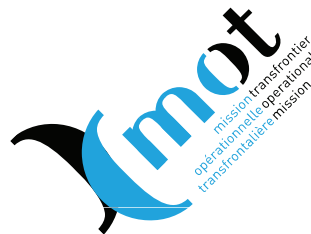


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# CROSS BORDER NEWS



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## Towards a "Tow-Banks" EcoCité

The project to build a sustainable cross-border city "Strasbourg - Métropole des Deux-Rives", backed jointly by the CUS (Strasbourg Urban Community) and the city councils of Strasbourg and Kehl, is one of the 13 EcoCité projects selected by the French Ministry of Ecology.

This large-scale urban project extends over 250 hectares and will include 9000 housing units. Over the next 15 years 24 schemes are planned on both banks of the Rhine, with 50,000 additional inhabitants expected 20 years from now. Last month two major operations of this project were approved by the government: the establishment of an "ecocentre" (a new-generation telecentre), allocated €1.568m, and the installation of fast charging stations for electric vehicles (€165,000). The rest of the grant is allocated to engineering studies for detailed analysis of the operations. Eight other operations have been preselected and will be covered by a second tranche of funding in February 2012. They include the introduction of an urban goods transport system and support for

the construction of innovative city blocks (positive energy buildings, integrated geothermal energy building).

In the latest step, on 17 October the cross-border municipal council confirmed its intention to extend tram line D to Kehl. This project, scheduled for completion by 2015, involves the construction of a bridge over the Rhine. It would concern 25,370 Strasbourg citizens and 17,500 on the German side, and would contribute to the wish of Roland Ries, senator and mayor of Strasbourg, to "make the Rhine a river to cross rather than a border".



Further information:  
[http://www.strasbourg.eu/urbanisme/projets\\_urbains](http://www.strasbourg.eu/urbanisme/projets_urbains)

## French Guiana, border of Euro-American opportunities

In a time of globalization of trade and emergence of new major powers such as Brazil, France and the European Union are seeking to strengthen the role of their overseas regions. French Guiana occupies an exceptional strategic position among such regions. A European territory in South America, it gives France a presence in the multilateral organizations of the American continent and provides privileged access to European markets for Brazil and Surinam, as well as for the CARICOM as a consequence of the economic partnership agreements (EPA) between it and the European Union. In addition, the challenges of the biodiversity and sustainable development of Amazonia open up fruitful partnership prospects. Cross-border cooperation has expanded with European and national financial instruments, bilateral partnerships and infrastructure programmes. The opening in 2012 of the

Oyapock bridge, linking French Guiana and Brazil, provides opportunities for the development of cross-border economic activities. The trade and innovation sectors - including remote sensing, telemedicine and distance education, but also renewable energies (hydroelectric, biomass), as well as the agri-food sector - with a wide range of know-how, high potential and substantial capital investment needs, are all areas to be explored that require consultations and partnerships on the border. Endogenous economic development and regional economic integration are linked. The more businesses and persons talk with their neighbours, the better the development possibilities are understood and the vulnerabilities and advantages of local sectors are identified.

-> article continued on page 2...



The bridge over the Oyapock, link between two regions, two states, the European Union and Brazil

# EVENTS

## NOVEMBER

### Seminar on the programming of post-2013 European Territorial Cooperation

2 and 3 November in Amsterdam  
Organized by the Interact programme for European Territorial Cooperation practitioners in the context of the preparation of the new programming period. The MOT will give a presentation.

### Conference: "Building the future of our territories: issues and prospects for tomorrow's Europe"

10 November in Dunkirk  
Organized as part of the Open Days 2011 by the municipality of Dunkirk. The MOT will give a presentation.

