



# The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation - Ready to use

Interinstitutional conference on EGTC and annual meeting of the EGTC Platform of the Commmittee of the Regions









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#### The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation - Ready to use



## Interinstitutional conference and annual meeting of the EGTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions

Thursday 29 March 2012

#### **Proceedings**

drafted by the Committee of the Regions of the EU

Committee of the Regions of the EU

Rue Belliard 99-101, Brussels Room JDE 52, Listening room JDE 51

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

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#### 2<sup>nd</sup> inter-institutional conference on EGTC

On 29 March 2012, the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions organised the second inter-institutional conference on the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), in collaboration with the European Commission and the Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU.

The Conference took place in the building of the CoR in Brussels. More than 250 participants took part in the event, co-chaired by **Mrs Mercedes Bresso**, President of the CoR, and **Mrs Danuta Hübner**, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development. The European Commission was represented by the Commissioner **Mr Johannes Hahn** who intervened via videomessage and by **Mr Nicholas Martyn**, Deputy Director-General of DG REGIO. The speakers included the rapporteurs on EGTC and other Members of the European Parliament and of the CoR, and the rapporteur in the European Economic and Social Committee. National delegations from 18 Member States and observers from 5 more countries also attended.

The event was moderated by Ms Jackie Davies, EU analyst and commentator.

#### **Key conclusions:**

Among the **conference's conclusions**, it is worth highlighting the following calls for action:

- The institutions should take action and work together to ensure the rapid adoption of the revised EGTC Regulation.
- The Committee of the Regions and the European Commission should cooperate to raise awareness among the European Commission's services regarding the EGTC's added value and potential.
- The external dimension of the EGTC should be emphasised.
- EGTCs must be made more attractive economically in and terms of taxation and the conditions for funding them through public-private partnerships improved.
- Simply revising the Regulation is not enough to ensure correct and effective implementation:
   there needs to be cooperation with the national authorities of the Member States on these matters.

The revision of the EGTC Regulation is the most urgent of the points raised, because it is essential to the smooth operation of the groupings currently being set up and for future groupings. This document must be adopted as soon as possible. The European Parliament, the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee have consequently stated a common position, to call on the Council Presidency to speed up adoption of the revised EGTC Regulation.

#### > Interventions:

For the Committee of the Regions' President, **Ms Mercedes Bresso**, 'the EGTCs have been introduced to respond to concrete needs of cross-border regions and thanks to the strong commitment of the CoR, they became a reality'. Ms Bresso reiterated that the new EGTC legal framework 'needs to intervene in a timely and effective manner so we can once again place the Law at the service of territorial development, and not vice-versa'. She also stressed the importance of the conference to make progress towards swift inter-institutional consensus on solutions, hoping for the prompt adoption of the new Regulation.

Ms Danuta Hübner, chair of the REGI committee of the European Parliament, underlined the importance of the EGTC to bring down barriers in territorial cooperation. 'The EGTC is a highly efficient instrument for enhanced territorial cooperation, which can help to overcome internal market barriers' she said. 'It empowers local and regional communities and stimulates growth across borders'.

**Mr Johannes Hahn**, Commissioner of Regional Policy, underlined in his video message the key role played by the CoR in this respect, with the institutional function of mapping and supporting the EGTC activities.

Afterwards, **keynote speeches** representing the position of the institutions were delivered.

