

EGTC
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The European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation - Beyond Regional Policy: Transport and Enterprise

Annual meeting
of the EGTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions

Proceedings of the meeting
held at the Committee of the Regions

Brussels,
25 February 2013

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions



Brussels, April 2013

3rd Annual Meeting of the EGTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions



The EGTC beyond regional policy – Transport and Enterprise

Monday 25 February 2013

Proceedings

drawn up by the Committee of the Regions of the EU

Committee of the Regions of the EU
Rue Belliard 99-101, Brussels
Room JDE 51, Listening room JDE 70

More information about the EGTC in <http://www.cor.europa.eu/egtc>
Website of the conference: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/Pages/Proceedings.aspx>

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3rd annual meeting of the EGTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions

On 25 February 2013, the Committee of the Regions organised the Third Annual Meeting of the Platform of European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation. The agenda included an update on the inter-institutional work on the revision of the EGTC Regulation, which was at that moment at the stage of co-decision between the European Parliament and the Council, and the mainstreaming of the EGTC into other EU policies.

More than 120 participants took part in the event, chaired by the platform's political coordinator , **Mr Herwig Van Staa** (AT/EPP). The European Commission was represented by **Mr Colin Wolfe**, Head of Unit at the Competence Centre for Macro-regions and European Territorial Co-operation - Transnational and Interregional Co-operation, replacing **Mr Normunds Popens**, Deputy Director-General of DG Regional and Urban Policy. Speakers also included the rapporteurs on EGTC and Members of the European Parliament and the CoR. The Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU was represented by **Mr Frank Maughan**. Representations of the governments of 8 Member States and Ukraine also attended.

The EU policies selected for the meeting were 'The EGTC and transport policy' and 'The EGTC and enterprise policy', reflecting the results of a survey launched among EGTC platform members and the coordination work embarked on by DG Regio together with other DGs, following a request made by the CoR in 2012.

The meeting took place at the CoR building in Brussels.

Main conclusions

- The institutions must start working together to unleash the potential of the EGTCs beyond regional policy.
- In July 2011, the European Parliament's REGI Committee adopted a negotiating mandate for the revision of the EGTC Regulation, which included all the amendments to the text tabled by the CoR last year.
- Parliament has also created a multi-party 'cross-border networking group', involving MEPs with an interest in border areas, which shares the political interests of the EGTC Platform
- The Irish Presidency announced that the Working Group on Structural Actions in the Council had adopted a political agreement on the revision of the EGTC Regulation on 20 February.
- The Member States have started to coordinate efforts on facilitating the creation of new EGTCs. Hungary hosted the 2nd meeting of national authorities on 21 and 22 February in Budapest.
- The EGTCs can be a very useful instrument for implementing the Trans-European Networks and also for implementing infrastructure co-funded by the future Connecting Europe Facility, either directly or as platform for participation and governance.
- The EGTCs in particular and Europe's border areas in general are particularly concerned about the future of local public transport. The EGTCs are engaged in promoting more regular commuter trains buses to connect cities and towns across borders. However, the economic crisis and the liberalisation of the passenger rail system could jeopardise these services, which generally run at a financial loss.
- Cross-border cooperation is essential to create a good environment for SMEs in border areas and to promote growth and competitiveness supporting entrepreneurship. Virtually all the EGTCs operate projects in this field, either directly or as platforms to launch cross-border strategies in line with Europe 2020.
- The EGTCs are extremely interested in taking part in the programmes run by DG Enterprise, in particular in projects co-funded by the future Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME). The EGTCs can implement the projects simultaneously at cross-border level, as they already form partnerships. Greater visibility of this kind of project implemented by the EGTCs would be very positive.

➤ **Statements**

Keynote speakers

For the Committee of the Regions, **Mr Herwig van Staa**, chair of the conference and Coordinator of the EGTC Platform, opened the meeting, highlighting the development of the EGTCs and the role of the conference, which was to build on the previous annual meeting and the priorities adopted the previous year. The chair specifically thanked the MEP **Mr Joachim Zeller** (DE/EPP) for his support as rapporteur for the European Parliament proposal for a revision of the EGTC Regulation, although Mr Zeller could not attend the meeting due to the harsh meteorological conditions existing in the airport of Berlin. **Mr Van Staa** also suggested that the current meeting offered an important example of cooperation between the various European institutions to promote the EGTCs in the forthcoming programming period and also as a forum for demonstrating best practices in the field of cross-border cooperation.

