembourg's economic model.

Efforts are now being focused on mobility, as it is undeniable that the territory is lagging behind somewhat in this area, which has a negative impact on quality of life due to the dominance of individual car use. [Cont. on page 2.](#)



EVENTS

Europe, governments, territories: a dialogue of the deaf?, 14 May 2019 in Strasbourg

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

Interreg Annual Event 2019, 22-23 May 2019 in Bucarest

Territories' Spring Forum [Printemps des Territoires], 6 June 2019 in Paris
To mark its first birthday, on 6 June the Banque des Territoires will unveil its new offer aimed at territorial authorities and designed to meet their specific funding needs.

ESPON seminar "The role of functional areas for territorial cohesion", 19-20 June 2019 à Iași (Romania)

Franco-German cooperation 2.0, 28-29 June 2019 in Ludwigsburg (Germany)

[All the events](#)

The "High Valleys - Heart of the Alps" Integrated Territorial Plan

The cross-border territory of the "High Valleys" is located in the heart of the Alps, between Savoie, Piedmont and the High Alps. It consists of 13 groups of municipalities, 147 rural mountain districts and 270,753 inhabitants spread over 6,350 km².



Beyond the strong historical links between the territories of the Grand Briançonnais and the Maurienne in France and the Susa, Sangone and Pinerolo Valleys in Italy, the High Valleys local authorities, which share the same cultural, environmental and sociological characteristics of mountain living, launched a cross-border cooperation initiative in the early 1990s. Since 2000, they have been brought together in a single political and technical body: the Conférence des Hautes Vallées (High Valleys Conference).

A cross-border strategy "The High Valleys - Smart Destination" was drawn up

in order to group together the common development priorities for the coming years. It consists of concrete projects within the framework of the 2014-2020 Interreg programme ALCOTRA, in the form of an "Integrated Territorial Plan": "Les Hautes Vallées, Coeur des Alpes" ("The High Valleys - Heart of the Alps"). This Plan, coordinated by the Maurienne Country Association, is made up of four projects:

1. "CoeurAlp INNOVATION" to "create innovation opportunities for businesses in the cross-border territory" (led by the Briançonnais Community of Municipalities)

2. "CoeurAlp RESILIENCE" to "make the cross-border territory more resilient and safer for its inhabitants, workers and tourists" (led by the Metropolitan City of Turin)

3. "CoeurAlp ON THE MOVE" to develop solutions for eco-friendly mobility and synergies between modes of transport" (led by the Maurienne Country Association)

4. "CoeurAlp SOLIDARITY" to "ensure access to essential services" (led by the Metropolitan City of Turin).

[More info](#)



Cont. from page 1

The investment announced (infrastructure projects but also free public transport, a worldwide first for a whole country) will make it possible to partly catch up in the Grand Duchy, but cross-border co-development has become urgent and necessary. The remaining challenge is to open up a new reservoir of growth, as the first hiring difficulties are appearing in Luxembourg. This is a huge area for co-development that needs to draw on all of the stakeholders in North Lorraine as well as those among our Luxembourg friends, so that everyone in their area of responsibility "produces" innovative projects that build connections and create value added for the benefit of both sides of the border.

Article written by "Grand Est Cross-Border Workers".

A Territorial Development Plan for the Greater Region

Within the framework of the Interreg "Greater Region Territorial Development Plan" project, the Greater Region Executives Summit have laid the political groundwork for the drawing-up of a common cross-border territorial strategy for the Greater Region partners. One of the principles of this strategy derives from the territories' complementarities, and it is placed within the framework of multilevel governance. The strategy thus aims to set out an integrated vision in the area of spatial planning with the goal of

promoting balanced development in the cross-border area. For each of the four themes identified (demographic dynamics and the associated territorial needs, mobility, economic development and the environment-energy), four brochures have just been produced, with the aim of providing a general overview of spatial development in the Greater Region in order to further the thinking of players involved in cooperation.