- Mr Nicholas Martyn, Deputy Director General of DG Regio, presented the proposals of the European Commission for the new regulation. The first objective is to fix a set of common rules in order to simplify and clarify the regulatory framework. The second point presented is the delay taken for authorisation of new Groupings and the proposal of the Commission to establish the tacit approval after 6 months. Finally, Mr Martyn highlighted the importance of having flexibility to create Groupings with entities from non-EU countries.
- Mr Joachim Zeller, rapporteur on the proposal of revision of the EGTC Regulation in the European Parliament, affirmed that the EGTC is a powerful instrument and, that the legislative procedure on the revision of the EGTC Regulation should be sped up as it does not involve financial discussion. Mr Zeller pointed out that this instrument is not widely known within the European Institutions: different EU policies and areas of expertise should be involved in the future development of the EGTC.
- Mr Michel Delebarre, Chair of the Commission of Territorial Cohesion of the Committee of the Regions and rapporteur on the proposal of revision of the EGTC Regulation, recommended the Commission to raise awareness in all its services because the EGTC is a concrete instrument useful to implement all kind of policies, not only cohesion policy. He also stressed that the EGTC regulation should be adopted earlier and separately from the rest of the cohesion policy

package, since it is not part of it. Moreover, he pointed out that not all the member states have implemented the EGTC Regulation.

Mr Luis Miguel Pariza Castaños, Councillor at the European Economic and Social Committee and rapporteur on EGTC, highlighted the role of the EGTC order to implement the Europe 2020 Strategy. Mr Pariza called the European Commission to carry out concrete actions of support (training, IT assistance) to the Groupings. He also encouraged a stronger participation of the civil society in the EGTC. Together with all the speakers, he asked for a swift adoption of the new regulation, whishing that the Danish Presidency should foster the issue of the EGTC in the agenda of the Council.

During the **debate**, the following questions were discussed:

- There are great expectations about the Groupings as instrument of management of programmes and as beneficiaries and intermediate bodies in actions of European Territorial Cooperation.
- Ms Bresso proposed the possibility of having a common model of statutes and convention agreed by the Member States and the Commission. Mr Martyn was not sure about the feasibility and considered the possibility of issuing guidelines drawn from the current experience.
- The EGTC is not only an instrument of regional policy but it can be used in other policy areas.

**Mr Delebarre** closed the Conference stating that Member States have to promote the EGTC and claiming for the essential role of the EGTC Platform as place for exchange of experiences and dialogue.

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

The EGTC Platform held its yearly meeting after the interinstitutional conference. The Groupings and other stakeholders discussed about strategic issues related to their future: Their role in re-activating the economy and in meeting the objectives of the Strategy Europe 2020, and the future use of the EGTC beyond the cohesion policy. Including the future participation of entities from outside the EU.

In the opening speech, **Mr Gerhard Stahl**, Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions, stated that the ambition on EGTC has increased: it is seen as a potential instrument which has to contribute to growth and economic development in quite a number of areas. In particular he underlined that there must be a coordinate effort for awareness raising among the institutions, but also within the member states and the regions in order to inform and explain the potential of EGTC.

#### **➤** Workshop 1 – Facing the crisis

**Mr José Palma Andrés,** Director of Territorial Copoperation in DG Regio, underlined the important role of the EGTC: For citizens, it can contribute to solve problems related to infrastructures and services in cross borders areas, often forgotten by Member States; in political terms, EGTC can associate different administrative levels, realizing systems of multilevel governance. There is a need of more flexibility and more realism in the management of the EGTC. Also, the EGTC can manage European programmes, but they will be the Member States to decide about it. He concluded affirming that the EGTC is an existing reality who needs to be fully developed and consolidated.

Ms Elise Blais, official of the Interact Point Vienna, stated that EGTCs contribute to face financial crises. They are not able to solve all problems but they help to make problems more visible at national and European level. She said that the set up of the EGTC should not create too much bureaucracy and additional organs. Ms Blais called for financial security and long term commitment on the budget for all members (not a one year perspective like now). She underlined that the proposal for the new regulation is very helpful, but it needs to be adopted really soon because the framework of the next programming period is starting already and the ETC programmes need to know that they can use EGTCs in their new format. She also called for a better tax environment.

