

EGTC

European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation



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Ostbahn EVTZ

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Committee of the Regions

EUROPEAN UNION



Комитет на регионите
Comité de las Regiones
Výbor regionů
Regionsudvalget
Ausschuss der Regionen
Regioonide Komitee
Επιτροπή των Περιφερειών
Committee of the Regions
Comité des Régions
Coiste na Réigiún
Comitato delle regioni
Reģionu komiteja
Regionų komitetas
Régiók Bizottsága
Kumitat tar-Regjuni
Comité van de Regio's
Komitet Regionów
Comité das Regiões
Comitetul Regiunilor
Výbor regiónov
Odbor regij
Alueiden komitea
Regionkommittén



Introduction:



Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.

Declaration of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Mr Robert Schuman, 9 May 1950



Europe without borders?



German-Polish border at Frankfurt a.d. Oder and Słubice



Europe without borders?



... and the old border installations between Frankfurt a.d. Oder and Słubice (2008)



Outline of the presentation

The Committee of the Regions

- The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)
- State of play and examples
- The role of the Committee of the Regions in EGTC



► The Committee of the Regions

A political assembly of the European Union, representing local and regional government.



► Why a Committee of the Regions ?

- ❖ **To give local and regional government a say over the drafting of EU legislation (70% of EU laws are implemented at local/regional level).**
- ❖ **To bring Europe closer to its citizens and to encourage a culture of subsidiarity.**
- ❖ **To provide a meeting place where regions and cities can share best practice and take part in a dialogue with the European institutions.**



▶ The CoR in brief

- ❖ **Created by Maastricht Treaty (1993), first Plenary Session March 1994.**
- ❖ **344 members representing local and regional government plus 344 alternates.**
- ❖ **27 national delegations.**
- ❖ **6 thematic commissions (sub-committees).**
- ❖ **4 political groups**



▶ **CoR members**

344 members plus 344 alternates

Germany, France, Italy, United Kingdom.....	24
Poland, Spain.....	21
Romania.....	15
Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden.....	12
Denmark, Ireland, Finland, Slovakia, Lithuania.....	9
Estonia, Latvia, Slovenia.....	7
Cyprus, Luxembourg.....	6
Malta.....	5



▶ Appointment of CoR members

- ❖ **Local and regional representatives proposed by Member States.**
- ❖ **Formally appointed by the Council of the EU.**
- ❖ **Five-year renewable term of office**