Keynote speeches stating the position of the institutions were then given, by:

- **Mr Colin Wolfe**, representing the European Commission (DG Regional and Urban Policy) emphasised the importance of the EGTC instrument. Mr Wolfe stated that co-operation should become easier and be applied in various fields. He also stressed the need for greater political visibility for this type of co-operation, as well as the importance of developing a coherent EGTC strategy in the future, in order to unleash the full potential of the Groupings as a cross-border instrument.
- **Mr Frank Maughan**, on behalf of the Irish Presidency of the EU Council, announced that the Working Group on Structural Actions of the Council had concluded a political agreement on the revision of the EGTC Regulation on 20 February. He explained that the Council was in favour of the introduction of a mechanism for tacitly approving the establishment of EGTCs in order to avoid potential delays, and of the inclusion of non-EU countries in EGTCs. Mr Maughan also stated the need for a high level of legal certainty on various potential issues. He emphasised the EGTCs' great potential in the field and highlighted the importance of the platform for the forthcoming programming period.
- **Ms Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid**, MEP (FR/EPP) participated in her capacity as member of the European Parliament's Cross-border Networking Group. She emphasised the role of the Groupings in facilitating trade across borders and that co-operation was important if economies of scale were to be achieved. She noted that the European Parliament wanted to promote instruments such as the EGTC, because they provided structure and made it possible to develop structures covering more than one region.

- **Ms Annamária Oláh**, representing the Hungarian Ministry of Justice and Public Administration, updated the participants on the recent meeting of national authorities in charge of authorising EGTCs held in Budapest and organised by the Hungarian government on 21 and 22 February, with the aim of sharing experiences and coordinating the actions and procedures of the different Member States, overcoming administrative barriers. Ms Oláh highlighted the fact that the EGTCs were used more and had a clearer role than in other Member States, where this instrument remained largely unknown. Hungary, she said, was involved in 13 EGTCs and hosted the headquarters of 10 of them.

Following the keynote speeches, the floor was given to a number of **CoR Members**:

Mr Petr Osvald (PES/CZ) drew attention to the problematic issues surrounding EGTCs and stated that these needed to be discussed and addressed. He specifically addressed the fact that the EU had no special instrument for financing EGTCs and that Member States had problems with shouldering their responsibilities in this field. **Mr Cristian Adomnitei** (ALDE/RO) stressed the importance of the EGTCs in new Member States, as they could be the best tools for connecting Eastern regions with the rest of Europe. **Mr Brian Meaney** (EA/IE) emphasised that different types of cross-border co-operation took place at many different levels and that it needed to be more easily recognised and encouraged.

The chair referred to a letter sent by CoR President **Mr Ramón Luis Valcárcel** to the Irish Presidency, stating the CoR's main concerns in this field, in particular the provisions on tacit approval and on the law applicable to staff.

Panel 1. The EGTC beyond regional policy: Transport
From trans-European networks to connecting neighbours

Mr Stéphane Ouaki, Head of the Connecting Europe Facility Unit, at the European Commission's DG Mobility and Transport, provided details on the role of the Connecting Europe Facility within the transport, energy and telecom sectors. He stressed the importance of exploiting synergies across the continent and the need for projects offering EU added value and increased efficiency. The EGTCs were mechanisms with which the local and regional authorities could support the Trans-European Networks, and there was a demand for it.

Ms Gudrun Schulze, policy officer at the Connecting Europe Facility Unit, discussed current and future developments in the transport sector. She stressed the role played by local regions and cities in ensuring multi-level governance and in connecting citizens to national policy-makers. The importance of creating co-ordinated network corridors was also addressed, together with the role played by the EGTCs in this respect.