**Mr Juan José Lirón Lago,** Director of the EGTC Galicia - Norte de Portugal, presented his experience of promoting cooperation in all the productive sectors, 'we do not solve the crisis but help to overcome it'. He pointed out that EGTC is a very useful instrument to create synergies and to improve the quality of life of people living in cross border areas, but it needs a stronger support from

European Institutions. For the next 2014-2020 period, he proposed to introduce positive discrimination for the EGTC projects, more convergence in financing projects and homogeneous audit criteria.

#### **Questions for debate:**

What is the role of the EU Institutions to support EGTC's? What else can they do?

- For **Ms Elise Blais**, there is a need for more training and information.
- Mr Gerhard Stahl encouraged regions to build partnership. The ambition of the Europe 2020 Strategy is that it only can succeed if implemented in a decentralised way. Regional actors have to get involved and they are asked to deliver. The Commission should include the EGTCs and euroregions as a new dimension of EU policies.
- Mr Iuliu Bara (Romanian Government) EGTC's are an important instrument of multi-level governance. He asked if the National Partnership Contracts can include also EGTC.
- Mr José Luis Pascual Criado (EGTC Duero-Douro) stated that the EGTC do not manage
   EU programmes or projects because the States do not really want it.
- Mr José Palma Andrés answered that according to the Regulation, the EGTC only can manage European projects and programmes but the decision is up to the Member States. In general, much depends still on the Member States. One of the reasons that make it not easy is that Member States always tend to request more control and audit.

If you have to say one priority that needs be done to ensure that EGTC can really play its role in terms of meeting the Europe 2020 target and recovery and growth?

- Ms Elise Blais answered that the main priority is the coordination of notification Authorities, to avoid ping pong between the national authorities and to avoid long processes.
- Mr Juan José Lirón Lago said the European Commission has to give political support in order to avoid Member States' defections.
- For Mr Gerhard Stahl, the first priority is to consolidate what already exists. EGTC can really show that multilevel governance is something that can work.

#### **➤** Workshop 2 – The external dimension

The new EGTC regulation opens new perspectives to create Groupings with entities from non-EU Member States. This workshop debated about current initiatives, the potential of these Groupings, and the steps necessary to materialize them and to make them operational.

**Mr Nuno Teixeira** (MEP rapporteur on 'The role of cohesion policy in the Outermost Regions of the EU in the context of EU 2020') affirmed that the EGTC goes far beyond cohesion policy, contributing to the implementation of the strategy Europe 2020. Mr Teixeira pointed out that some of the Outermost Regions are not eligible for cross-border cooperation due to their remoteness. He presented the experience of the EU Outermost Regions in territorial cooperation and he described the case of the MAC Programme (Madeira, Azores and Canary Islands) which has strengthened the role of the OMR as a platform between the EU and the neighbouring countries. He proposed a tailor made approach to be developed towards OMR, in order to confer special dimension to the EU external action.

**Mr Jakub Urbanik**, on behalf of the European External Action Service - EEAS, explained the potential of EGTC in neighbourhood countries. From 2007 there are a set of 13 programmes of cross border cooperation on the external border of the EU. The new EGTC regulation invites third countries and the regions to participate in this cross border cooperation. The only concern is that it requires changes and introduction of special pieces of legislation: these countries need to change their own internal regulation in order to be part of an EGTC. Concerning what has been achieved so far, he explained that Hungary has already proposed to extend two EGTC's to the partner countries: one is with Serbia, the other one with Ukraine.

Mr Martín Guillermo Ramírez, Secretary General of Association of European Border Regions - AEBR, pointed out that there is a strong interest in European cross border cooperation in neighbourhood countries. The EGTC has opened new opportunities in third countries, but there are a lot of difficulties to develop it. There should be more flexibility, interconnection between EU external policy and the necessity to implement the subsidiarity principle, even outside the EU. He pointed out two needs for EGTC with third countries: capacity building and small cross-border infrastructures. He also pointed out the visa issue in order to build EGTC and to allow day-to-day cooperation.

