

## **CECICN MEETING**

**Brussels, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

### **PARTICIPANTS**

#### **MOT**

Mr. JEAN PEYRONY, General Director.

Mr. JEAN RUBIÓ, European Development and Cross-border studies.

Ms. SILVIA KECKEIS, Policy manager for European policies.

#### **UBC**

Ms. SUVI HENTILÄ, TURKU-Southwest Finland European Office.

#### **CAAC:**

Ms. TAMARA GUIRAO, Coordinator.

#### **RIET**

Mr. XOÁN MAO, Secretary General.

Ms. MARTA CABANAS, Analysis and European Strategy.

#### **FAIC**

Mr. LUIGI ALBORE MASCIA, Mayor of Pescara, Vice President.

Mr. MARCO MOLISANI, Cabinet Chief.

Mr. SIMONE D'ALESSANDRO, Secretary.

#### **MedCities**

Ms. ANNA ALAMIRALL, Urban Development Programs- Med Cities.

## 1. POLITICAL BUREAU

The Secretary General of CECICN introduced the meeting, giving some explanatory notes of the objectives of the meeting and the expected outcomes.

After the introduction, **MOT General Director**, Mr. Jean Peyrony, took the floor to explain his main proposals to arise during the meeting with the European Commission, later in the morning. These proposals were previously communicated to the other CECICN partners by email, the Friday before the meeting. A copy of the document sent is attached to this report.

The **main topics** raised during the meeting were:

- “Cities in cooperation”, that is the key message to send to the EC.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> generation cooperation should be at the core of EU integration.
- Territorial Cooperation should have an increased budget but also more presence in strategic documents.
- Cooperation requires multi-level governance, reinforcing the role of cities.
- Need of greater alignment of strategies and funding.
- Better horizontal and vertical coordination (eg. Within inter-service groups on Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion).
- During the meeting with the Director General of DG Regio, Mr. Dirk Ahner, it is better propose concrete steps to organize cooperation between European Commission and CECICN.

All CECICN members expressed their agreement on the general comments made by MOT.

Mr. Luigi Albore Mascia, Mayor of Pescara and representative of **FAIC**, expressed his agreement on the proposals made by the Chairman to focus CECICN activity on cities but he warned about the risk of confusing our network with a network of cities. He reminds that CECICN is a network of networks. Regarding the future, the representative of FAIC said that it would be very useful to have more frequent meetings. We are facing a very important moment that can contribute to mature the work of CECICN. Finally, he bet on addressing some common guidelines to improve citizens’ quality of life and working to achieve concrete results.

Ms. Tamara Guirao, representative of **CAAC** also agreed on the approach proposed and pointed out the importance of macro regions and the convenience of taking into account macro-regional dimension in the future work of CECICN.

Representatives of **RIET**, **UBC** and **MedCities** also expressed their agreement on the approach proposed by MOT. In any case, UBC representative, Ms. Suvi Hentilä, remind that in that

meeting she was an observer, as the representative of the UBC could not attend to the meeting.

### White Paper on Territorial Cohesion

After this debate, CECICN members talked about the future White Paper on Territorial Cooperation and the structure for this document. Finally, there was an agreement on the following **structure**:

1. Contents
2. Structures
3. Funding

To elaborate this White Paper, CECICN members agreed on create **three working groups**, one for each chapter of the document. These groups will be integrated by one expert coming from each CECICN member.

**Experts will meet in Paris, from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July** to work on a first draft that should be finished by the end of that week. MOT will be in charge of coordinate the work.

Experts will work on the basis of documents already existing in member organizations. To do that, CECICN members committed themselves to circulate their main work on this issue in order experts can read every relevant document before arriving to Paris.

CECICN members also agreed on authorizing Mr. Jean Peyrony to contact **AEBR** Secretary General, Mr. Martín Guillermo, to talk about a **possible cooperation** between the two networks. The General Director of MOT will inform CECICN members about the results of that contact at the next Political Bureau in order to take a final decision on this issue.

Finally, CECICN members agreed on authorizing the General Director of MOT to contact, in an unofficial way, DG REGIO members and let them know the evolution of this White Paper.

### Congress 2012

There was a short debate about the Congress on Territorial Cooperation that CECICN wants organize next year.