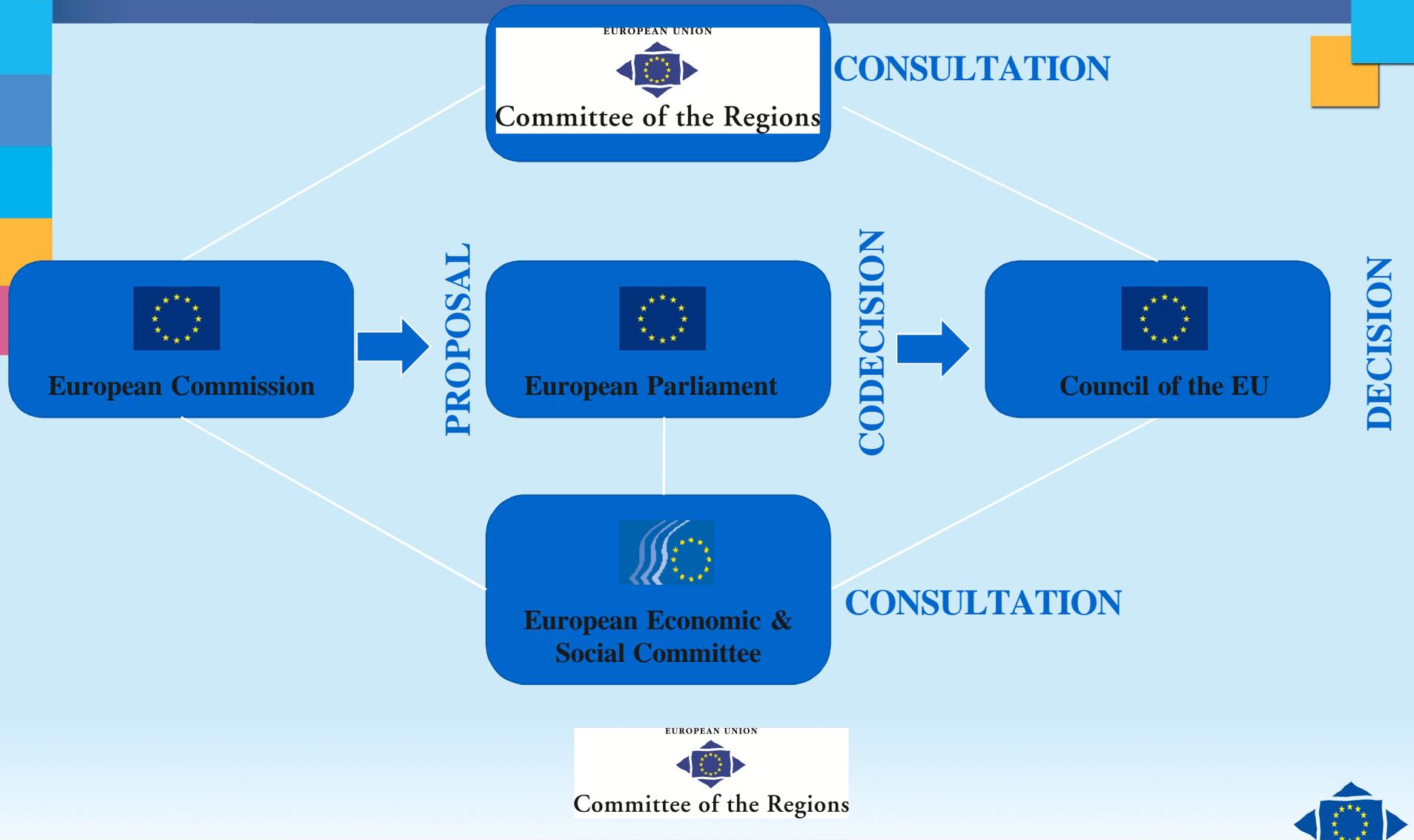


► Plenary sessions



- ❖ Meeting of all CoR members at the plenary session.
- ❖ 5 times per year.
- ❖ Adoption of opinions and political debates.

► The CoR and EU decision-making



1. The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation

EGTC
GECT



What is an EGTC?



EGTC – European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation

- Created by **Regulation (EC) 1082/2006**
- Public entities from different Member States can get together under an entity with **European legal personality**.
- The EGTC has its own **organisation, budget and staff**.
- It may implement **programmes and projects** of territorial cooperation, with or without EU funding.
- Currently there are **18 EGTC**, grouping more than **320 regional and local authorities** covering a population of **more than 20 Mo inhabitants in 11 Member States**.



What is it?

- A new legal instrument at the EU level with legal personality
- Based on a binding Regulation, directly applicable to the Member States
- Why is such an instrument needed?
 - there is no existing legal framework for territorial cooperation
 - the existing legal framework is not sufficient
 - the existing legal framework is not efficient



Why is EGTC promising?

- ❖ It gives **legal stability** to cooperation and, at the same time, it allows a **variety of multi-level institutional formatting**
- ❖ It incorporates the genetics of the "**soft cooperation**" and, at the same time, it has the legal capacity to **deliver structuring development projects**
- ❖ For the first time, an **instrument of European nature** which is also so strongly **anchored to the territory**



EGTC Regulation 1082/2006 (EC)

- Entered into force the 1 August 2006
- A MS is free to delegate management of a territorial cooperation programme to an EGTC
- Regional/local partners free to run cooperation projects as an EGTC
- Potential to develop EGTC as political tool for regional development



EGTC missions

What can an EGTC do?

- Implement cooperation programmes
- Run cooperation projects
- Other specific cooperation actions with EU funding
- Other cooperation actions without EU funding



EGTC missions

What can an EGTC NOT do?