Ms Katalin Kószó Dudás, from the EGTC Bánát – Triplex Confinium, presented the experience of this EGTC that plans to include Serbian municipalities. Though some problems with national governments involved, she said that after the results of the Serbian elections, they will smooth negotiations and enlarge the EGTC. She highlighted the importance of reassuring people and do not have fear about this kind of cooperation.

#### **Questions for debate**

What should be one thing that will make the difference in order to ensure that EGTC can really be used as an instrument of external policy?

- Mr Martín Guillermo Ramírez third countries need to introduce changes in their legislations, the EU has to modify the Regulation, and politicians should believe in it.
- Mr Jakub Urbanik highlighted that the regions should come with their own initiative and they should be willing to create the EGTC. There is still a very strong influence of the central government: they are a bit afraid to loose a bit of their sovereignty. Capacity building is also necessary.
- Ms Antònia Sabartés, Secretary General of the EGTC Pirineus-Mediterrània, claimed that the programmes have to be aware of the particularities of the EGTCs. Her Grouping was excluded of a call in because the seat was not located in an eligible area, although the territories of implementation of the project were eligible.

#### **➤** Workshop 3 – Beyond cohesion policy

The EGTC is not only an instrument of regional policy. This workshop is the first one in an exercise of "screening" those policies in which the EGTC are active and have more potential and open an intense dialogue, drawing lessons from the experiences on the ground and thinking forward about how to improve the action of the Groupings in these fields. The fields chosen have been research policy and the Single Market.

**Mr Finn Lauritzen**, director of the Øresund Committee, presented the case of the Øresund Region between the cities of Copenhagen and Malmö, which has many years of experience but is not an EGTC. The Øresund Committee works beyond regional policy, dealing with many issues and in particular with labour market. The Committee conducts analysis on the labour market, sets up committees working with unions and enterprises, tries to identify obstacles to the every day integration of labour market and looks for how to implement solutions.

Ms Ulla Engelmann, Head of Unit in the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, explained that for research policy is important to work in network with regions and with other territorial entities. One concrete example: the scientific support to the EU Danube Strategy (endorsed last June by EU Council). The JRC is working with local entities, like the scientific academies of the area. Ms Engelmann presented the smart specialization platform where local and regional authorities, including EGTC, can register and put and receive information. There should be a joint effort between Institutions and Groupings in order to increase awareness and communication about the instrument. EGTC should be seen as stakeholders for the different General Directions.

**Mr Olivier Girard,** deputy Head of Unit in charge of Single Market Policy in the DG Market of the European Commission, explained that EGTC can be a good instrument to implement the Single Market. In particular, the EGTC can be very useful for public procurement at cross border level. There are still actions to be taken. He mentioned other interesting areas such as the need of multilingual contact points for public administrations, provision of emergency services, and facilitator of cross-border employment. He affirmed that EGTC can represent a frontline stakeholder as cross-border agent in Single Market policy development.

Mr Stef Vande Meulebroucke, Director of EGTC Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai, highlighted that this Grouping involves all levels of government and covers all kind of policy areas, including cross-border investments that need coordination in labour markets. He stated that there is a problem of access to the resources available and that both cross-border and transnational approaches are needed. This strategy is not accepted in all policy areas to obtain funds and projects. For Mr Vande Meulebroucke, the strategy of an EGTC has to be the priority benchmark for the cross border programmes. He asked for a stronger role of the Platform: it has to be a continuing informing platform and exchanging experiences between EGTC, and it has to be more active in raising awareness among services of the European Commission.