Mr Gilles Pargneaux, MEP (FR/S&D) member of the European Parliament's Cross-border Networking Group, highlighted the importance of not overlooking the needs of border regions and the role of the 4th railway package in this respect. The rail connection between Lille and Tournai would be improved but it was important to bear in mind the lack of proper cross-border railway communications, as was the case in Belgium and the Netherlands, Greece and Bulgaria, Venice and Ljubljana and many other cities located near to borders.

Mr Stef Vande Meulebroucke, Director of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis EGTC, spoke of the problems related to funding cross-border priorities which were often the last to receive financing because of prioritised investment in national or international projects. He stressed the need for incentives to reactivate the EGTCs and change the focus of national and regional operators.

Mr Olgierd Geblewicz (EPP/PL), Marshal of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship, focused on his experience in implementing the project of EGTC 'Central European Transport Corridor – Route 65' in six European countries and the great interest in such projects. He emphasised the promising project to establish a corridor in Central Europe that would link the Baltic and Adriatic Seas and lead to improved development and progress in the different regions concerned.

Ms Isabelle Prianon, Director of the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict EGTC, commented on the fact that only 1% of the population used public transport to cross the borders. She emphasised the need to support and encourage cross-border transport, as despite the many trans-national connections more needed to be done at the local level.

The chair mentioned the situation of the Euroregion Tirol-Alto Adige-Trentino EGTC, where better commuter rail are needed to ensure the communication at cross-border level. **Mr Van Staa** shared the concerns of the participants about the impact of the liberalization of railways in the EU.

Panel 2: The EGTC beyond regional policy: Enterprise

Providing cross-border opportunities for SMEs

Ms Joanna Drake, Director for SMEs and Entrepreneurship at the European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry, gave a summary of the support provided by the European Commission in encouraging SMEs and boosting entrepreneurship across Europe. She emphasised the priorities of the Small Business Pack and the Enterprise Europe Network, and their role in promoting businesses and making them more competitive.

Mr Juan José Lirón Lago, Director of the Galicia Norte de Portugal Euroregion EGTC, focused on his experience of territorial cooperation between Galicia and the North of Portugal and its positive impact on SMEs. He emphasised the role of the EGTC in creating job opportunities in a region characterised by high unemployment. Mr Lago pointed out the positive effect on tourism by offering joint tourist packages in the region, as well as the overall success of the EGTC model, which attracted business angels and entrepreneurs as well as tourists and brought discernible added value for both Member States.

Mr Nikos Krimniantis, Director of the Efxini Poli – Network of European Cities for Sustainable Development – Solidarity Network EGTC, summarised his experience in the EGTC Exfini Poli and its important role in designing viable initiatives for the overall development of entrepreneurship. He described the municipal projects in the regions which provided new jobs, under the special EGTC programme to promote gastronomic tourism.

Mr Mathieu Henceval, Brussels Delegate of the Pyrenées-Méditerranée Euroregion EGTC, underlined the importance of the EGTC between four regions in Spain and France in the areas of culture and sustainable development. This EGTC implemented projects such as INTERREG IVB SudOe 'Creamed', supporting SMEs, and could run projects co-funded by DG Enterprise directly in several regions, as every EGTC was in itself a transnational partnership. He stressed that through co-operation and established good practices the EGTC had a positive effect on cohesion and on implementing the Europe2020 Strategy.

Conclusions

Mr Jens Gabbe, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Association of European Border Regions, provided a scientific summary of the statements and the overall state of play of the EGTC.

Mr Gabbe highlighted the fact that the EGTCs were here to stay and even if in the future they took different forms, their activities would remain the same. Concerning transport, he stressed that cross-border links were declining noticeably and this could be addressed only with sufficient political will. Mr Gabbe also described the importance of the legal status of the EGTC in European legislation and the need to avoid future conflicts between the Member States on the applicable law. He concluded by describing the major opportunity the EGTC offered for the future by making cross-border cooperation more democratic and also involving the political level more actively. He also emphasised the future discussion of the role of the EGTC and how to shape it in the future in order to be successful in both political and financial terms.