- Exercise of powers conferred by public law to safeguard general interest of State
 - Police
 - Regulatory powers
 - Justice
 - Foreign policy
- Actions outside EU funding can be restricted further by MS



Role of the Member States

- Adoption of national provisions
 - decree,
 - act,
 - implementing administrative rules,
 - regional legislation,
 - federal law etc.
- Procedure: sent to the European Commission and other Member States



2. State of play and examples



State of play

- 23 provisions at MS level adopted
- Currently 18 EGTCs have been setup
- More than 20 EGTCs are under preparation



State of play

- ❖ « Ister-Granum », HU-SK, 05/2008
 - Esztergom (HU) = economic centre of the area (automobile industry: Suzuki factory)
 - Cooperation notably around the Esztergom-Pakany symbolic bridge
 - Regional Development Council representing top 3 regional employers (e.g. Suzuki) and national/regional authorities (Regional Employment Agency, Trade unions, Chamber of Commerce and Industry)



State of play

- ❖ « Karst-Bodva », 02/2009 Hungary and the Slovak Republic.

Objectives are:

- to support the cooperation and harmonic development with strengthening economic and social cohesion between cross border territories;
- to allow and assist the cooperation with purpose of strengthening economic and social cohesion between cross border territories.



State of play

- ❖ « UTTS » (Ung-Tisza-Túr-Sajó) with partners from Hungary (cities of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Szabolcs-Szarmár-Bereg, Hajdú-Bihar) and Slovakia (city of Prešov) has been notified to the Committee of the Regions in April 2010.
- ❖ « ABAÚJ-ABAÚJBAN » 14 Local and Regional Authorities from Hungary and Slovakia. support cooperation and development between cross-border territories by strengthening economic and social cohesion, to allow and assist economic and social development between cross-border territories as well as to support business spirit and a high level ethical attitude to entrepreneurship in cross-border territories.



3. The role of the Committee of the Regions



▶ The legal basis of the CoR engagement

Why?

- ▶ Treaty (art. 307 TFUE)
Specific CoR's consultative role on CBC
- ▶ Regulation 1082/2006 on EGTC (art. 5)
CoR informed on new conventions / statutes

How?

- ▶ Interinstitutional cooperation
Constructive and
forward-looking approach



The EGTC in the agenda of the CoR

Political support

4 opinions on EGTC in 2002, 2004, 2008 and 2011

Sharing experiences

Expert group, EGTC Platform

Information and debate

Consultation in 2010

Workshops and stands during the Open Days

3 studies and annual report from 2011 on.

Registry of the EGTC:

Art. 5 Reg. (CE) 1082/2006



Opinion of the CoR



- **Own-initiative opinion, adoption the 27 January 2010**
- **Rapporteur: Mr Alberto Nuñez Feijoo, (ES/EPP) President of Galicia.**
 - **Continuity with the opinion of Ms Bresso (IT/PES) in 2008**
 - **Stakeholders' forum the 13 July 2010**
 - **Debated in 3 sessions of COTER Commission**
 - **Bilateral and multilateral dialogue**



Opinion of the CoR

- **New scenario: Treaty of Lisbon and new financial perspectives**
- **Importance of the EGTC**
 - **For programmes and projects of ETC**
 - **For Europe 2020**
 - **For Multi-level governance**
- **Defence of the EGTC as “preferential instrument for cooperation”.**