#### **Conclusions:**

One speakers per workshop summarised the conclusions of the conference:

- Workshop 1. Mr Juan José Lirón Lago, Director of the EGTC Galicia Norte de Portugal, summarised that the EGTCs need to suppress legal and administrative barriers at national level for a better operation, claiming for more engagement and wondering whether the Member States blame the Commission and vice-versa. He suggested to create a fund for the management of projects through the EGTC.
- Workshop 2. Mr Martín Guillermo Ramírez, Secretary General of the AEBR, underline that the EGTC Platform is becoming a very very useful tool. And that it has to focus on the variety, durability and visibility of the European territorial cooperation. Regarding the external dimension of the cooperation, the key factor of success is to promote the mutual trust.
- Workshop 3. Mr Stef Vande Meulebroucke, Director of the EGTC Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai, underlined that the priority of action should be to raise awareness about the EGTC among all the services the European Commission. The European Commission should assume explicitly that EGTC is potentially the best tool for multilevel governance. Also the EGTC Regulation has to be adopted as soon as possible by the Parliament and the Council, disconnected of the budget regulations.

The constitution of the **EGTC Pannon**, between HU and SL, was also announced in the meeting. Notification pending.

**Ms Béatrice Taulegne,** Deputy Director of the CoR in charge of the EGTC Platform, concluded that the CoR, the Commission and the European Parliament should make a common front to advocate for the quick adoption of the revised Regulation on EGTC. The new Regulation is expected to clarify, facilitate and give continuity to the action of the Groupings. The EGTC implements one of the political objectives of the CoR, which is the multi-level governance, and it is a key instrument to implement the Strategy Europe 2020 and therefore to overcome the economic crisis. The promotion of the EGTC is fundamental to deepen the cross-border cooperation between regions and cities of Europe. The conference has agreed on clear actions for the future.

- 13 -

Social networks

The participants in the conference and the public could interact via social networks, mainly facebook

and twitter, where the hashtag was #EGTCconference

This is a summary of the comments and contributions:

• The EGTC Platform ought to capitalize the expertise of other cross-border structures that are

not EGTC, like euroregions.

• Cross-border cooperation is so different in each case that the *one-size-fits-all* solution is not

possible and should adapt to, at least, different spaces (like North-West, Mediterranean, Baltic

and Central-Eastern Europe).

Small Groupings are in specific need of EU funding to be able to operate.

• Future activities should include the new Regulation on European Territorial Cooperation and

the management of programmes by the EGTC.

• In general, the meeting was very appreciated, dynamic, with useful contents and a good

opportunity for networking.

The Groupings call for more opportunities to discuss directly with the Commission and with

MEPs.

Facebook official profile of the Platform: <u>EGTC Platform</u>

Facebook group on EGTC: <u>EGTC - European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation</u>

Twitter: @EGTCplatform

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#### Thematic exhibition

A thematic exhibition was displayed, explaining what the EGTC is, the current state of play of this instrument, a comprehensive map edited by the CoR in cooperation with the European Commission and Eurostat, and including concrete examples of the activities of 12 Groupings.

#### General panels:

- 1. What is an EGTC?
- 2. Map of the EGTCs
- 3. Role of the CoR
- 4. The EGTC Platform

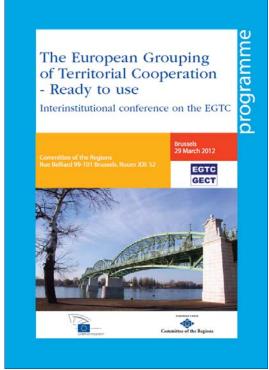
The EGTC on the ground – examples of initiatives:

- 5. Eurometropolis Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Catalysing Franco-Belgian energy
- 6. Euroregió Pirineus-Mediterrània A shared future
- 7. AECT Galicia-Norte de Portugal Integrating spaces: cross-border challenges of Europe 2020
- 8. Ister Granum EGTC Via recognita
- 9. Duero-Douro *Granting sustainability in rural areas*
- 10. GECT/EGTC West-Vlaanderen / Flandre Dunkerque Côte d'Opâle *Erasing borders and writing the future together*
- 11. Amphicyony Europe stronger with the Mediterranean
- 12. EGTC INTERREG IV A Programme Greater Region
- 13. Archimed Mediterranean islands together for a better future
- 14. ZASNET Two countries, two territories, a shared future
- 15. Saar Moselle *Territories in metamorphosis*
- 16. TRITIA More opportunities for 8 millions