Once all the panels had concluded their work, **Mr Herwig Van Staa**, chair of the conference, briefly summarised the conclusions from the EGTC forum and shared his views on the future of the platform. First of all, through EGTCs, cross border cooperation had moved to a higher level, since it was now possible to strike agreements separately from national foreign policy. A further point of progress was the fact national governments could not unilaterally dissolve an established EGTC once it had been set up. Mr Van Staa underlined the new role that EGTCs could play in the future, as Groupings could be extended to regions that were part of non-EU countries (such as Switzerland and Norway) and this was especially important for countries in Eastern Europe. He also commented on the fact that the platform had a legal and institutional framework which could grow into a micro-economic network and bring further positive development in this field. Additionally, he stated that there was a need for a firm commitment for funding in the future. Mr Van Staa further added that there legal certainty needed to be ensured, free of pressure from the Member States in the upcoming years.

Mr Van Staa officially closed the conference with an announcement of the upcoming seminars and activities related to the EGTC platform.

➤ Social networks

For technical reasons, the meeting could not be broadcast via <http://webcast.cor.europa.eu>, as had been planned.

The meeting was tweeted with the hashtag: *#EGTCconference*

Annex I. Poster and agenda



The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation – Beyond regional policy: transport and enterprise

**Annual meeting
of the EGTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions**

25 February 2013 | 14.30 – 17.30
room **JDE 51** (5th floor)
listening room **JDE 70** (7th floor)
www.cor.europa.eu/egtc

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EUROPEAN UNION

Committee of the Regions

Unit E.2 – Subsidiarity Network / Europe 2020
Monitoring Platform/ Covenant of Mayors / EGTC



*3rd Annual Meeting of the EGTC Platform
of the Committee of the Regions*



The EGTC beyond regional policy – Transport and Enterprise

Date: 25 February 2013, 14:30-17:30

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99-101 Brussels
Room JDE 51 listening room JDE 70

Languages available: EN – FR – DE – ES – IT – HU active and passive interpretation
PL – GR passive interpretation

Chair: Mr Herwig Van Staa (AT/EPP) President of the Parliament of Tirol, Coordinator of the EGTC Platform

AGENDA

Chair: **Mr Herwig Van Staa** (AT/EPP) President of the Parliament of Tirol and Coordinator of the EGTC Platform

14:00-14:30 Registration of the participants

14:30-14:40 Welcome and opening by **Mr Gerhard Stahl**, Secretary General of the CoR

14:40-15:15 Keynote speeches

- **Mr Normunds Popenis**, Deputy Director-General of DG Regional and Urban Policy
- **Mr Frank Maughan**, Irish Presidency of the EU Council
- **Mr Joachim Zeller**, MEP rapporteur on the proposal for a revision of the EGTC Regulation
- **Ms Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid**, MEP member of the Cross-border Networking Group of the European Parliament

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- **Mr Gilles Pargneaux**, MEP member of the Cross-border Networking Group of the European Parliament
- **Ms Annamária Oláh**, Hungarian Ministry of Justice and Public Administration, *Conclusions of the 2nd Meeting of national authorities in charge of authorizing new EGTCs*
- Floor open to CoR Members: **Mr Geblewicz** (EPP/PL), **Mr Osvald** (PES/CZ), **Mr Adomnitei** (ALDE/RO), **Mr Meaney** (EA/IE)

15:15-16:15 The EGTC beyond regional policy: Transport
From Trans-European networks to connecting neighbours

- **Mr Stéphane Ouaki**, European Commission, DG Mobility and Transport, Head of Unit Connecting Europe Facility
- **Ms Gudrun Schulze**, European Commission, DG Mobility and Transport, Policy Officer TEN-T
- **Mr Olgierd Geblewicz** (EPP/PL), Marshal the West Pomeranian Voivodeship
- **Mr Stef Vande Meulebroucke**, Director of the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis EGTC
- **Mr Isabelle Prianon**, Director of the SaarMoselle Eurodistrict EGTC
- Representatives of EGTCs
- Open floor

16:15-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-17:20 The EGTC beyond regional policy: Enterprise
Providing cross-border opportunities to the SMEs

