



Conference “Perspectives of cross-border cooperation in Europe”

March 31, 2009, CoR, JDE 52

Objective of CzechRegDays:

The program of the Czech Presidency, with its motto "Europe without barriers", will feature political topics which are important for the future of the European Union and its regions. Above all, the discussion will deal with the future strategy of the cohesion policy including topics such as convergence, compatibility, the Lisbon Strategy, cross-border cooperation and business development support. Another important item on the agenda is the revision of the TEN-T guidelines. This agenda is particularly important for the integration of the regions of the new EU countries into a wider territorial context which will contribute to a higher level of cross-border cohesion within the EU. Since European policies have their real impact on towns and regions, their experience, attitudes and proposals are particularly useful having practical and realistic background. Therefore the Czech Regions in Brussels (CzechReg) come with an initiative of five seminars and conferences focused on these highly topical agendas in course of the CZ-PRES.

Objective of the conference “Perspectives of cross-border cooperation in Europe”:

Morning Session: Cross-Border Co-operation and the Cohesion Policy:

To present to the political decision making level that the support of cross-border co-operation played and still plays a significant role in the development of European border regions. Nevertheless the obstacles and disadvantageous conditions for the development of these regions that are given by their peripheral position within their states still haven't been overcome. The future form of the cohesion policy should include a strengthened support of cross-border co-operation. This will be supported by examples from border regions.

Afternoon session: The Use of EGTC in cross-border co-operation

To exchange experiences with practical usage of EGTC; presentation of first European experiences; furthermore to analyze the possibilities of using EGTC in the implementation of future cross-border co-operation programmes.

Accompanying evening program:

Concert of the Europera youth orchestra composed of music school students from all three countries of Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa (unique example of cross-border co-operation) in the Royal Conservatory in Brussels (7.30 p.m.) – organized by the Liberec Region together with Saxony and Lower Silesia.

Registration (please indicate session):

Representation of the Liberec Region

brussels@liberec-region.cz

Programme

Morning Session: Cross-Border Co-operation and the Cohesion Policy

Duration: 10.00 – 12.20

Moderator: Pavel Branda – Head of the Representation of the Liberec Region in Brussels

10.00 – 10.20 **Welcome speeches**

- **Milena Vicenová** - Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the EU – CZ PRES
- **Michel Delebarre** – First Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions
- **Stanislav Eichler** – President of the Liberec Region

10.20 – 11.20 **The role of cross-border cooperation in the cohesion policy**

- **Oldřich Vlasák** – Member of the European Parliament (REGI), executive president of CEMR
- **Dirk Ahner** - Director general, DG Regional Policy, European Commission
- **Michel Delebarre** – First Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions, Mayor and MP for Dunkerque and President of the EUROMOT
- **Lambert van Nistelrooij** - President of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), MEP (REGI)

11.15 – 12.00 **Analytical regional examples from Czech-German-Polish border region (Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa)**

- Liberec Region (CZ) – **Petr Skokan**, President of Euroregion Nisa
- Lower Silesia (PL) - **Ilona Antoniszyn**, Deputy Director of the Department for Regional Development, Marshal Office of Lower Silesia
- Saxony (DE) - **Stephan Brauckmann**, Head of the Administrative Authority for EU-cross-border cooperation, Saxony State Ministry for Economic Affairs and Labor

12.00 – 12.20 **Discussion and conclusions**

- Rapporteur – Petr Šebek – Director of The Region of South Bohemia – Permanent Office

Lunch break

Afternoon session: The Use of EGTC in cross-border co-operation

(organized in cooperation with the EGTC Expert Group)



Estimated Duration: 14.30 – 17.30

Moderator: Pavel Branda – Head of the Representation of the Liberec Region in Brussels

14.30 – 15.30 **Development of the EGTC legislation, opportunities for cross-border cooperation**

- **Jan Olbrycht** – Member of the European Parliament, vice-chairman of REGI
- **Gerhard Stahl** – Secretary General, Committee of the Regions
- **Olivier Baudelet** - Head of Operational Sector, Territorial Cooperation Unit , DG REGIO, European Commission
- **Martín Guillermo Ramírez** - Secretary General, Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

15.30 - 16.00 **EGTC in the implementation of CBC programmes - panel discussion**

- Above mentioned representatives of the European Parliament, Commission, CoR and AEBR together with representatives of:
 - Ministry for regional development of the Czech Republic - **Josef Vlk**
 - Czech regions - **Pavel Horák**, Vice-president, Olomouc Region
- **Jaromír Slíva**, Member of the Council, Region of South Bohemia (tbc)
 - Greater Region - **Joëlle Ramakers**, Ministry of the German Speaking Community of Belgium
- Moderation and conclusions: **Elise Blais** - INTERACT Point Vienna

Coffee break

16.20 – 17.20 **Exchange of practical experiences with setting up and running the EGTC**

- EGTC handbook - **Elise Blais**, INTERACT Point Vienna
- EGTC Expert Group and the EGTC Study - **Orsolya Zsemba**, Networks and Subsidiarity Unit, CoR
- EGTC Galicia-Northern Portugal - **Nuno Almeida**
- EGTC Pyrénées-Méditerranée - **Philippe Mestre**
- Greater Region - **Joëlle Ramakers**

17.20 – 17.30 **Discussion, conclusion of the conference**

Conference proceedings: containing key note speeches and analytical texts

Interpretation from and to: CS, EN, FR

Responsible contact person:

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