Virtual visit to the exhibition: <a href="http://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/en-US/Pages/ExhibitiononEGTC.aspx">http://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/en-US/Pages/ExhibitiononEGTC.aspx</a>

#### Annex 1. Poster, programme and agenda





Poster and programme





# Interinstitutional conference on the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation



'The EGTC – Ready to use'
Thursday 29 March 2012
Brussels. Committee of the Regions,
Rue Belliard 99-101. Room JDE 52. Listening room JDE 51

Languages interpreted: EN – FR – DE – ES – IT – HU, PL passive

#### **AGENDA**

09:00-09:30 Registration of the participants

09:30 Welcome and opening

- Ms Mercedes BRESSO, President of the Committee of the Regions of the EU
- Ms Danuta HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development of the European Parliament
- Mr Johannes HAHN, Commissioner of Regional Policy (video message)

09:55-10:30 Keynote speeches: Position of the institutions

- Mr Nicholas MARTYN, Deputy Director General of DG Regio
- Mr Joachim ZELLER, MEP rapporteur on the proposal of revision of the EGTC Regulation

- Mr Michel DELEBARRE, Chair of the Commission of Territorial Cohesion of the CoR and rapporteur on the proposal of revision of the EGTC Regulation
- Mr Luis Miguel PARIZA CASTAÑOS, Councillor at the European Economic and Social Committee and rapporteur on the proposal of revision of the EGTC Regulation

Questions to debate:

- a) Strategy and perspectives for the EGTC in the horizon 2014-2020
- b) The revision of the Regulation (EC) 1082/2006 on EGTC
- 10:40-11:20 Open floor for representatives of the Member States, Members of the European Parliament and Members of the Committee of the Regions
- 11:20-11:30 Conclusions and closing of the conference

Moderated by Ms Jacki DAVIES, EU analyst and commentator.

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In collaboration with:









# Annual meeting of the EGTC Platform 'The EGTC ready to use State of play and strategies in the perspective 2020'

Thursday 29 March 2012
Brussels. Committee of the Regions,
Rue Belliard 99-101. Room JDE 52. Listening room JDE 51

Languages interpreted: EN – FR – DE – ES – IT – HU, PL passive

#### **AGENDA**

- 12:00 Opening of the meeting by Dr Gerhard Stahl, Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions
- 12:15 Workshop 1: The EGTC ready to use Facing the crisis
  - Mr José PALMA ANDRÉS. European Commission, DG REGIO, Director of Territorial Cooperation
  - Ms Elise BLAIS, Interact point Vienna
  - Mr Juan José LIRÓN LAGO, EGTC Galicia Norte de Portugal, Director
  - Open debate.
- 13:00 Lunch in JDE Atrium 5
- 14:30 Workshop 2: The EGTC ready to use The external dimension
  - Mr Nuno TEIXEIRA. MEP rapporteur on 'The role of cohesion policy in the Outermost Regions of the European Union in the context of EU 2020'
  - Mr Jakub URBANIK. European External Action Service, policy officer in Neighbourhood Policy

- Mr Martín GUILLERMO-RAMÍREZ. Association of European Border Regions, Secretary General
- Ms Katalin DUDAS KOSZO. EGTC Bánát Triplex Confinium
- Open debate.
- 15:30 Workshop 3: The EGTC ready to use Beyond cohesion policy
  - Ms Ulla ENGELMANN. European Commission, Joint Research Centre. Head of Unit of Interinstitutionals and Stakeholders Relations
  - Mr Olivier GIRARD. European Commission, DG MARKT, Deputy Head of Unit of Single Market Policy and Relations with the Council
  - Mr Finn LAURITZEN. Øresund Committee, Director
  - Mr Stef Vande MEULEBROUCKE. EGTC Eurometropolis Lille Kortrijk Tournai, Director
  - Open debate.
- 16:15 Conclusions
- 16:30 Closing of the meeting

Moderated by Ms Jacki DAVIES, EU analyst and commentator.

