

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

Brussels, 10 January 2011

127th MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS BUREAU

– 26 JANUARY 2011 –

**ITEM 6
CONSTITUTION OF THE PLATFORM
OF EUROPEAN GROUPINGS OF TERRITORIAL COOPERATION (EGTC)**

Submitted by the secretary-general

FOR DECISION

MEMO FOR CoR BUREAU MEMBERS

127th MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS BUREAU

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Item 6

Constitution of the platform of European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)

The Committee of the Regions will constitute the platform of European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC).

This EGTC Platform will integrate the political and technical representatives of all the existing EGTCs, EGTCs under constitution and members of the Expert Group. Associations and other experts and stakeholders are invited to participate.

Mission:

The EGTC platform will have the following mission:

- a) Monitoring the adoption and implementation of the EGTC provisions at EU and national level;
- b) Facilitating the exchange of experiences on the establishment of EGTCs at territorial level and sharing knowledge of best practices in the field;
- c) Promoting the EGTC as a tool for territorial cohesion and give visibility to the existing EGTCs, notably among the EU Institutions, the national and sub-national administrations;
- d) Improving communication on EGTC opportunities and challenges at territorial level;
- e) Identifying the potential use of EGTC as a tool for cohesive territorial development;
- f) Supporting the consultative works of the CoR by providing factual information about multilevel governance and cross-border aspects of the EU legislation and policies.

Membership:

The platform will include the political and technical representatives of all the existing EGTC and EGTCs under constitution, members of the Expert Group, associations and other stakeholders.

Governance:

- a) The existing EGTC and the active members of the Expert Group will be automatically entitled to be partners of the Platform. The CoR will invite the EGTCs under constitution, and targeted experts and stakeholders (like INTERACT and associations).
- b) The Chairman of the Commission COTER will act as political co-ordinator of the EGTC Platform and will report regularly to the Commission COTER and to the Bureau.
- c) The ordinary administration of the EGTC Platform will be run by the CoR.

Online support:

The CoR will provide online support to the Platform: In the coming months, the EGTC web portal will be reorganized and new sections will be created in order to make it more interactive and to develop a real common consultative platform and to support the Platform.

- A common consultative platform (web forum) will enable representatives of the existing EGTCs and those under preparation, EGTC experts, and stakeholders to exchange their experiences and good practices.
- Each of the EGTCs will have a micro web page (microsite)¹ where they can provide their news and other contents.

Budget:

The functioning of the Platform will not imply additional expenses to those already foreseen in the budget of 2011 and 2012 for the ordinary EGTC activities of the CoR.

PROPOSAL


Bureau members are asked to approve this document.

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¹ Microsites available here:
<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/en-US/Projects/already/Pages/welcome.aspx>

APPENDIX. Summary of the CoR activities in relation with the provisions of the Bureau² in 2006

Time	Milestones	Main actors	Possible CoR initiatives	Implementation
1 August 2006 -31 July 2007 (likely to be extended in some MS)	Transitional period. Adoption of national legislative/administrative provisions. Launch of political and technical initiatives to establish EGTCs on the territories	Member States Commission Local and regional authorities (LRAs), only in few cases LRAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publication and dissemination of the <u>CoR study and brochure on EGTC</u> among EU, national and territorial institutions - Organisation of a main <u>conference</u> / seminar on EGTC - set-up of an <u>EGTC territorial expert group</u> to monitor the adoption of legislative/administrative provisions at national level and to exchange experience on progress of the political/technical initiatives for establishing EGTC at territorial level. The expertise will be drawn from local and regional authorities, on the basis of an open call for interest - Proposal to Commission, European Parliament and Member States to constitute an <u>EGTC contact group</u> - Establishment plan of the future "<u>Register</u>" of EGTC and related CoR web section 	<p>Studies published in 2007, 2008 and 2010 (see below) and brochure "<i>EGTC – 10 questions and answers</i>" published in 2009.</p> <p>CoR Roundtable and COTER seminar in 2007.</p> <p>Expert group set up in 2007.</p> <p>Inter-institutional Conference in 2008.</p> <p>EGTC portal existing since 2007.</p>
As from 1 August 2007 (at the earliest)	<p>Complete application of the Regulation.</p> <p>EGTCs begin to be established and registered</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>EU budget review 2008/09</p> </div>	<p>Member States Commission LRAs Other actors EGTCs CoR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>report (or initiative opinion) on the transitional period of the EGTC Regulation</u>, prepared within COTER - Launch of a <u>survey-based study on national frameworks</u> for implementing EGTCs - Extension and consolidation of the <u>EGTC territorial expert group</u> - <u>Support from studies and policy analysis and work with associations</u>: surveys, analysis of institutional frameworks and cooperation agreements, collection of pilot case studies, identification of thematic applications, dissemination of best practice, organization of seminars/conferences - <u>Pilot test, establishment and management of the "Register" of EGTC</u>. Upgrade with implementation of added-value information services provided by studies, policy analysis and networking 	<p>Own-initiative opinion "EGTC: New impetus for territorial cooperation" adopted in 2008. Rapporteur Ms Mercedes BRESSO (PES/IT). Ref. CdR 308/2007.</p> <p>Study "<i>The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation</i>", published in 2007.</p> <p>Study "<i>The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC): state of play and prospects</i>" published in 2009</p> <p>Study "<i>The EGTC developments on the ground: added value and solutions to problems</i>" published in 2010.</p> <p>Two meetings of the Expert Group</p>

² 97th Meeting of the Bureau of the Committee of the Regions, 5 December 2006, item 7. Ref. CdR 322/2006.

			<p>–regular <u>reports</u> on development of territorial cooperation and EGTCs, prepared within COTER</p> <p>–<u>EGTC community building and networking</u>: e.g. stimulation to the creation of a network of EGTCs, hosting of an annual conference on progress of Territorial Cooperation and EGTC</p> <p>–creation of a <u>Forum on EU territorial cooperation</u> together with other actors (to be further explored)</p>	<p>celebrated in 2008.</p> <p>Open Days Seminars on EGTC celebrated in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. EGTC thematic stand and brochure in 2010.</p> <p>EGTC summit co-organised by the CoR and the Spanish Presidency of the EU Council in May 2010.</p> <p>Annual reports to COTER in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.</p> <p>File note on cross-border dimension integrated in the CoR consultative works (currently under preparation).</p>
By 1 August 2011	Report from EC and possible review of the EGTC Regulation	CoR Commission EP /Council Established EGTC	–By 2009/2010, <u>wide-ranging outlook report on the perspective of territorial cooperation and the implementation of EGTC.</u>	<p>Joint consultation on the EGTC by the CoR, the Trio of Presidencies (ES-BE-HU), the European Commission and Interact, launched in May 2010.</p> <p>Stakeholders' meeting on EGTC in July 2010.</p> <p>Own-initiative opinion "<i>EGTC – Towards the revision of the legislative framework</i>" to be adopted in January 2011. Rapporteur Mr Alberto NÚÑEZ FEIJÓO (EPP/ES). Ref CdR 100/2010.</p>
1 January 2014	New programming period		Expected outcome: consolidation of territorial cohesion and territorial cooperation within Structural Funds and other EU policies.	