The first semester of 2012, Denmark will host the Presidency of the European Council. As Denmark is a Baltic country, this could represent a good opportunity for CECICN. In addition, having **CECICN Congress included in the Danish Presidency program** would give it a great visibility, ensuring also a good level of attendance.

CECICN members agreed on the proposal to **organize the Congress in cooperation with European Commission and the Danish Presidency**. To negotiate with the Danish Presidency and the European Commission, members agreed on create a small delegation of two people representing the whole network. Members also agreed on nominating Mr. Jean Peyrony, General Director of MOT, and Mr. Xoán Vázquez Mao, Secretary General of RIET, as delegates for this task.

### Next meeting

The next Political Bureau will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> July in Paris, just after the experts' meeting. During this meeting, members of CECICN will analyze, among other things, the following topics:

- White Paper: results of the experts' meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Draft) + cooperation with AEBR
- Congress 2012: next steps

## 2. MEETING WITH DG REGIO

After the meeting of the Political Bureau, CECICN met with DG REGIO representatives, headed by the Director General, Mr. Dirk Ahner.

In a first place, the **Secretary General of RIET**, Mr. Xoán Vázquez Mao explained to DG REGIO members what CECICN is and what its main objectives are. DG REGIO members were especially surprise to acknowledge that CECICN networks represent almost a 37% of the total European population.

After the presentation, the **General Director of MOT**, Mr. Jean Peyrony, took the floor to explain the next steps foreseen in the CECICN work: the White Paper and the Congress on Territorial Cooperation. On the first issue, General Director of MOT explained what are the objectives and the working methodology agreed. In addition, he also asked to the Commission to send some experts as observers, in order to guarantee the good alignment of the work. On the Congress, Mr. Peyrony explained that it is foreseen to organize it during the Danish Presidency and, due to the fact that it would be the first Congress of all EU border regions, it would be really interesting organizing it in cooperation with DG REGIO and the Danish Presidency.

Mr. Dirk Ahner, **Director General of DG REGIO**, show a true interest in CECICN and in the work the network is doing. He said that having in mind the representativeness of CECICN (37% of total EU population and the main EU regions: Atlantic, Iberian, Adriatic, Baltic and French borders), he considers CECICN as a suitable partner to talk with. In addition, he also pointed

out the importance of cities in the Cohesion Policy and, especially, in Territorial Cooperation. Finally, he encouraged CECICN to present concrete proposals to the Commission, in order to organize the cooperation.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, **Mr. Xoán Vázquez Mao**, took the floor to propose Mr. Ahner two questions:

- Send one person to the meeting in Paris to contribute to the debate of the experts. This is important even if the person from the Commission goes to Paris only as an observer. In addition, it was guaranteed that any document will be published until have the approval of the European Commission; if they agree in cooperate with CECICN.
- Collaborate with CECICN to organize the Congress in 2012, not only participating as panelist but also contributing to the organization and to the talks with the Danish Presidency.

**Mr. Ahner** agreed on both requests. So, it was settled that **Mr. Peyrony** will be the contact from CECICN side for both questions.

**MEMORANDUM**

**CECICN meeting**

**17 May 2011**

**Brussels**

**Suvi Hentilä, TURKU-Southwest Finland European Office**

**Present:**

**MOT:**

**Mr. JEAN PEYRONY, General Director**

**Mr. JEAN RUBIÓ, European Development and Cross-border studies**

**Ms. SILVIA KECKEIS, Policy manager for European policies**

**UBC**

**Ms. SUVI HENTILÄ, TURKU-Southwest Finland European Office**

**CAAC:**

**Ms. TAMARA GUIRAO, Coordinator**

**RIET:**

**Mr. XOÁN MAO, Secretary General.**

**Ms. MARTA CABANAS, Analysis and European Strategy.**

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**Ms. ANNA ALAMIRALL, Urban Development Programs-Med Cities**

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**1 Meeting with the political bureau**

**1.1. Setting agenda for the meeting with Director-General Mr Ahner**

The meeting was opened by the Secretary General of CECICN, Mr Mao, who after representing the meeting agenda gave floor to the new MOT General Director, Mr. Peyrony who has until recently worked in the European Commission, DG REGIO (Urban Development Unit).

