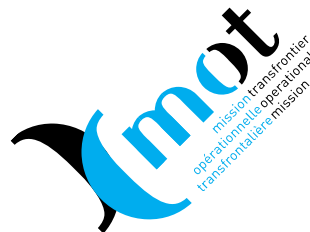


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CROSS BORDER NEWS



Anne Sander

MEP, Vice-President of
the MOT



Let's support the setting-up of an intergroup on cross-border issues at the European Parliament

The European elections showed that people have great expectations with regard to Europe. More than ever, it needs to be concrete, effective and democratic. This is the face of Europe that the next European Parliament must undertake to shape. Cross-border territories have a key role to play in building this Europe as they make it visible and tangible for its citizens.

The working group on cross-border cooperation, which was set up on my arrival at the European Parliament, has been a highly effective platform for exchanges between European, national and local elected representatives and practitioners, technicians and private players. It has provided a unique opportunity to relay the concerns of people on the ground to lawmakers and to ensure that better account is taken of the cross-border dimension in all aspects of European policy. During this new parliamentary term, we will continue and step up this work, by seeking to set up a parliamentary intergroup specifically dedicated to defending the interests of border territories.

I am therefore calling on all those who champion the cross-border and European cause to join us in this project. [\[Cont. on page 3\]](#)

Network of Cross-Border Cooperation Strategies

With the support of the MOT, Lille, Strasbourg and Nice are the three French border region metropolises that have embarked on drawing up a "Schéma de coopération transfrontalière" (Cross-Border Cooperation Strategie, CCS), introduced by the Maptam Act* in 2014. Through its network, the MOT enables the three metropolises to share experiences and information regarding their methodologies, the obstacles encountered and the local political contexts, as well as to relay their needs to the national and European authorities.

In the case of Lille and Strasbourg, the CCS aims to reposition the cities in an institutional environment in which many cooperation structures already exist. In the case of Nice, drawing up the CCS makes it possible to lay the groundwork for a regalanised cross-border policy. In this context, the MOT's assistance takes different forms: for Lille and Strasbourg,

it consists in supporting the urban planning agencies charged with drawing up the strategy; for Nice, the MOT itself is managing the project.

The first meeting aimed at building the network of CCSs was held on 15 May at the MOT's offices, with representatives of the metropolises, urban planning agencies, the FNAU (French Network of Urban Planning Agencies), the General Commission for Territorial Equality and the Caisse des Dépôts, as well as a non-metropolitan territory – the Basque Country Conurbation, which also wishes to adopt a CCS with the support of the AUDAP** and the MOT. Among the decisions taken: organising a meeting with the European Commission.

* Act of 27 January 2014 on the modernisation of territorial public action and the affirmation of metropolises. The CCS is a strategic document intended for the territory of border region metropolises; it has no legal effect on the other side of the border.

** Agence d'Urbanisme Atlantique et Pyrénées – the Atlantic and Pyrenees Urban Planning Agency



Meeting on building the network of Cross-Border Cooperation Strategies.

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EVENTS

Next MOT network day:

"Metropolitan cross-border cooperation", 25 September in Besançon, organised by the Greater Besançon Conurbation Community and the MOT. [More info](#)

10th edition of the Meetings on territorial authorities' international action, 2-3 July 2019 in Paris

Cross-Border European Capitals of Culture and sustainable urban development, 4-6 July 2019 in Iași (Romania)

Water resources and climate change: what are the issues for the Franco-Swiss Jura Arc?, 4 July 2019 in Fleurier (Switzerland)

9th Annual Summer School on "National Minorities in Border Regions", 1-9 September 2019, Berlin

Interreg France-Switzerland: Review of the Interreg V programme and consultation on the Interreg VI programme, 24 September 2019 in Besançon

[All the events](#)

The Moselle wishes to become a "Eurodepartment"

On 9 May 2019, Europe Day, the Moselle Department asked for an expansion of its competences on account of its specific location within the territory of the Greater Region, in order to foster closer links, greater effectiveness and simplified partnerships with its European neighbours.



At the instigation of their President, Patrick Weiten, the Department's elected representatives, in the presence of a delegation from Saarland's Landtag led by its President, Stephan Toscani, adopted a report aimed at making the Moselle "the French Eurodepartment". This vote was preceded by an address for the first time ever by a foreign politician to the Departmental Assembly meeting in plenary session. Stephan Toscani recalled the pioneering role played by the Moselle and Saarland in local-level Franco-German cooperation and reaffirmed their desire to continue playing this role. The Moselle and Saarland are thus

planning to use the opportunities provided by the Aachen Treaty, and are asking to participate in the Cross-Border Cooperation Committee that it has set up. Patrick Weiten and Stephan Toscani have confirmed their position in a letter to President Macron and Chancellor Merkel. On the basis of its commitment to cross-border cooperation attested by its excellent relations with Saarland, and in view of its specific position at the heart of the Greater Region, the Moselle Department has decided to make use of the "right to differentiation" laid out in the draft constitutional reform to

demand an expansion of its competences. It is asking to be lead partner, in coordination with the Government, for cross-border cooperation, and to have shared competences with the national education authority in order to encourage multilingualism. It also wishes to have competences in the area of tourism and economic attractiveness, and to be involved in the training of recipients of the RSA income support benefit in collaboration with the Region. This initiative should enable it to remain a major department within the Grand Est Region, while taking account of its border territory specificity.