- **Ms Joanna Drake**, European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry, Director for SMEs and Entrepreneurship
- **Mr Juan José Lirón Lago**, Director of the Galicia Norte de Portugal Euroregion EGTC
- **Mr Nikos Krimniantis**, Director of the Efxini Poli – Network of European Cities for Sustainable Development – Solidarity Network EGTC
- **Mr Mathieu Henceval**, Brussels Delegate to the Pyrenées-Méditerranée Euroregion EGTC
- Representatives of EGTCs
- Open floor

17:20 Scientific summary by **Dr Jens Gabbe**, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Association of European Border Regions

17:25 Conclusions by **Mr Herwig Van Staa**

17:30 Announcements of forthcoming activities and closing of the meeting

Contact:

egtc@cor.europa.eu

The meeting will be broadcast via <http://webcast.cor.europa.eu> and www.cor.europa.eu/egtc

Twitter hashtag: *#EGTCconference*

Annex II. List of participants

Members of the Committee of the Regions

- ❖ Mr Herwig VAN STAA (EPP/AT) President of the Regional Parliament, Region of the Tyrol
- ❖ Mr Petr OSVALD (PES/CZ)
- ❖ Mr Christian ADOMNITEI (ALDE/RO)
- ❖ Mr Ian MEANEY (EA/IE)
- ❖ Mr Olgierd GEBLEWICZ (EPP/PL), Marshall of Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship

Council of the EU

- ❖ Mr Frank MAUGHAN, Irish Presidency of the EU Council

European Parliament

- ❖ Mr Joachim ZELLER, Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur on the proposal of revision of the EGTC Regulation
- ❖ Ms Marie-Thérèse SANCHEZ SCHMID, Member of the European Parliament, member of the Cross-border Networking Group of the European Parliament
- ❖ Mr Gilles PARGNEAUX, Member of the European Parliament, member of the Cross-border Networking Group of the European Parliament

European Commission

- ❖ Mr Colin WOLFE, Head of Unit of the Competence Centre for Macro-regions and European Territorial Cooperation, DG Regional and Urban Policy, replacing Mr Normunds POPENS, Deputy Director General
- ❖ Mr José Antonio RUIZ DE CASAS, policy officer in the Competence Centre for Macro-regions and European Territorial Cooperation, DG Regional and Urban Policy
- ❖ Ms Joanna DRAKE, European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry, Director SMEs and Entrepreneurship
- ❖ Mr Stéphane OUKI, European Commission, DG Mobility and Transport, Head of Unit Connecting Europe Facility
- ❖ Ms Gudrun SCHULZE, European Commission, DG Mobility and Transport, Policy Officer TENT
- ❖ Lia POTEK, European Commission, Policy Officer, DG Move
- ❖ Mr Cristina BOBU, trainee, DG EAC, European Commission

National representations

EU Member States:

- ❖ Ms Annamária OLÁH, Ministry of Justice and Public Administration, Republic of Hungary
- ❖ Mr Nyikos GYÖRGYI, Counsellor, cohesion policy, Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU
- ❖ Ms Melinda HORVATH, attaché, Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU

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- ❖ Mr Alin STANESCU, Attache Permanent, Representation of Romania to the EU
- ❖ Mr Estanislau VIDAL-FOLCH, Counsellor for Regional Affairs, Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU
- ❖ Mr Julián TALENS, Counsellor for Regional Affairs, Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU
- ❖ Mr Miran VATOVEC, Counsellor, Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU
- ❖ Ms Joanna HELD, Counsellor, Permanent Representation of Poland to the EU
- ❖ Ms Joosen LENNEKE, Policy Advisor, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands
- ❖ Ms Dessislava GEORGIEVA, Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the EU

Third countries:

- ❖ Mr Serhii SAIENKO, Counsellor, Mission of Ukraine to the European Union

European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation and EGTC under constitution
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- ❖ Mr Stef VANDE MEULEBROUCKE, Director of the EGTC Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai
- ❖ Noë GRIET Policy Officer of the EGTC Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai
- ❖ Mr Nikos KRIMNIANOTIS, Director of the EGTC Efxini Poli – Network of European Cities for Sustainable Development – Solidarcity Network
- ❖ Ms Maria KRIMNIANOTI, Head Of European Projects Department EGTC Efxinipoli - Network Of European Cities For Sustainable Development - Solidarcity Network
- ❖ Mr Isabelle PRIANON, Director of the EGTC Eurodistrict SaarMoselle
- ❖ Mr Nikos TAMPAKIDIS, Scientific Partner, EGTC Efxini Poli - Network Of European Cities For Sustainable Development - Solidarcity Network
- ❖ Mr Ferenc KESERI, Territorial Director, UTTS EGTC
- ❖ Mr Béla KISS, Territorial Director, UTTS EGTC
- ❖ Mr Mátyás NEPP, Director, UTTS EGTC
- ❖ Mr Roland NEPP, IT Director, UTTS EGTC
- ❖ Mr Tibor MAROSVÖLGYI, Director, UTTS EGTC
- ❖ Mr Szilveszter VASS, Territorial Director, UTTS EGTC
- ❖ Mr Mathieu HENCEVAL, Brussels Representative, EGTC Pyrenees-Mediterranean
- ❖ Mr Juan José LIRON LAGO, Director, European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation Galicia - Norte de Portugal (GNP-EGTC)
- ❖ Mr Marc MOULIN, Director, GECT, Eurorégion Aquitaine Euskadi
- ❖ Mr Richard MEERSSCHAERT, Directeur, EGTS Linieland van Waas en Hulst
- ❖ Mr Cristian ADOMNITEI, President, ROMANIA - Iasi County Council and EURONEST Intercommunity Development Association - EURONEST EGTC
- ❖ Mr Oriol CALVO VERGES, Gerente, Spanish Association of Ceramic Cities (AeCC) – project AECT Ciudades de la Cerámica
- ❖ Mr FILLIT Charles, Director, AFCC (French Ceramic Cities Association) Project AECC Agrupacion Europea Ciudades de la Ceramica
- ❖ Mr Giuseppe OLMETI, Director, Associazione Italiana Città della Ceramica, Project AECT Ciudades de la Cerámica
- ❖ Mr Paweł KURANT, Head of the Cross-Border Cooperation Section, the Unit for International Cooperation and Projects, the Marshal's Office of Lower Silesia, EGTC under constitution 'Tritia'
- ❖ Mr Daniel VSETECKA, MSc., Project manager (Centrum evropského projektování), Polish-Czech EGTC under constitution 'Tritia'

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- ❖ Mr Daniel VSETECKA, MSc., Project manager, Centrum evropského projektování, EGTC under constitution 'Tritia'