An exhibition on the EGTC will be displayed in the area JDE Foyer 5<sup>th</sup> floor

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#### Annex 2. List of participants.

#### COMITE DES REGIONS - COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

- Mme Mercedes BRESSO (PES/IT), Présidente du Comité des Régions, Conseillère de la Région de Piémont
- Mr Michel DELEBARRE, (PES/FR), Président de la Commission COTER, Maire de Dunkerque
- Ms Flo CLUCAS (ALDE/UK), Member of Liverpool City Council, President of the Group ALDE, Member of the CoR
- Mr Brian MEANEY (EA/SI), Clare County Council and Mid-West Regional Authority, Coordinator of the Group EA in COTER, Member of the CoR
- ❖ Mr Petr OSVALD (PES/UK), Councillor Plzeň, Member of the CoR
- Mr Jüri PIHL (PES/ET), Member of Tallinn City Council, Member of the CoR
- ❖ Mr Adam STRUZIK (EPP/FR), Marshall of the Mazowsze region, Member of the CoR
- ❖ Mr Leszek ŚWIETALSKI (PSE/PL), Mayor of Stare Bogaczowice, Member of the CoR
- Mr Jesus GAMALLO ALLER (EPP/ES), Directeur général des Relations extérieures et Relations avec l'Union européenne, Alternate Member of the CoR
- Mr Esteban MAS PORTELL (EPP/ES), Representative of the Government of the Balearic Islands in Brussels, Alternate Member of the CoR

#### PARLEMENT EUROPEEN - EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- Ms Danuta HÜBNER, Présidente de la Commission REGI (Développement Régional), Parlement européen
- ❖ Mr Miroslav MIKOLÁŠIK, Membre du Parlement européen
- Mr Gilles PARGNEAUX, Membre du Parlement européen
- Mr Salvador SEDÓ, Membre du Parlement européen
- Mr Nuno TEIXERA, Membre du Parlement européen
- Mr Michael THEURER, Membre du Parlement européen
- Mr Joachim ZELLER, Membre du Parlement européen
- Mr Derek VAUGHAN, Membre du Parlement européen

#### COMMISSION EUROPEENNE - EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- Mr Nicholas MARTYN, Directeur général adjoint Développement, Coordination et communication de la politique de cohésion, DG REGIO, Commission européenne
- Mr José PALMA ANDRÉS, Directeur Coopération territoriale, Belgium, France, Irlande, Luxembourg, Royaume-Uni, DG REGIO, Commission européenne
- ❖ Mr Dirk PETERS, DG REGIO, European Commission
- ❖ Mr José Antonio RUIZ DE CASAS, DG REGIO, European Commission
- ❖ Ms Elisabetta REJA, DG REGIO, European Commission
- Mr Olivier GIRARD, DG MARKT, Deputy Head of Unit of Single Market Policy, European Commission
- Mr Makis TITFESIS, DG MARKT, European Commission
- Ms Ulla ENGELMANN, Head of Unit of Interinstitutional and Stakeholders Relations, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- ❖ Ms Anna DEREKY, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- ❖ Mr Pierre NICOLAS, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

#### SERVICE EUROPEEN POUR L'ACTION EXTERIEURE - EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

Mr Jakub URBANIK, European External Action Service, policy officer, Neighbourhood Policy

#### COMITE ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL EUROPEEN - EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