Cross-border innovation: Strasbourg plans to recover the heat produced by the Kehl steelworks

The Strasbourg Eurometropolis has launched a project aimed at recovering the heat produced by the Kehl steelworks in order to provide energy for 4,000 households in Strasbourg within two years. This innovative project is a first in Europe at the cross-border level.

Every year, the Kehl steelworks produces 2.2 million tonnes of steel and consumes the equivalent in terms of electricity needs of the city of Stuttgart. In order to recover the large quantities of heat that are currently released into the air by the steelworks, the project plans to build an 8.5km pipeline under the Rhine to transport the heated water from the steelworks to Strasbourg.

On 13 May 2019, a joint declaration of intent was signed by the partners. It provides for the setting up of a cross-border company that will take the form of a Local Public Company, owned mainly by the Strasbourg Eurometropolis, as well as by the Land of Baden-Württemberg, the City of Kehl and the Grand Est Region. The cost of the project is estimated at €25 million. The partners are seeking to secure a lower rate of VAT and other financial assistance such as Interreg. The work is scheduled to begin in 2020, with delivery in 2021. Over the long term, 20,000 households could potentially benefit from this network.

[More info](#)

Agreement between the Lille European Metropolis and the Brussels Region

On 2 May 2019, the Lille European Metropolis and the Brussels-Capital Region signed a cooperation agreement in order to reinforce exchanges between the two metropolises, on topics such as accessibility, spatial planning, attractiveness, tourism and culture. The agreement also aims to promote better recognition of the metropolises and their cross-border dimension in European bodies and programmes.

[More info](#)

The European Straits meet in the Pas-de- Calais

On 14-15 May, at the invitation of the Pas-de-Calais Department, 24 territorial authorities that border on 11 European straits gathered in Boulogne-sur-Mer. The purpose: to take stock of ten years of working together within the European Straits Initiative. This cooperation aims to find innovative solutions to respond to the specific challenges linked to straits and to communicate with one voice the issues identified to the European institutions. The conference culminated in the signature of a new Memorandum of Understanding for the coming four years and the adoption of a work programme.

[More info](#)



Editorial cont. from page 1

For the 2021-2027 period, many areas remain in which cross-border cooperation needs to be reinforced and this will require strong support from the European Parliament. First of all, we must mobilise to ensure that Interreg funding is maintained to enable cross-border projects to be carried out. The challenge will also be to ensure that the new, innovative mechanism, the ECBM, aimed at facilitating the structuring of cross-border projects, by applying the legislation of a neighbouring country in one's territory, is ambitious in its implementation. The European Parliament will also need to continue its efforts to take better account of cross-border issues in all of its actions.

The Aachen Treaty represents an important step forward for cross-border cooperation for the benefit of citizens along the Franco-German border.



For the first time, a Treaty acknowledges cross-border cooperation, with a chapter specifically devoted to it, and it provides for the setting-up of a binational cross-border cooperation committee. I am very happy about the creation of this committee, which is also transposable to other borders, and with which it will be crucial to forge close links as overcoming cross-border obstacles requires a multi-level approach. Lastly, the Treaty provides a favourable framework for the future European Territorial Authority of Alsace.

Thanks to its expertise in border issues and its dense network of partners, the MOT is an indispensable interlocutor for the European Parliament

and the other European institutions. Its reflections, based on experience on the ground, provide us with valuable input and help innovative initiatives to emerge, as was the case with the proposal for a mechanism to facilitate the structuring of cross-border projects.

One of the MOT's strengths is its ability to set up synergies and to create networks connecting different levels of governance. This role as a facilitator of dialogue is vital to address the complex challenges of cross-border territories. We need structures like the MOT which contribute to relaying the concerns and difficulties on the ground to the European level.

CESCI's 10th anniversary

The MOT took part in the conference to mark the 10th anniversary of CESCI, a structure that was set up based on the MOT's model in Hungary in 2009. The conference in Budapest brought together nearly 150 researchers and practitioners in the cross-border field from around 20 countries. One of the messages from the event was that of Central Europe's commitment to cross-border cooperation. In the discussions, the Hungarian representatives emphasised their support of the draft ECBM regulation, alongside France and Luxembourg. [All the documents.](#)

"Europe, countries, territories: a dialogue of the deaf?"

