



PRESS KIT

Cohesion serving the regions

Informal meeting of Ministers for Spatial Planning and Cohesion Policy

**26 November 2008
Palais du Pharo – Marseille**

PRÉSIDENCE FRANÇAISE

UNION EUROPÉENNE ★

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Cohesion serving the regions

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GENERAL PRESENTATION

The informal meeting of the Ministers for Housing, Urban development, Spatial planning, and Cohesion policy will focus on an issue common to their different competences: **an integrated approach to sustainable and inclusive European cities and territories.**

The guiding principles for these three days will be:

- access to housing,
- territorial and social cohesion,
- sustainable development in all its components,
- territorial mutations linked to climate change.

This event will be structured in **three sessions**:

Ministers for Housing will meet on the afternoon of 24th November, and the general topic will be: “access to housing for people in difficulty”.

The different strategies implemented by the Member States will be examined, but also the impact of EU policies on national legislation promoting access to housing. On these different subjects, Ministers will be invited to approve the draft communiqué, prepared by the Presidency with the comments received from the different delegations.

Ministers for urban development will meet all day on the 25th November, and they will deal with “the sustainable and socially inclusive city”.

A state of play of the implementation of the Leipzig Charter will be presented, and a new stage will be proposed for agreement by the Ministers, in view of launching a process towards a common reference framework, opened to all stakeholders. Moreover, the Commission will present an analysis of the urban dimension in cohesion policy.

A part of the afternoon will be devoted to thematic workshops

- urban morphology and climate change,
- deprived neighbourhoods,
- urban mobility.

Ministers will be invited to approve the draft declaration, including its annex regarding the “reference framework for implementing the Leipzig Charter”, and the draft declaration about JESSICA.

Ministers for Spatial planning and for Cohesion policy will meet on 26th November, under the general title : “cohesion serving the regions”.

This day will be divided into four sessions :

- The first debate will be devoted to territorial cohesion, following the presentation of the Green book by the Commission.
- The Ministers will debate, based on the Commission’s presentation of its assessment of the impact of new challenges on EU regions by 2020.

- as regards the Territorial agenda, the Presidency will present progress reports on works led on action 2.4, intended to prepare contributions to the debate on the most relevant key EU dossiers from the point of view of territorial cohesion. Ministers will be invited to agree with five methodological principles aimed to animate this process, and they will be invited to ask Germany and France to pursue the works on this 2.4 action until another ministerial meeting.
- the current context of financial and economic crisis prompted the Ministers to ask the Commission to present its proposals relating to cohesion policy that will be part of the action plan to be adopted on 26th November. Ministers will have the opportunity to express their very first reactions, and the Presidency will provide a synthesis, after the meeting.

LA COHESION TERRITORIALE

The Territorial Cohesion objective comes in response to the recognition that differences in the rates of economic development and levels of wealth between and within territories remain and, in some cases, are even growing.

Phases in the European policy of territorial cohesion:

- The ESDP (European Spatial Development Perspective) in 1999 established the territory as a key element in both national and EU policies.
- Intergovernmental cooperation resulted in the adoption of the Territorial Agenda in 2007, which provides the reference political framework for tackling territorial issues within the European Union, with territorial cohesion at its core.
- The European Commission has published a Green Paper as a basis for discussion.

The objective assigned to territorial cohesion entails a cross sector and cross territorial approach of the policies for their inception and their implementation on the territories. It enables policymakers to view the EU territory in a new light, not only regional or national, but at an integrated sub regional, cross border and macro regional level that can help territories to build their future on territorial potential while creating the best possible opportunities at various geographical levels. In that sense, territorial cohesion could be considered both as an objective and a guiding principle.

1/ Forge a common approach to territorial cohesion

Referring both to the 3d Cohesion report and to the Territorial Agenda, the objective of territorial cohesion could be defined as follows:

the concept of territorial cohesion extends beyond the notion of economic and social cohesion by both adding other elements to it and reinforcing it. It invites to take action and to cooperate across the territory and across administrative and political boundaries to provide citizens with fair opportunities in terms of living conditions and quality of life, and provide enterprises with fair perspectives for development, relying on specific territorial potentials, where ever they are settled.