[More info](#)

Strasbourg: Survey on well-being across the cross-border area

The Strasbourg Eurometropolis's Development Council has conducted a survey of citizens on well-being across the whole of the cross-border metropolis. The survey is entitled "How are you?". Two volumes [in French only] were published in 2017 and January 2019 respectively:

- **Volume 1:** The main determinants of well-being as expressed by the participants.
- **Volume 2:** Recommendations and indicators. [More info](#) [FR]

Aurélien Biscuit, the MOT's new Secretary- General



Following the departure of Olivier Denert, the MOT was pleased to welcome on 15 April its new Secretary-General into the technical team: Aurélien Biscuit, former Director of the North Lorraine Urban Planning Agency (Agape). "Having been modelled on the Agape, the MOT is in a way its little sister. So now becoming part of it fits with my personal history, and I'm very happy to be able to make use of my cross-border expertise acquired in North Lorraine to serve all of the cross-border territories."

EUROPE NEWS

"L'Europe par les territoires", a publication by the FNAU — focus on the cross-border dimension



The latest publication by the French Network of Urban Planning Agencies (FNAU), entitled "L'Europe par les territoires" ("Europe by its territories") feeds into the debate about Europe and provides different views on the issues relating to cohesion policy and the way in which cities and territories have appropriated the European ideal and the tools of this policy. The MOT contributed to it and several cross-border territories are showcased in it. In the first part, "The territories – vectors of European cohesion", Serge Morvan, General Commissioner for Territorial Equality, sets out the five major European

territorial issues, including the fifth one, "The marginalisation of some cross-border areas". In it, Jean Peyrony, the MOT's Director-General, highlights "The cross-border dimension in European cohesion policy". A whole section is devoted to cross-border territories, with a second article by Jean Peyrony: "Cross-border territories – Europe's laboratories". The following examples are then set forth:

- Lille, a European cross-border metropolis
- The development of the Dunkirk area cannot be envisaged without cross-border cooperation
- The Atlantic and Pyrenees urban planning agency – a

cross-border ambition

- The Grand Est Region: seven cross-border situations, three levels of issues
- The Strasbourg Eurometropolis – European by culture, cross-border by geography
- Basel-Mulhouse-Fribourg – trilateral cooperation to blur the borders
- Greater Luxembourg or the challenge of cross-border metropolisation.

This part concludes with a "plea for cross-border urban planning agencies". The other sections are devoted to creating networks, citizenship in Europe and European cities.

[More info \[FR\]](#)

MOT article on cross-border public services

The magazine "Intercommunalités" of the Assemblée des Communautés de France (AdCF – Assembly of France's Communities) has published in its issue 238 an article written by the MOT: "Concevoir les services publics transfrontaliers" ("Designing cross-border public services").

To consult the magazine: [click here \[FR\]](#).

Publication of proceedings of the policy forum: "Security and development: how to manage borders?"

On 7 July 2016 the MOT and Grenoble-Alpes University held at the Assemblée Nationale in Paris a policy forum entitled "Sécurité et développement: comment gérer la frontière?", within the framework of an international research project "Borders in Globalization" ("BIG"). The proceedings are now available (in French).

[More info \[FR\]](#)

Call for proposals: "Support to cooperation on intra-EU mobility"

The EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (EURES axis) is launching a call for proposals regarding "Cross-border partnerships and support to cooperation on intra-EU mobility for EEA countries and social partners". The deadline is 6 June 2019. [More info](#)

The EURES cross-border partnerships that have benefited from this funding [can be viewed here](#).

Meeting in Brussels on "Missing Railway Links"

Since a study by DG REGIO on the topic in 2018, the importance of "Missing Railway Links" for cohesion policy and the development of border regions disadvantaged by a lack of rail infrastructure has been highlighted. In this context, the PAMINA Eurodistrict EGTC held a conference on 11 April in collaboration with the Committee of the Regions. In total, 9 out of the 19 "missing links" identified by the Commission as potentially beneficial are on France's borders.

[The presentations](#)