### Final conference of the EUREGIO II project "Solutions for improving health care cooperation in border regions"

15 November in Maastricht

### RoCK conference "Rail – The final frontier"

22 November in Lille – Organized within the framework of the RoCK (Regions of Connected Knowledge) project, funded by the Interreg IVB North-West Europe programme

### Second Cross-Channel Forum

22 November 2011 in Rennes

Further information on all these events: [www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu](http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu) (French version)

## International conference "Mobile borders"



Excursion of the participants in the Mont Salève, over the French-Swiss border, near Geneva

The XIth conference of the BRIT (Border Regions In Transition) network was held in Geneva and in Grenoble from 6 to 9 September 2011. This major event, organized every two years on a different continent on both sides of a border, took place for the first time in France and in Switzerland. It was attended by more than 270 participants, including researchers, professionals and students. BRIT is an international interdisciplinary scientific network which regularly holds meetings of the world's leading specialists on border and geopolitical issues, with the particular feature of gathering analysts and practitioners around a border crossed together, a condition for very fruitful discussions. The aim of this conference, co-chaired by Anne-Laure Amilhat-Szary of the Joseph Fourier University-PACTE/Institut Universitaire

de France in Grenoble and Frédéric Giraut of the University of Geneva, was to deliberate on the concept of "mobile borders", a provoking expression questioning the status of these spaces which globalization has transformed: "borders are no longer linear and the control functions attributed to these arbitrary lines are now often dissociated from the physical boundary between two countries". In addition to the plenary addresses, more than 180 communications, grouped in some forty sessions, were programmed for the attendees. This year Africa was in the place of honour, and Michel Foucher, expert with the African Union, concluded the conference. The scientific results of the conference are wide-ranging. It was an opportunity to analyze the many meanings of the concept of "borders" by

showing that borders undergo constant processes of opening and closing, which make them very diverse in their forms and their manifestations. Their spatial inscription, increasingly difficult to define, produces more fluid, open or fuzzy borders. The MOT, the only non-university public-sector entity present, which works to minimize the obstacles related to the presence of a border, gave a presentation in the concluding plenary session of the conference. The event was an opportunity for the MOT to establish many contacts with the world of research, with the prospect of promising partnerships. The next edition of this major event will be held in Japan !



Further information:  
[www.pacte.cnrs.fr/spip.php?article2543](http://www.pacte.cnrs.fr/spip.php?article2543)

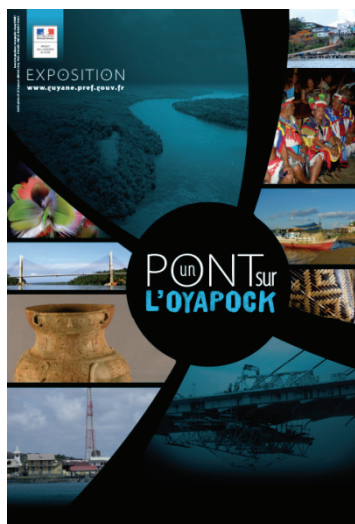
### -> continuation of the article on page 1

... Trade and the movement of persons and goods can be facilitated only under conditions controlled through appropriate business support mechanisms and agreed within an institutional framework of bilateral partnerships with counterparts in neighbouring countries. In this context,

An exhibition "Un pont sur l'Oyapock" (A bridge over the Oyapock) was inaugurated at the end of October by the prefect in Cayenne. The fruit of a French-Brazilian collaboration, it covers the construction of the bridge and also the socio-cultural and environmental issues around the bridge.

the setting-up in 2007 of the European Union's Operational Programme Amazonia, managed by the Guiana region, demonstrates the determination to implement this regional integration. In addition, the *Agence Française de Développement*, a major financial partner of many authorities, has increased its participation in public sector and regional cooperation projects, while its resources for action in French Guiana have been boosted by the French government. Against this background, in recent years the *Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de la Guyane* (CCIG - French Guiana chamber of commerce and

industry), which has recently joined the MOT, has decided to consolidate its policy of support for the international development of businesses. To this end, two offices were opened in 2009 in Macapa, capital of Amapa state in Brazil, and in Paramaribo, Surinam. This enables the CCIG to be involved directly in the field with small-scale, industrial, trading and tourist businesses and with its Brazilian and Surinamese counterparts. This operational strategy has been accompanied by the implementation of institutional frameworks and partnerships to facilitate the action of the offices.