Local and regional authorities

- ❖ Ms Marta CIESIELSKA, Senior Advisor, Marshal's Office of The Westpomeranian Region
- ❖ Eszter CSOKASI, Managing Director , DKMT Euroregional Development Agency
- ❖ Ms Delphine BOURDIN, Eu-policy officer - President's cabinet, Communauté urbaine de Dunkerque
- ❖ Mr Francesco ZENI, Intern, Alpeuregio – Representative, Office of the Euro-region Tirol-Sud Tirol-Trentino
- ❖ Ms Mireia SOLE LLORT, Policy Officer in charge of relations with the CoR, Government of Catalonia - Delegation to the EU
- ❖ Ms Marina SOPEÑA, Policy Officer, Aragon Regional Office
- ❖ Ms Ewa WOODS, Director, Lower Silesia Regional, Office in Brussels
- ❖ Mr Krzysztof ŻARNA, Deputy Director, Marshal's Office Of The Westpomeranian Region
- ❖ Ms Ariadna VILA, Consultant, Centre Balears Europa
- ❖ Ms Adela SPULBER, chargée de mission. Programmes et projets européens. Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière
- ❖ Ms Ainhoa AZARLOZA, EU Policy Officer, Delegation of the Basque Country to the EU
- ❖ Ms Isabel BARRIOS, EU policy advisor, Government of the Canary Islands (Delegation in Brussels)
- ❖ Ms Julia BERNHART, Assistant, EU-representation office of Carinthia
- ❖ Mr Petr BLEJCHAR, Trainee, Representation of the South Moravian Region to the EU
- ❖ Ms Anne-Lise BICHON, stagiaire juriste, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière
- ❖ Mr Konstantin BOSS, Intern, South-Tyrol office Brussels
- ❖ Mr FOURMANN Maxime, Chargé de mission, Eurodistrict SaarMoselle
- ❖ Ms María MONTOIRO SALVADO, Policy Officer , Fundacion Galicia Europa
- ❖ Ms Lenka PROKSOVA, Intern, Pilsen Region European Office in Brussels
- ❖ Ms Martina RATTINGER, Director, EU-representation office of Carinthia
- ❖ Ms Isabel SALGUEIRO, Junior Policy Advisor, Castilla y León Permanent Delegation to the EU
- ❖ Mr Francis CHABRAT, Representative, Opolskie Office
- ❖ Ms Pilar GONZALEZ QUINTANA, Head of department of financial management, Xunta de Galicia
- ❖ Ms Claudia SCHLAG, Head of office, EU-Representation of the Region of Burgenland
- ❖ Ms Eszter LAKOS, coordinator, H4- Cooperation for the Hungarian Counties
- ❖ Mr Lambertus SCHAMPERS, EU Policy Advisor, Province of Noord-Brabant (NL)
- ❖ Ms Luisa POCLÉN, Coordinator of the Office, Friuli Venezia Giulia Liaison Office
- ❖ Mr Alex MARAÑÓN, EU Policy Assistant, Delegation of the Basque Country to the EU
- ❖ Ms Marie PERES, Chargée d'information, Bureau Aquitaine Europe
- ❖ Mr Karin OLIVER, Policy advisor, Delegation of the Government of the Balearic Islands in Brussels
- ❖ Mr Patrick COURTIN, Directeur, Délégation Lorraine, Champagne-Ardenne
- ❖ Ms Birgit URBAN, Director, Vertretung des Landes Brandenburg bei der EU
- ❖ Ms Honorine SCHWARZ, Policy officer, Midi-Pyrénées Europe
- ❖ Mr Tamas KOCSONDI Brussels Representative Eszak-Alfold Regional Representation
- ❖ Ms Nolwenn LE TALLEC, EU policy Officer, Bureau Aquitaine Europe
- ❖ Mr Pontus TALLBERG, Coordinator Trend Analysis, Region Skåne
- ❖ Mr Stepan KRAJCA, assistant, Ok4EU - Olomouc Region
- ❖ Ms Vendula RAYMOVA, Director and chief executive, Bohemia EU Planners, Ltd
- ❖ Mr Oleksandre MOROZ, Representative, Euroregion Dniester

Associations and organizations of support

- ❖ Mr Jens GABBE, Chairman of Advisory Committee, Association of European Border Regions
- ❖ Mr Athanassios, GOUMAS, Director, REGIOEUROPA
- ❖ Mr Satu HIETANEN, Project Manager, INTERACT
- ❖ Ms Valérie BIOT, ESPON contact point & researcher, Université Libre de Bruxelles
- ❖ Ms Antonella VALMORBIDA, Director, Association of Local Democracy Agencies
- ❖ Ms Giulia TAMANINI, Project assistant, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability (Brussels)
- ❖ Ms Alina POPA, executive director, EURONEST, Intercommunity Development Association – EURONEST
- ❖ Mr Hans MOOREN, Policy Advisor, Benelux Union
- ❖ Mr Johannes GRÜBEL Johannes, Intern, German Association of Cities
- ❖ Ms Katerina KARAVOLA, Head of Brussels Office Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE), Hellenic Agency for Local Development And Local Government (EETAA)

Committee of the Regions - Secretariat

- ❖ Mr Gerhard STAHL, Secretary General
- ❖ Ms Anna KEREKGYARTO, Member of the Cabinet of the President
- ❖ Mr Gianluca SPINACI, Member of the Cabinet of the Secretary General
- ❖ Mr Thomas WOBLEN, Director E – Horizontal Policies and Networks
- ❖ Mr Bert KUBY, Head of Unit E2 - Subsidiarity Network, Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform, Covenant of Mayors and EGTC
- ❖ Mr Alfonso ALCOLEA MARTÍNEZ, Administrator EGTC, Unit E2
- ❖ Mr Matthieu HORNUNG, Administrator, Secretariat of the Group PES
- ❖ Mr Giovanni BORGOGNA, Assistant, Unit E2
- ❖ Mr Nicolas WHITE, Assistant, Unit E2

