

Document for information

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Why transform the Mission
Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)
association into a *Groupement
d'Intérêt Public* (GIP) – GIP (public
interest grouping)?



Established by a meeting of the Comité Interministériel d'Aménagement et de Développement du Territoire (CIADT - interministerial territorial planning and development committee) in 1997, the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière is a pioneering structure in Europe for multilevel governance combining local, regional and national levels capable of grasping the complexity, extent and cross-sectorial nature of cross-border issues on the French borders.

The association form set up in 1998 enabled a technical team to be assembled and expertise on cross-border cooperation to be developed and recognized at national and European levels, making the MOT a resource and analysis centre in the service of both the French state and the members of its network (59 members in 2011). The MOT has also formed a number of partnerships at European level (including with the Council of Europe, the Committee of the Regions, the Association of European Border Regions) and beyond (for example with the African Union Border Programme).

The Blanc – Keller – Sanchez-Schmid parliamentary report in June 2010 confirmed this vocation and identified priorities for sustained actions to reinforce national cross-border policy.

The interministerial work completed following this report has confirmed the MOT in its role of support for the various stakeholders in cross-border cooperation, in particular with regard to monitoring the development of cross-border territories and continuing training of civil service personnel. **It also noted the necessary transformation of the MOT into a “GIP”, a form planned initially by the CIADT in March 1997 and for which provision is made in its present by-laws (article 2).**

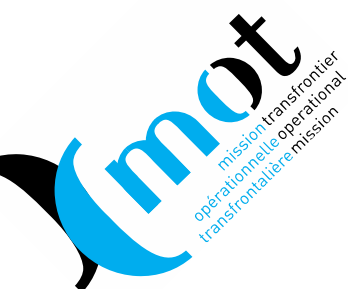
It does appear difficult in practice to consider implementing these recommendations while retaining the present legal form of the MOT: the relationship between the French state and the MOT is based at present on grants awarded by ministries. However, the very nature of these grants prevents the grant funders being involved in initiating the actions conducted by the MOT and benefiting directly from the actions carried out.

The major legislative reform of the “GIP”, due to be completed in the first half of 2011, aims to simplify and unify its legal framework (“Warsmann” bill on simplification and improvement of the quality of the law). It will enable the transformation of the MOT association into a “GIP”.

This transformation will have the advantages of:

- ≡ reinforcing the capacity of the MOT to monitor and analyze cross-border policies and projects in order to contribute to better cross-border governance in France,
- ≡ clarifying the respective roles of ministries and network members within the MOT, while keeping its foreign members, with the exception of the foreign states¹ and raising its national and European profile, becoming the first organization of this type in Europe,
- ≡ changing to “GIP” status with constant human and financial resources, by taking over the technical team and its activities: expert appraisal on cross-border matters, website, publications, database of good cross-border practices, topic-based analyses, seminars and training, map and legal collections.

This transformation, decided at the last meeting of the MOT Board of Directors in November 2010 by its president Michel Delebarre and the members of the MOT Board, has already received the support of the major funders of the MOT: DATAR and the Caisse des Dépôts.



¹ The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Principality of Andorra and Bulgaria, regarding which the founding agreement of the “GIP” will be able to make provision for specific mechanisms of association with the work of the “GIP”.