

UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF
MR EMMANUEL MACRON PRESIDENT
OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC



borders forum

Cross-border territories
on the front line?

09/10
NOV. 2020

—
ONLINE



PROGRAM



Context

If cross-border territories are described as "laboratories of European integration", the global crisis has put them to the test in 2020. However, there are encouraging signs that are helping to reinforce their leading role.

2020, a decisive year

The year of COVID-19 has seen a brutal acceleration in the economic, health and climatic transitions for which the subnational levels were preparing, and a return of border issues, 35 years after the signing of the Schengen agreements.

It is also the year of the 30th anniversary of the Interreg programmes, the 10th anniversary of the European platform of EGTCs⁽¹⁾, and the year of the German EU Presidency, during which a European Territorial Agenda 2030 and a new Leipzig Charter will be approved.

⁽¹⁾ European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation



Objectives of the 1st borders forum

- 1. Demonstrate the central role played by cross-border areas** in bringing together the people of Europe, show the way to sustainable and inclusive growth, and support European integration.
- 2. Convince European and national authorities** to put cross-border territories at the heart of their public action, by signing a "European Alliance for cross-border citizens".
- 3. Display France's ambitious role and an ambitious France on the European stage,** through both its national and its local and territorial action.

Cross-border areas involve **30% of the European population**. Two million European workers are cross-border workers.

Main organiser

The Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) is the result of a long-standing partnership at the French borders between cross-border territories and the national and European levels. It actively participates, alongside its members, partners and European networks, in cross-border policies at these three levels.

Partners in 2020

The European Commission has launched a 10-point action plan in favour of border territories. A territorial cooperation policy for 2021/2027 has been put forward which is more considerate of border territories and to the resolution of obstacles to cross-border integration.

The European Committee of the Regions is one of the main promoters of territorial cooperation and of the 80 European Groupings for Territorial Cooperation (EGTCs), which carry out the day-to-day work of cross-border territories and networks in Europe.



Cross-border territories in Europe & 10th Meeting of the EGTC⁽¹⁾ Platform 2020

A year and a half after the European Parliament elections, and against the backdrop of the COVID-19 crisis, the joint MOT / EGTC Platform day will provide an opportunity to:



reaffirm, together with the representatives of the European institutions and States, that at a time when the world is going through an unprecedented health and economic crisis, European and cross-border cooperation is the right answer,



highlight the EGTCs from different angles (governance of cross-border territories, public services, etc.) and discuss their role after 2020, as well as to address the draft European ECBM⁽²⁾ regulation (resolution of obstacles),



highlight the Franco-German Treaty of Aachen as a model and to exchange ideas about the possibility of similar approaches elsewhere in Europe, in order to strengthen bilateral cross-border cooperation and European integration.

Moderation by:

Caroline de Camaret, Rédactrice-en chef Europe, France 24

⁽¹⁾ European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation.

⁽²⁾ European Cross-Border Mechanism.

9H30

Opening of the 1st Borders Forum

Elisa Ferreira, European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms

Apostolos Tzitzikostas, President of the European Committee of the Regions

Christian Dupessey, President of the MOT, Mayor of Annemasse, President of the Metropolitan Pole of the French Genevois

10H00

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION #1

Overcoming borders, a major challenge for the future of Europe

With the effective implementation of Brexit in 2021, the external borders of the European Union will be changed. The internal borders, for their part, suddenly came back into the news with the COVID-19 pandemic. As a new discussion on the future of Europe is starting, how can we address the question of both internal and external borders, and above all the need to overcome them? How can we envisage the « post 2020 » and provide global and concerted responses to meet the challenges of tomorrow's Europe and strengthen territorial and cross-border cohesion?

► **Elisa Ferreira**, European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms

► **Apostolos Tzitzikostas**, President of the European Committee of the Regions

► **Christian Dupessey**, President of the MOT, Mayor of Annemasse, President of the Metropolitan Pole of the French Genevois

► **Karl-Heinz Lambertz**, President of the Parliament of the German-speaking Community, Association of European Border Regions

► **Judit Varga**, Minister of Justice, Hungary



Presentation of the European Cross-border Citizen's Alliance

« BORDERS AT THE HEART OF TOMORROW'S EUROPE »

11H30

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION #2

What European tools to implement an effective cross-border policy?

ECBM – European cross-border mechanism; cross-border governance tools; Operational Programmes 21-27 and attention paid to cross-border territories; new financial tools – InvestEU... Cross-border territories, their specificities and their integration and cohesion needs are more than ever integrated in the tools proposed by the main European actors (Commission, EIB, etc.). What do these different tools cover? What does such an awareness of cross-border issues reveal? How can local actors take ownership of these new tools?