European Parliament – Secretariat and MEP assistants

- ❖ Mr Alexander VOGT, Advisor to Bogusław LIBERADZKI MEP, Quaestor, European Parliament
- ❖ Mr Konrad LACKI, Office of Bogusław LIBERADZKI MEP, Quaestor, European Parliament
- ❖ Ms Katarzyna DEVAVRY, Advisor to Jan OLBRYCHT, MEP, European Parliament
- ❖ Mr Pierre-Jean BRASIE, Assistant of Catherine GRÈZE MEP, European Parliament
- ❖ Mr LATTEF Hakim, Assistant of Mr Gilles PARGNEAUX - MEP, European Parliament
- ❖ Ms Margherita REVEDIN, Trainee, European Parliament
- ❖ Mr Katarzyn ORUBA, Trainee, European Parliament
- ❖ Ms Alena ŠVEPEŠOVA, Trainee, Office of Vice-President of the European Parliament Oldřich VLASAK

Other participants

- ❖ Ilaria OTTAVIANO, Researcher, Università degli studi di Roma III
- ❖ Mr REYNARD Nicolas, Student, College of Europe
- ❖ Mr Bernabei GIANNINO, Member, European Academy of Sciences and Arts
- ❖ Ms Cristina VOIOS, Trainee, UETR
- ❖ Mr Cristian BULUMAC, Freelance consultant

Annex III. Photo gallery



Mr Herwig Van Staa opening the meeting



General view of the meeting, in presence of the CoR Secretary General Mr Gerhard Stahl



Mr Colin Wolfe intervened representing the DG Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission



A moment of the intervention of Mr Wolfe



Representatives of the EGTCs: From left to right Mr Matthieu Henceval (Pyrenées-Méditerranée), Mr Juan Lirón (Galicia-Norte de Portugal) Mr Stef Vande Meulebroucke (Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai), Ms Isabelle Pranon (SaarMoselle), Ms Maria Krimnianioti and Mr Nikos Krimnianiotis (EfxiniPoli)



Mr Franck Maughan, representing the Irish Presidency, announced the recent agreement of the Working Group of Structural Actions of the Council about the revision of the EGTC Regulation



Ms Marie Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid MEP (FR/EPP), explained the mission and tasks of the Cross-border Networking Group of the European Parliament



On behalf of the Hungarian government, Ms Annamária Oláh debriefed the participants about the recent meeting of national authorities in charge of authorizing EGTCs held in Budapest on 21 and 22 March



Intervention of Mr Gilles Pargneaux MEP (FR/S&D), member of the Cross-border Networking Group and Vice-President of the EGTC Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai



CoR Members participating in the meeting: From left to right, Mr Ian Paisley (IE/EA), Mr Christian Adomnitei (RO/ALDE), Mr Petr Oswald (CZ/PES) rapporteur on European Territorial Cooperation



CoR Members participating in the meeting: Mr Olgierd Geblewicz (PL/PPE), Marshall of Zachodniopomorskie voivodship, explained the EGTC project 'Central European Transport Corridor' going from Rijeka (Croatia) to Skåne (Sweden)



Representatives of the European Commission, DG Mobility and Transport and DG Enterprise and Industry, discussed about the role of the EGTCs in cross-border transport and TEN-T and in supporting SMEs



Mr Stef Vande Meulebroucke, director of the EGTC Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai, pointed out the need for cross-border commuting rail to ensure appropriate communications between the cities of the Eurometropolis



Mr Nikos Krimniantotis, director of the newly created EGTC EfxiniPoli – SolidarCity Network, presented initiatives to support entrepreneurship like cross-border business incubators



The conclusions of the meeting were made by Mr Jens Gabbe, chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Association of European Border Regions



The national governments represented in the meeting were Bulgaria, Hungary, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and Poland, plus Ukraine from outside the EU

More information including speeches, presentations
and audiovisuals can be found at the thematic portal

www.cor.europa.eu/egtc



The Platform of EGTC of the CoR
can be followed in the social networks

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APRIL 2013

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

Edited by the Directorate for Horizontal Policies and Networks of the Committee of the Regions

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