Mr Peyrony had in advance prepared some points of discussion for the meeting that took place later on in the morning with Director General, Mr Dirk Ahner. It was thanks to Mr Peyrone that a meeting agenda and strategy for the meeting was set (described in the official meeting minutes), as it seemed that Mr Mao did not intent to set a clear strategy for the meeting.

In the discussion afterwards Mr. Luigi Albore Mascia, Mayor of Pescara and representative of FAIC, reminded that despite its focus on cities, CECICN is a network of networks. As for the future of the network, Mr Mascia pointed out that it would be very useful to have more frequent meetings with, if possible, the same people attending the meetings.

## **1.2. CECICN White Paper on Territorial Cohesion**

The second point of discussion was the CECICN White Paper on Territorial Cohesion. It was agreed that the White Paper would have the following structure

1. Contents
2. Structures
3. Funding

In order to proceed with the preparation of the White Paper, CECICN members agreed to create three working groups, one for each chapter of the document. These groups will be integrated by one expert coming from each CECICN member.

Again, Mr Peyrony took an active role and suggested that MOT would arrange a White Paper drafting meeting in Paris and coordinate the White Paper preparation. It was decided that experts will meet in Paris on 19-21 July to work on a first draft that should be finished by the end of that week. MOT will be in charge of the coordination of the work.

Regarding the workshop in Paris, it was decided that CECICN members should circulate among themselves the most important documents so that all already existing material would be made available to experts attending the drafting workshop prior to the workshop.

It was also decided to give mandate to Mr. Peyrony to contact AEBR Secretary General, Mr. Guillermo, to discuss possible cooperation between the two networks. Mr. Peyrony will inform CECICN members about the results of that contact in the next Political Bureau.

Finally, CECICN members agreed on authorizing Mr Peyrony to contact unofficially DG REGIO members to inform of and discuss the CECICN White Paper with them.

The congress on Territorial Cooperation due to be organised in the first semester of 2012, after the publication of CEC ICN White Paper, was also discussed in the meeting. The aim is to organise the congress during the Danish presidency and to have it as part of the official Danish presidency programme. It was decided that Mr Peyrony and Mr Mao would proceed in contacting the Danish presidency.

## **1.3. Next meeting**

The next Political Bureau will take place on 22 July in Paris after the experts' White Paper drafting workshop. Points of discussion for the next meeting will be the first draft of the White Paper (drafted in the experts' workshop prior to the meeting), arranging a meeting with President of the European Commission, Mr. José Manuel Barroso in order to present him the draft of the White Paper (possibly in November), and the proceeding of the congress taking place in 2012.

## **2. Meeting with Director-General Dirk Ahner and other DG REGIO representatives**

After the meeting of the Political Bureau, CECICN met with DG REGIO representatives, headed by the Director General, Mr. Dirk Ahner.

In the beginning of the meeting Mr. Mao introduced CECICN and its main objectives.

After the presentation, Mr Peyrony gave an overview of CECICN's planned White Paper and the Congress on Territorial Cooperation. He asked the European Commission to send some experts to participate in the July's White Paper drafting workshop as observers, in order to guarantee the good alignment of the work, and suggested the European Commission to take part in the Congress on Territorial Cooperation.

Mr. Ahner's attitude towards CECICN seemed positive and he said that CECICN to be a suitable discussion partner. He said it would be possible for a European Commission representative to take part in the CECICN White Paper drafting workshop and expressed interest to contribute in the organisation of the Congress on Territorial Cohesion in 2012. It was agreed that Mr. Peyrony will be the contact from CECICN side for both questions.

At the end of the meeting a DG REGIO representative pointed out that CECICN is an interesting network but it lacks members from the Eastern and Central Europe, notably from the Danube region, and that CECICN should take this into consideration.

## **3. General remarks**

In general, it can be said that the organisation and working methods of CECICN network are still in the process of development. However, Mr. Peyrony's presence and active role in the CECICN will most likely reflect in a very positive way to CECICN and its operation. With Mr. Peyrony on board and him having a strong role in CECICN, the network will probably develop to become more organised and clearly focused.

After the meeting Mr Peyrony expressed his interest to have bilateral discussions with UBC to discuss common activities within CECICN framework and possible project development between MOT and UBC.