Territorial cohesion should be materialised into guidelines built on the following **five elements**:

- **More balanced development at all territorial levels**

The concentration of economic activity in large urban areas produces positive effects in terms of impetus, providing a critical mass for the quantity and quality of services, etc. However, this concentration also generates not only negative externalities (congestion, pollution, damage to social cohesion, etc.) but also imbalances both at the regional level (problems in urban/rural relations, persisting disparities within cities) and the national level (concentration of development in capital cities and large conurbations to the detriment of more peripheral regions). Finally, on the European level, the means for development are accumulating in the “Pentagon”, even if the 4th Cohesion Report notes that more “peripheral “poles are developing quickly. So, a more balanced development has to be promoted on these different territorial scales.

- **Harnessing territories' potential to turn their diversity into an asset**

Cohesion does not mean standardisation: the process of European development must tap into the potential of each of its regions (economic but also in terms of the quality and diversity of the landscapes, biodiversity, etc.). These regions, however, all have extremely diverse characteristics, resources and limitations. In order to harness and develop them, diverse strategies tailored to each region's needs are required. Not all regions can implement the same innovation policies, or create clusters at the European or global level, but all the regions possess assets that can be harnessed to develop activities in relation to residential economy¹, "green" economy, or tourism, etc.

- **More sustainable and integrated territorial development**

Territorial cohesion requires long-term vision enabling new developments to be anticipated on a territory by territory basis, in order to direct strategies and adapt investments often spanning several decades. It also requires that at the level of territories true development strategies should be elaborated based on an integrated approach of the actions to be conducted.

- **Stronger links and cooperation between EU territories**

- Development of terrestrial, maritime and air transport links;
- Connection of the most isolated regions to the main transport networks;
- Access to infrastructure, services and telecommunications networks.

It also entails linking territories' development potentials to create synergies, both within regions between urban areas and the surrounding suburban and rural areas, and beyond regional and national borders, in order to improve competitiveness and Europe's sustainable development as a whole. This can be achieved notably via territorial cooperation.

Local cross-border cooperation is firstly the responsibility of local authorities, but the involvement of regional/national authorities is required when national strategies or regulations have to be interoperable. Moreover, national strategies and investments (such as major transport infrastructure) need the cooperation of regional and local authorities to deliver all their leverage effects on territories.

- **Towards a territorial governance better adapted to the new challenges**

Governance has become a fundamental issue as regards political organisation and implementation of public policies. Insofar as territorial cohesion can be implemented at all levels of public action, it has to rely upon the competencies, expertise and decision capacities of the key actors in the territories. From the Community level to the local level, including the national and regional levels, the idea is to mobilise, in the territories at stake, the proper resources serving the territorial strategies.

Territorial cohesion is thus a common challenge and a common responsibility of the EU, the Member States, sub-national authorities and networks of actors from the civil society. That means building a continuous cooperation and dialogue process involving the decision makers and actors of territorial development.

¹ Residential economy covers all the activities generated on the local level by the consumption of the population living on the territory considered.

2/ Why and how to tackle territorial cohesion at the European level?

Approaches to territorial cohesion at national level have evolved from a compensation-based notion to a more proactive approach based on exploiting territories' potential. Thus, approaches aimed at improving competitiveness have also been included in territorial policies.

The aim of a debate on territorial cohesion at European level is not to acknowledge the vast diversity of national approaches to the subject, but to highlight areas that fall within the EU's remit and explore how a common approach at European level could be promoted.

- The objective of EU policies is not in the first place to promote territorial cohesion; the economic and social cohesion policy doesn't have as only objective territorial cohesion. However, all these policies must evolve in order to take into consideration territorial cohesion.
- If common objectives are not defined, the progressing convergence between national economies could go be accompanied by increasing internal disparities that would endanger all of Europe's competitiveness.
- The failures of cohesion are particularly noticeable in border areas and it is essential to encourage the coordination of national policies and implement tools aimed at tackling cross-border problems and develop common potentials on both sides of the border, particularly where neighbouring countries have highly different structures of competitiveness, for example in terms of salary costs and taxation. The issue of cross border infrastructures is also a very important issue to be tackled. Nevertheless, the necessity to develop cross-border cooperation is not limited to borders with major disparities; there is a big potential on all borders.
- Certain major issues cut across national borders (transport, sustainable development, urban development and global competitiveness). Europe must facilitate transnational and interregional discussion by helping institutions to transcend their geographical responsibilities and endeavour to understand and tackle issues beyond the borders.
- Generally speaking, given the variety of local experiences and contexts, Europe has an important role to play in facilitating exchanges of experience and building shared values.