## Study - Pôle Emploi PACA

The MOT has recently completed a study at the request of Pôle Emploi, the French national employment service. This work produced a socioeconomic assessment of the French-Italian-Monacan economic space, analyzed the cross-border worker flows in this territory, compared the French and Italian employment and training systems and studied the cross-border interactions in these fields. The recommendations put forward by the MOT are intended to strengthen the collaboration of the French and Italian employment services, not forgetting Monaco, to provide guidance for workers in the cross-border employment area.

## Conference in Ireland

Jean Peyrony, MOT general-director, spoke at a seminar in Dundalk, Ireland, on "Sharing Experiences Across Borders", which took place on 30 September. All the presentations are available at:

<http://www.cooperationireland.org/whatwedo/localauthority/workshop-sept2011>

## Publication of the proposed regulations for the 2014-2020 cohesion policy

During the opening session of the Open Days on 10 October, European regional policy commissioner Johannes Hahn presented the proposed European Commission regulations for the 2014-2020 cohesion policy. The three strands of European territorial cooperation, cross-border, transnational and interregional, are reinforced, including by allocation of increased resources, a specific regulation for cooperation, better linkage between strategies and programmes, and an integrated approach to territorial development. One of the new aspects is the mandatory

(previously optional) consideration of the European territorial cooperation objective in the partnership contracts concluded between each Member State and the European Commission. The territorial dimension of cooperation is extended by the possibilities given in the regulations to support local development of urban or rural territories in cross-border contexts, together with "integrated territorial investments", which may be managed by EGTCs. The regulations, after negotiation by the Council and the European Parliament, will have to be adopted no later than 2013 so

that the programmes start up on 1 January 2014, launch date of the next programming period. With a view to preparation of the 2014-2020 operational programmes, the MOT is involved within the framework of a Europ'Act\* project. It will define a methodology to link the strategies at the different levels, the programmes and the cross-border territory projects on each French border.



Further information:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/what/future/proposals\\_2014\\_2020\\_en.cfm#3](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/proposals_2014_2020_en.cfm#3)

\* French technical assistance programme.



Opening session of Open Days 2011: Johannes Hahn presents the proposed new regulations

## OPEN DAYS and EGTC platform workshop

From 10 to 13 October, the 9th Open Days brought together 5700 regional and local partners from the European Union and eight third countries on the topic "Investing in Europe's future: Regions and cities delivering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth". 110 seminars provided opportunities for participants to debate the European Commission's legislative proposals for the 2014-2020 cohesion policy. The

MOT gave a presentation in one of these seminars, on "Territorial programming in cohesion policy: What does territorial cohesion mean in practice?". On 12 October, the EGTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions ran a workshop on the revision of the EGTC regulation. This meeting, chaired by Michel Delebarre, gave EGTC participants an opportunity to express their views on the question. The discussions at this

workshop will provide input for the report by Michel Delebarre on the proposed revision (the report will be adopted by the Committee of the Regions in February 2012). MOT members can find an account of this meeting and a detailed analysis of the new regulation in the members' space of the MOT website: [www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu](http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu).

All of the workshop presentations are available at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/od2011/presentation\\_frame.cfm?nmenu=333](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2011/presentation_frame.cfm?nmenu=333)





# PRESS REVIEW

## ▲ Cohesion policy: conditionality of aid already debated

*Localtis, 6 October*

"[...] The ERDF projects will have to target 'key growth factors', stressed the commissioner, such as SMEs, innovation and energy efficiency. [...]. Targeting which will have to account for 80% of the funds, compared with 50% during the previous programming period. But the major innovation is the conditionality of aid according to macroeconomic criteria. An idea dear to Germany but criticized by all the French regions, which consider that they should not have to pay the penalty for national political choices."