► **Anne Sander**, Member of the European Parliament

► **Claude Turmes**, Minister for Energy and Spatial Planning, Luxembourg

► **Rudy Demotte**, President of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis, President of the Parliament of the Federation Wallonia-Brussels

► **Normunds Popens**, Deputy Director General, DG REGIO, European Commission

► **Michael Frehse**, Head of Directorate-General for Community, Federal Ministry for the Interior, Building and Community, Germany

13H00

Presentation of the publication « 15 years of EGTC – Lessons learnt and future perspectives »

By **Martín Guillermo Ramírez**, Secretary General of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

LUNCH BREAK

14H30

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION #3

10 years of the EGTC Platform and 30 years of INTERREG – outcome and visions for the future

After 30 years of Interreg cooperation, particularly cross-border cooperation, the crisis experienced in 2020 has shown that it is necessary to continue and redouble efforts to support border territories. Impacted by the crisis, they have also been a response to it, especially those structured in EGTCs – European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation.

What role did they play during this period? How can they contribute to inventing the Europe of tomorrow? What do they expect from the European authorities, and from the Member States, to enable them to better act locally and on a daily basis, in the service of their citizens?

► **Isabelle Boudineau**, President of the COTER commission (European Committee of the Regions), Coordinator of the EGTC Platform

► **François Calvet**, Senator for Pyrénées-Orientales, President of the Cerdanya Hospital EGTC support committee

► **Zoltán Bara**, Director of Pons Danubii EGTC

► **Sandra Sodini**, Director of International Relations, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, member of the Senza Confini EGTC (IT/AT)

► **Jorg Saalbach**, Director of EGTC Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor



2020 EGTC Award

16H00

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION #4

The Treaty of Aachen, a driving force in Europe?

In 2019, France and Germany signed the Treaty of Aachen, which defines priorities and a method for cooperation on their common border. Its implementation in 2020 coincided with the COVID-19 crisis. The crisis certainly revealed flaws – a lack of coordination or a European mandate – but also new cooperation and perspectives. Can this Treaty, and the method it proposes, show the way for other borders in Europe? How do territorial actors perceive its impact on the cross-border relations that they establish, and the cross-border actions that they deploy?

► **Bernard Guetta**, Member of European Parliament

► **Enrico Letta**, President of the Jacques-Delors Institut, Dean of the PSIA Sciences-Po Paris, former President of the Italian Council

► **Jean Rottner**, President of the Grand Est Region, France

► **Heike Raab**, Secretary of State for Europe, Media and Digital of the German Land of Rhineland-Palatinate.

17H00

CLOSING REMARKS OF THE FIRST DAY

► **Clément Beaune**, Minister of State for European Affairs, France


Key Points



Presentation of the European Cross-border Citizen's Alliance

“ BORDERS AT THE HEART OF TOMORROW'S EUROPE ”

During the Round Table #1.

While the crisis initially provoked uncoordinated border measures, it also revealed interdependencies and gave rise to multiple forms of cooperation and cross-border solidarity, which now need to be organised and strengthened by European and national public policies that take full account of the specific nature of cross-border territories.

This is why, at a time when Europe is preparing to decide on its budget and trajectories for the period 2021-27, the European Committee of the Regions,

the MOT, the AEBR and the CESCO are signing a "European Alliance for Cross-Border Citizens" and are calling on elected representatives, local authorities, organisations and (trans) border citizens to join them.

This Alliance advocates, on behalf of cross-border territories throughout Europe, that European and national decisions should in the future provide border authorities with more resources and powers to deepen cooperation across borders.

It is addressed to European and national authorities.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

<http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/en/news/news/news/show/alliance-europeenne-pour-les-citoyens-transfrontaliers/>

To join the Alliance: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/European-Cross-Border-Citizens-Alliance>



2020 EGTC Award

During the Round Table #3.

The European Committee of the Regions will be awarding the European biennial award named "Building Europe across borders" –

Award for European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation to recognise and give visibility to the best practice of EGTCs in Europe. The award is intended to contribute towards ensuring better knowledge of EGTCs by the national, regional and local authorities in the EU, by the EU institutions and the public.



Territories on the French borders

The COVID-19 crisis is a global health crisis, but it is also an economic crisis and a crisis of democracy. It has shaken up the French municipal elections; it challenges our public policies and puts newly elected local politicians in an unprecedented situation. This day will offer a sounding board to these politicians and their European counterparts, as well as to major private-sector decision-makers, and will provide an opportunity to discuss:



the major issues concerning cross-border territories, and specifically the challenges of mobility, energy transition and health,



the role of cross-border territories as pioneers of the "territorial differentiation" highlighted in the 3D bill "decentralisation, differentiation, deconcentration",



the issues of inter-territoriality, by intersecting the perspectives of different levels and types of territories (metropolitan, peri-urban, sparsely populated, rural, mountain, coastal, etc.), cross-border territorial engineering, with the creation of ANCT – the National Agency for the Cohesion of territories at the beginning of 2020.