3/ What are the main areas for the application of territorial cohesion at the European level?

The issues related to territorial cohesion affect many different aspects of the life of citizens and businesses. A large number of EU policies having significant territorial impact are, therefore, affected.

One of the commitments made by European Ministers for Spatial Planning under the European Union's Territorial Agenda adopted under the German Presidency, was to contribute to the

development of major EU policies that have the greatest impact on territories in order to ensure that they contribute to the territorial cohesion objective.

Under its presidency of the Council of the European Union, France has begun work on four of these policies:

- the Common Agricultural Policy;
- the Lisbon Strategy;
- the Sustainable Development Strategy (with emphasis on climate change);
- cohesion policy.

Similar work on other policy areas will be undertaken as part of the continuing implementation of the Action Plan of the Territorial Agenda.

4/ How to implement this new objective?

What are the priorities?

- **Help territories to exploit their development potential in a sustainable way**

The objective here is not simply to compensate for territorial disadvantages linked to their marginalisation or resulting from various crisis situations, but to help territories meet the challenges facing them by directing investments in an appropriate manner with respect to their “territorial capital”. The objective is to support actions undertaken and contributing to sustainable development in order to avoid urban sprawl, insufficient protection of cultural heritage, etc.

Besides, the Lisbon Treaty in its article 174 quotes : “among the regions concerned, particular attention shall be paid to rural areas, areas affected by industrial transition, and regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps such as the northernmost regions with very low population density and island, cross-border and mountain regions”.

- **Provide territories with a fair and tailored level of access to public services (education, healthcare, postal services, etc.) and networks (transport, telecommunications, energy, etc.)**

This is an essential factor in terms of the attractiveness and competitiveness of territories. We have to ensure a fair level of access to services and networks (time required to access a hospital service, broadband Internet access coverage, etc.), but that must also be tailored to meet the specific geographical and socio-economic needs of territories (for example, a peripheral region with low population density will have different needs in terms of access to air transport and connection to telecommunication networks from those of a densely populated central region).

- **Strengthen networking and connections between territories**

In order to meet effectively the challenges facing territories it is necessary to offer political responses on a variable territorial scale. These responses may result from cooperation involving different administrative, local, regional and national levels, and at an even greater scale with regard to cooperation with neighbouring EU States.

Using what methods?

The objective is not to create a specific territorial cohesion policy, but rather to integrate the territorial aspects of national and European policies using existing instruments and structures, based on a common strategy.

In order to achieve this, it is necessary to research and analyse territories in detail, in order to be able to identify the challenges facing them:

- **instruments to measure territorial disparities and dynamics:** the socio-economic indicators currently available should be refined and new thematic indicators describing territorial characteristics (accessibility, demographic dynamics, exposure to risks, etc.) should be developed.
- **characteristics of the territories regarding territorial cohesion:** additional criteria should be defined.
- **the territorial effects of new challenges** (globalisation, climate change, demographics, new European borders): the threats of these challenges to the physical, economic and social makeup of territories, particularly those territories that are worse off, should be anticipated in order to prepare sector- and territory-based policy responses .
- **Defining needs** to guarantee territories a cross-territorial and macro-regional policy analysis. How can national, regional and local actors define territories based on targeted geographical challenges and local potential? Which territorial priorities are relevant to be coordinated at European level?
- **appropriate governance:** it should take into account and be supported by administrative and political organizations of these territories, and involve all decision-makers concerned at their different levels of responsibility (“multi-level governance”). This does not mean, in order to adapt to the various territorial issues, changing Member States’ internal institutional organisations, but helping those responsible at each level to integrate territorial considerations within their geographical scope of responsibility, or to extend beyond these boundaries in order to address problems on a broader scale in conjunction with their neighbouring colleagues.
- **exchange of experiences and cooperation** facilitated between territories, regions and Member States.

With what means?