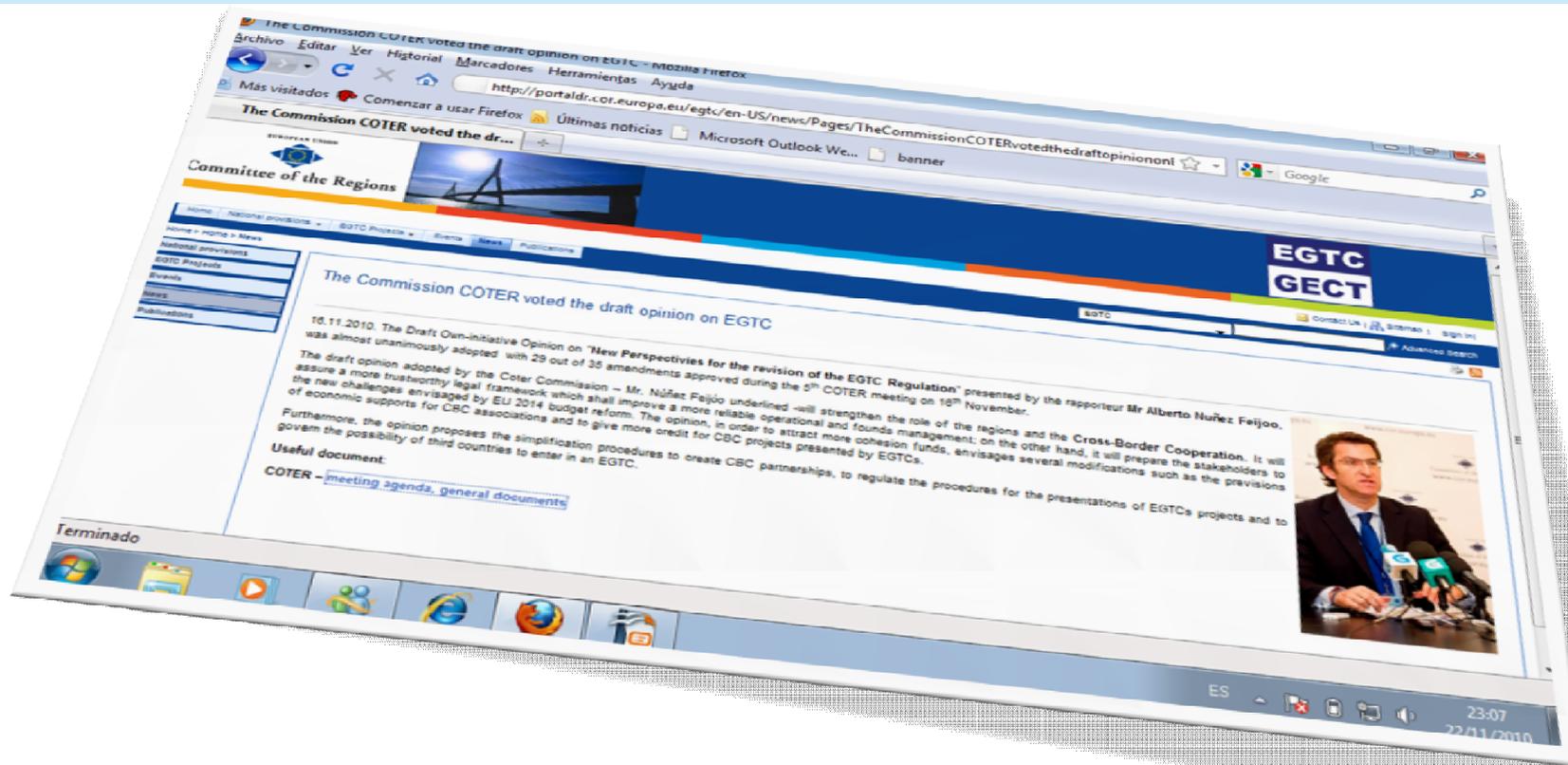
Opinion of the CoR

Contents

- Substantial: harmonisation, staff, clarification of concepts.
- Procedurals: Reduction of delays, audience to the stakeholders, common autorisation act, publication in section C of the OJEU.
- Financial: The EGTC as transnational partnership, suppression of obsolete management models, autonomous pole of cooperation
- Participation of entities from Third countries based on Title V of the Treaty.



The CoR supportive actions towards EGTC



www.cor.europa.eu/egtc

www.cor.europa.eu/egtc



EGTC Platform



- The platform includes the political and technical representatives of all the existing EGTC and EGTCs under constitution, members of the Expert Group, associations and other stakeholders
- Launched on January 28th in cooperation with the EGTC Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai.
- Online Forum
www.cor.europa.eu/egtc
- Contact: egtc@cor.europa.eu



EGTC Platform

Mission

- To monitor legislation.
- To share best practices.
- To provide visibility.
- To improve communication on EGTC opportunities and challenges at territorial level.
- To identify the potential use of EGTC as a tool for cohesive territorial development.
- To support the consultative works of the CoR by providing factual information about multilevel governance and cross-border aspects of the EU legislation and policies .



Thanks! Köszönöm! 😊

Committee of the Regions
Direction of consultative works

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