Moderation by:

Morning: Marianne Malez, Director of mission, FNAU (French National federation of urban planning agencies)
Afternoon: Giuseppe Bettoni, Professor at the University of Rome, Expert in Geopolitics

9h30

Opening remarks of the 2nd day

Jean Jouzel, Climatologist and Glaciologist,
Member of the French Academy of Science

10h00

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION #5

Health, digital evolution, climate... time for cross-border transitions?

The COVID-19 crisis challenges our public policies, it forces us to better anticipate the transitions we will be facing and to accelerate our responses to the many transitions and transformations, particularly in cross-border areas.

How is the demographic transition (ageing of the population) being prepared for in border areas with different profiles? Is the numerical and digital transformation being thought out and organised at the scale of cross-border territories? Can the latter become laboratories for ecological and climatic transition?

- ▶ **Pia Imbs**, President of the Eurometropole of Strasbourg, France
- ▶ **Roland Theis**, State Secretary to the Minister of Justice of Saarland, Commissioner in charge of European Affairs
- ▶ **Carlos Moreno**, Scientific Director of the Chair ETI, Panthéon Sorbonne University – IAE Paris
- ▶ **Nathan Sourisseau**, Community Councillor in charge of cross-border cooperation, Grand Besançon Métropole

11h30

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION #6

Cross-border mobility and attractiveness, back to the borders?

In 2020, the free movement of people and goods in France and Europe has been put to the test (population confinement; border closures), penalising millions of cross-border citizens, but also damaging the attractiveness of border areas. How have the main actors concerned faced the situation and are they now trying to bounce back? Are certain models (of development, mobility, cross-border governance) now being called into question? What kinds of coordination on either side of the border can be established to find common solutions?

- ▶ **Pierre Cuny**, Vice-President of Pôle métropolitain européen du Sillon Lorrain, Mayor of Thionville, France
- ▶ **Frédérique Bonnard-Le Floc'h**, Vice-Présidente of Finistère Department, Vice-Présidente of Brest Métropole
- ▶ **Serge Dal Busco**, State Councillor of the Republic and Canton of Geneva
- ▶ **Thierry Mallet**, Chairman and CEO of Transdev
- ▶ **Luciano Caveri**, Regional Minister, Assessor, Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta, Italy

13h00

Presentation of the publication « Critical Dictionary on Borders, Cross-Border Cooperation and European Integration »

By **Birte Wassenberg**, Professor of Contemporary History, University of Strasbourg, and **Bernard Reitel**, Professor of Political and Urban Geography, University of Artois

The Dictionary answers the following questions: What is the role of borders in European integration? How does cross-border cooperation work in practice? Who are the main actors, their motives, objectives and tools? This major publication contains 209 articles by 124 authors from different countries and academic fields, along with 66 original maps produced by the MOT.



10 NOV
2020

LUNCH BREAK

14h00

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION #7

Cross-border areas, differentiated areas?

The 3D law has three main objectives: better deconcentration of state services; strengthening decentralisation; and differentiating territories to better take into account their specificity. In many respects, and particularly because of the relationships they establish with their neighbours, "trans border" territories are the first to be concerned by this differentiation. What do border communities expect from this 3D law? How can the pioneering experience of the future European Community of Alsace, and its cross-border competence, be inspiring?

- ▶ **Frédéric Bierry**, President of the Bas-Rhin Department
- ▶ **Daniel Gibbs**, President of Saint Martin Regional Authority
- ▶ **Fabienne Leloup**, Professor at the Catholic University of Louvain
- ▶ **Christophe Arend**, Deputy of Moselle

15h30

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION #8

Metropolises, mountains, rural areas: What kind of cross-border cohesion?

Cross-border territories are multifaceted territories: sometimes metropolitan, sometimes rural, sometimes mountainous, sometimes coastal – they have distinct profiles depending on the side of the border on which they are located. So how can we respond to the need for cross-border solidarity and cohesion in these territories? How does ANCT – set up in January 2020 – and in particular its national programmes meet this need? How do local engineering tools understand these cross-border needs, and do they try to meet them by strengthening their knowledge and skills?

- ▶ **Yves Le Breton**, Director of the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT, France)
- ▶ **Louis Nègre**, Deputy President of Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis
- ▶ **Annie Genevard**, Vice-president of the National Assembly, Deputy of Doubs
- ▶ **Patrick François**, Interregional Director, Grand Est region, Caisse des Dépôts, France
- ▶ **Patrice Vergriete**, Deputy President of the FNAU (French National federation of urban planning agencies), Mayor of Dunkerque, France
- ▶ **Alexandre Cassaro**, Mayor of Forbach, representative of Villes de France

17h00

CONCLUSION OF THE FORUM

- ▶ **Christian Dupessey**, President of the MOT, Mayor of Annemasse, President of the Metropolitan Pole of the French Genevois
- ▶ **Jacqueline Gourault**, Minister of Territorial Cohesion and Relations with Local Authorities, France

**PRACTICAL
INFORMATION**

The event will be held online.

REGISTRATION

on the website www.bordersforum.eu

- Registered participants will receive all information related to the live streaming by email.



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