In order to promote territorial cohesion, the European Union could employ both budgetary and regulatory means, as well as an approach with the aim of forging common perceptions with regard to territorial evolution.

Territorial cohesion normally applies to all European and national policies; concretely, it should therefore not only be supported by the Cohesion Policy but also by the other EU policies which should in parallel contribute to territorial cohesion.

- **major traditionally territorial policies** (by introducing the principle of territorial cohesion into their future approaches and by defining how this can be done).
- **relevant regulatory and standardisation activities** at European level (among others building single market, particular in order to provide the best possible opportunities to citizens and businesses across the whole European territory).
- **the territorial application of major sector policies having significant territorial impact** (identified in the First Action Programme of the Territorial Agenda: transport, research, maritime policy, environment and sustainable development, etc.).

What form of governance at the European level?

The implementation of the territorial cohesion objective will require stronger involvement by Member States with regard to territorial issues within the framework of the Council. In the current period opportunities already exist:

- cohesion policy: strategic follow up
- intergovernmental cooperation: territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter.

The stakes involved in integrated sustainable territorial development require increasing interaction between sector policies, on the one hand, and between different levels of responsibility, on the other hand, which, from EU down to local level, must appropriate this objective by adapting it to their specific situations in order to provide appropriate answers and in respect of the principle of subsidiarity.

Now more than ever, efforts must be made in terms of negotiation, agreement and cooperation in order to respond to the complexity of the problems.

Permanent observational work as well as tools facilitating advice and coordination of European actions (ESPON programme, innovative approaches such as “Regions for Economic Change”, assessment of strategies and programmes, assessment of the territorial impact of Community policies) must be developed to ensure better management and continuous assessment of territorial policies, by collecting data and analysing where specific challenges and possibilities can be documented.

THE FUTURE OF THE COHESION POLICY

The Commission opened the debate on the future of the cohesion policy when the fourth report on cohesion was published. The proposal made by the French presidency represents a continuation of this debate. Its stated goal is to work from the results drawn from previous debates and to further explore some lines of thought so as to spotlight the political and budgetary choices that will be made at the appropriate time.

1/ A cohesion policy with solid achievements on which to build its future

The cohesion policy is not just another redistribution policy that transfers financial resources via the European budget, for actions that can be directly implemented by the Member States. This is a policy that serves the cohesion and competitiveness of Europe as a whole. It should add value not only in socio-economic terms, but also in terms of improving public action and actions undertaken by stakeholders.

The policy has contributed to the takeoff achieved by former "cohesion countries", by facilitated the mutation achieved by former industrial regions going through profound crises and supporting the last enlargements of the EU, allowing most of the new Member States to achieve the highest growth rates in Europe. This policy has also shown its capacity to evolve so as to serve the Union's major goals. The priority assigned in the new programming to the aims set out by the Lisbon Strategy is proof of this. As for all public policies interacting with complex socioeconomic phenomena, it is necessary to better know the impact of the cohesion policy to focus its action in order to strengthen its efficiency.

Its primary objective, as defined by the treaties, remains the reduction of the economic and social disparities between States and regions, but this task has become more complex due to globalisation and its consequences. Actually, the ensuing phenomena of concentration and delocalisation of economic activities, notably changing requirements in terms of qualification and mobility of labour, are continually redistributing the cards. This urges for a more dynamic vision of the disparities and a more proactive conception of the answers to be provided. In the current programming, for the "convergence", "regional competitiveness and employment" and "European territorial cooperation" objectives, the accent placed on innovation, adapting the labour force to new qualification needs, etc. illustrates this proactive approach.

Lastly, through its vertical (multi-level governance) and horizontal (partnership and integrated approach) integration, the cohesion policy has contributed to the elaboration of strategies and programmes, and to their implementation, by associating the stakeholders concerned at the European, national, regional and local levels. This method is particularly useful in handling complex issues involving various fields and related to various institutional levels. The question of articulation between these levels should always be given special attention.

It is by building on its foundations that the cohesion policy should evolve, so that it can be consolidated and reinforced and its responses adapted to the challenges faced by an ever changing world.

Finally, to fully meet the objectives assigned to the cohesion policy, its implementation system should be made more efficient. The debate should be continued between the European Commission, the Member States and the European Parliament in order to achieve this goal.