The MOT took part in this seminar organised by the Kehl Euro-Institut, in Strasbourg on 14 May. It was an opportunity for local, national and European players to exchange views on how to "better communicate between the different levels on cross-border issues". The three complementary networks dedicated to cross-border matters – the AEBR, the MOT and TEIN (Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network coordinated by the Euro-Institut) – recalled the concrete services and assistance that they provide to players. [More info](#)

Border cities in West Africa

A report on border cities in West Africa has just been published in the OECD's series "West Africa Papers" on the Sahel and West Africa. Made up of four papers, the "cities" collection is the fruit of systematic analysis of the role played by border cities in the regional integration process in West Africa. Based on multidimensional mapping of 18 countries, the report analyses the local dynamics that have evolved in urban settings,

the effects of distance on national cohesion, and the impact of territorial divisions at international level. The cross-border urban experiences presented here can serve as examples for other territories. The MOT contributed to the writing of this collection, notably with respect to the forthcoming issue, which deals with cross-border conurbations faced with climate change in West Africa. [More info](#)

PRESS REVIEW

Facebook prevented parties and civil society from conducting cross-border campaigns

Le Monde, 1 June

"Law professor Alberto Alemanno condemned, in an article in Le Monde, the harmful role played by the social media company in the European election campaign by limiting political messages along national borders."

In Longwy, people live Europe without necessarily supporting it

Le Figaro, 24 mai

Le Figaro, 24 May

"In this town in Lorraine, on the border between Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany, nearly half the active population crosses the border every day to go and work in the Grand Duchy. However, feelings about the European Union are mixed."

Cross-border workers: why Metz is demanding millions of euros from Luxembourg?

Actu.fr, 21 May

"In a letter addressed to Emmanuel Macron, the Mayor of Metz alerts him to the tax compensation owed by Luxembourg on account of its cross-border workers."

French and German elected representatives cooperate on the territory of Fessenheim

Les Echos, 3 June

"The Aachen Treaty signed on 22 January sets out, as one of its priorities, the implementation of a territorial project around the Fessenheim nuclear power station. The launch of the flagship projects requires a complex but promising Franco-German funding arrangement."

Mosar will coordinate cross-border healthcare

Le Républicain lorrain, 31 May

"The Mosar agreement will enable hospitals in Moselle-Est and Saarland to reach a new stage in their cooperation aimed at providing better healthcare to patients in the cross-border area."

The Basel conurbation - 'an exemplary mini-Europe'

Swissinfo.ch, 3 June

"The cross-border spirit blows strongly across the Basel conurbation and its inhabitants. A unique case in Switzerland, and even in Europe, that can serve as a model for the rest of the continent, the sociologist Yann Dubois, the author of a recent book on the subject, believes."

Health: a new agreement between the French and the Swiss to improve healthcare along the border

Le Messenger, 6 June

"This bill is keenly awaited in Haute-Savoie," the MPs Virginie Duby-Muller and Martial Saddier underscore in a joint press release the day after its adoption by the Assemblée Nationale [...]."

Five regions of France and Italy join forces to protect biodiversity

Dauphiné libéré, 5 June

"The Franco-Italian programme Biodiv'Alp was officially launched on Tuesday, at the Lautaret Pass. Five French and Italian regions and their partners will study how to protect the Alpine environment in the face of global warming."

A Franco-Spanish tourist trail to be emulated

La Dépêche du Midi, 2 June

"Providing a structured cross-border tourist offer: many have imagined it, few have done it. Hautes-Pyrénées Tourisme Environnement, the tourism development agency of the Hautes-Pyrénées Department, and its Spanish counterpart, Tuhuesca, have turned promises into action by creating the Pyrenees Road Trip."

Transdisciplinary Discourses on Cross-Border Cooperation in Europe

A collection of essays edited by Joachim Beck; published by Peter Lang, Euroclio Series, 562 p., 2019.

A range of researchers and practitioners combine their observations in order to elaborate a common analytical framework for cross-border cooperation in Europe, by offering a transdisciplinary scientific approach. Jean Peyrony, the MOT's Director-General, contributed to the publication by writing the chapter entitled "Planning across borders - space, time and narratives". <https://www.peterlang.com/view/title/67695?>

This publication is available in the MOT's documentary portal. Specialising in cross-border cooperation, this contains over 4,000 documents and documentary references. More info [FR]

Transdisciplinary Discourses on Cross-Border Cooperation in Europe

Joachim Beck (ed.)

EUROCLIO
ÉTUDES ET DOCUMENTS

PETER LANG

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