❖ Mr Luis Miguel PARIZA CASTAÑOS, Membre du Comité Economique et Social Européen

#### REPRESENTATIONS NATIONALES - NATIONAL REPRESENTATIONS

#### EU Member States:

- ❖ Mr Iuliu BARA, conseiller, Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism (Romania)
- Mr Antonio CAPONETTO, director, Presidency of the Council of the Ministers Regional Affairs Department (Italy)
- Ms Yordanka CHOBANOVA, regional policy attaché, Permanent Representation of Bulgaria (Bulgarie)
- Mr Filip CHYBALSKI, Specialist, Ministry of Regional Development of the Republic of Poland (Pologne)
- Mr Stephane COOLS, attaché, Wallonie-Bruxelles International
- Mr Jan DE MULDER, public governance counsellor, PermRep Belgium/ Region of Flanders to EU (Belgium)
- ❖ Ms Johana HELD, first secretary, Permanent Representation fo Poland to the EU
- Ms Zuzana HOFERICOVA, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic
- ❖ Mr Joke HOFMANS, liaison officer, Liaison agency Flanders-Europe (Belgium)
- ❖ Ms Melinda HORVÁTH, Secretary, Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU
- ❖ Ms Aurelia ILIE, JHA Counsellor, Permanent Representation of Romania to the EU
- Ms Nora IVADY, deputy head of department, Ministry of Public Administration and Justice of Hungary
- ❖ Ms Eleni KANELLI, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU
- ❖ Ms Carolin KETTNER, Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the EU
- Ms Mathilde KONSTANTOPOULOU, officer, Ministry for Development, Competitiveness and Shipping (Grèce)
- ❖ Mr Edwin LEFEBRE, Deputy director, Flemish Ministry for Homes Affairs (Belgium)
- Ms Christine LETON, Directrice de coopération territoriale, Wallonie-Bruxelles International (Belgium)
- Christabelle LEWIS, Research Officer for EU Funds, Programmes and Staffing, Permanent Representation of Malta to the European Union
- M. Didier MICHAL, DATAR Délégation interministérielle à l'aménagement du territoire et à l'attractivité régionale (France)
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#### Annex 3. Picture gallery of the conference



 $\textit{Ms Danuta H\"{u}bner, Chair of the REGI Committee of the EP, and \textit{Ms Bresso, President of the CoR, before the conference}$ 



 $\textit{More than 250 participants took part in the conference, in rooms JDE 52 and 51 of the \textit{CoR building}}$ 



Podium of the inter-institutional conference. From left to right: Mr Pariza Castaños (EESC), Mr Martyn (EC), Ms Bresso (Cor), Ms Davies (moderator), Ms Hübner (EP), Mr Delebarre (CoR) and Mr Zeller (EP)



Ms Bresso, President of the CoR, and Mr Martyn, Deputy Director-General in DG Regio, European Commission



Mr Delebarre, President of COTER and political coordinator of the EGTC Platform of the CoR



Ms Danuta Hübner, Chair of the Committee REGI of the European Parliament



 ${\it Mr Joachim Zeller, MEP\ rapporteur\ on\ the\ revision\ of\ the\ EGTC\ regulation}$ 



 $\textit{Mr Luis Miguel Pariza Casta\~nos, councillor at the EESC, rapporteur on the revision of the EGTC regulation}$ 



Video-message by the Commissioner of regional policy, Mr Johannes Hahn



 $CoR\ members\ Mr\ Osvald\ (CZ/PES),\ Mr\ Mas\ Portell\ (ES/EPP)\ and\ Mr\ Gamallo\ Aller\ (ES/EPP)$ 



CoR member Ms Flo Clucas (UK/ALDE)



Mr Salvador Sedó, MEP



On the left Mr Gehrard Stahl, Secretary-General of the CoR

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On 29 april 2012, the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions held an interinstitutional conference on the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC).

The event welcomed members of the European Parliament and of the Committee of the Regions, representatives from the European Commission, the

European Economic and Social Committee, delegations of 17 Member States plus Croatia, Serbia, FYROM, Morocco and Jordan, and representatives of EGTC, euroregions, local and regional authorities, associations and experts, gathering more than 250 participants.

The conference was followed by the annual meeting of the EGTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions.

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

#### www.cor.europa.eu/egtc



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





EGTC [ @EGTCPlatform

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#### Committee of the Regions

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