## ▲ €1m for the EcoCité

*Le Républicain lorrain, 9 Oct.*

"The Alzette-Belval project was declared an Operation of National Interest in October 2009 by president Sarkozy during a visit to Moselle. One month later it obtained the EcoCité label. Two years on, the details are coming into focus: the EcoCité should receive €1m for engineering."

## ▲ Alzette-Belval: taking shape

*Le Républicain lorrain, 15 Oct.*

"[...] The Prime Minister has at last approved the formation of an EPA (public planning agency) for this Operation of National Interest (OIN), which was still an empty shell. With the establishment of the EPA, 'the OIN will have an operational instrument, a decision-making entity'."

## ▲ ENSA\* Strasbourg: a dual diploma for a French-German master's degree

*Le courrier de l'Architecte, 13 Oct.*

"A new programme for the 2011-2012 year at ENSA Strasbourg, the master's in 'architectural cultures and urban project in the Euroregions' is the fruit of a partnership with the Faculty of Architecture of KIT Karlsruhe. Objective: train architects specializing in cross-border urban policies and architectural projects."

## ▲ Region "Offensive Sciences" for cross-border projects

*L'Alsace, 8 October*

"Yesterday the regional councillors launched 'Offensive Sciences', the Upper Rhine's first joint research and innovation policy. 'Offensive Sciences' is a call for projects addressed to all public research institutions in a wide variety of fields, and will provide 15 million euros for flagship operations in the Upper Rhine."

## ▲ The Doubs park project is making good progress on the Swiss side

*L'Alsace, 9 October*

"On the Swiss bank of the river Doubs, the committee of the nature park that France is working to set up with its Swiss neighbour has accepted the draft charter, which will now be sent to the member municipalities and associations for consultation."

## ▲ Train: foot on the accelerator for the cross-border line

*Nice Matin, 13 October*

"At last things are moving in the right direction!" Jean Icart, department councillor with responsibility for intermodal transport and the high-speed line (HSL), is pleased with progress in a project that he has been advocating for ten years, the introduction of a cross-border regional express service."

## ▲ A new convention is signed for the next three years

*Le Dauphiné libéré, 15 October*

"The threat is lifted."

Montgenèvre and SpA Sestrières, the company that operates the Vialattea area in Italy (nearly 400 km of runs in Claviere, Cesana, Sansicario, Sestriere and Sauze d'Oulx), have signed a new convention for operation of the cross-border ski area."

## ▲ A French-Italian conference for a cross-border park project

*La Provence, 18 October*

"As part of the science festival and with the collaboration of Mr Laguna, the Naturoptère welcomed two Italian counterparts who had come to present the cross-border project for the 'Parco fluviale Gesso e stura' in Cuneo."

\* Higher national school of architecture

## "Représentations du transfrontalier"

How can the identities, practices, governances and policies that develop within cross-border spaces be analyzed? From an interdisciplinary perspective, the authors of this volume suggest multiple answers for understanding conceived, experienced or perceived 'cross-borderness'. Presented at the international conference on "Représentations du Transfrontalier", organized by the *Centre de recherche sur les médiations* at the University of Haute-Alsace, the analyses cover cross-border experiences within the Greater Region, in the Upper Rhine area, in the France-Geneva region and between France and Spain. They also involve French territories bordering other, non-European, territories such as Brazil and in Africa.

Publication edited in French by Angeliki Koukoutsaki-Monnier, Presses Universitaires de Nancy, 2011, 300 p., €20

Order on-line: <http://www.lcdpu.fr/livre/?GCOI=27000100955360>

### Représentations du transfrontalier

sous la direction de  
Angeliki Koukoutsaki-Monnier



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## CROSS-BORDER NEWS

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