2/ A cohesion policy that is more sensitive to the diversity of territories and the dynamics and changes which affect them

The impulsion given to thoughts on territorial cohesion by the Territorial Agenda must stimulate the debate on the future of the cohesion policy. Although territorial cohesion does not come down to just the cohesion policy, the latter must be a significant tool in pursuing this major goal of the Union.

The Community Strategic Guidelines stresses the need **to take into account the territorial dimension of disparities and structural deficits**, and encourages targeting relevant territories in order to implement development strategies that are based on their potential. The operational materialisation of these orientations was the subject of the initial analyses undertaken by the European Commission. Other analyses are ongoing to extend and deepen these initial results.

The fourth cohesion report observes the continuation or even the aggravation of infra-regional disparities relating to territories like urban areas in difficulty or rural areas faced by depopulation. It also shows that **territorial unbalances, far from disappearing, have actually worsened** among the Member States and more generally throughout the European Union as a whole, benefiting metropolitan areas that have gained from the cumulative effects of growth. One should not limit these cumulative effects which are necessary for a good inclusion of the European economy in globalisation.

However, this evolution has taken place at the expense of those parts of European territory that cannot easily derive any benefit from excellence policies nor from other attractiveness factors and yet are still areas that have assets on which to build their development. In the new Member States, high growth rates tend to further increase territorial and social disparities often leading to polarisation around capitals and major cities.

A few solutions:

- Increasing the impact of intervention into the various territorial levels requires a fine knowledge of realities in the territories and of the socioeconomic dynamics at work there. The tools currently available to the cohesion policy provide data primarily from the regional level. These are averages that offer a good indication of the difficulties faced and regions' capacities to face up to them.

However, **proper instruments** should be developed in order to better orient the impact of the cohesion policy. **New indicators** are required; it requires specific efforts to be made by the Commission and the Member States with the support of Eurostat and the national statistic institutes to develop stable, reliable and comparable data. The ORATE programme can be very useful to provide scientific support to the work to be done on the indicator issues.

- From the infra-regional to the trans-national level, **coherent intervention strategies** must be defined for areas facing similar problems. Beyond the regional level, the proper scale for intervention could be within a single Member State. It could be to promote the cooperation between regions but also intervention in homogeneous territorial areas like river basins or mountain ranges. This may also lead to crossing administrative, national or regional borders. The European territorial cooperation tool was designed for this purpose and the value that it adds is recognised by all.

Cooperation should not stop at the European Union's borders, as shown by the link that is currently made between the cohesion policy's territorial cooperation programmes and neighbouring policy programmes. The worldwide phenomena that we have raised do not stop at Europe's borders and convergence along the Union's borders will become an essential issue,

especially under the effects of global challenges that the cohesion policy will contribute in taking into account.

3/ A much stronger cohesion policy in reducing economic and social disparities and serving Europe's competitiveness, and the attractiveness of its territories.

Holding the course on the Lisbon strategy

The conviction that economic and social cohesion especially requires reinforced territorial competitiveness and attractiveness, based on its potential must continue to guide this policy. It motivates the orientations behind the current programming, especially in terms of the "regional competitiveness and employment" objective.

This orientation is also valid at present for regions covered by the "convergence" objective and this will be the case even more so tomorrow. Even if achieving an economic "catch up" will still take time, the comparative advantages (low labour costs, advantageous tax policy, etc.) that many of those regions have to some extent built their development will tend to diminish. It will therefore be necessary to find other boosters (labour quality, innovation, lifestyle quality and, more generally, all of the ingredients that make up competitiveness). The kind of intervention required will therefore tend to converge with that intended for regions covered by the "regional competitiveness and employment" objective.

Nevertheless, all regions cannot conduct the same innovation policies, creating clusters with a European or worldwide influence. For certain policies, namely industrial ones, the proper level is not necessarily the region, but the State or the European Union.

However all the regions have their own advantages to put forward and to develop, as appropriate, activities that are linked either to the residential economy², to tourism, to culture, etc. To mobilise and benefit from them, diversified strategies suited to the individual profiles of each region are therefore necessary.

Helping regions and territories to benefit from opportunities and facing up to the consequences of global challenges

Beyond globalisation, in the economic sense of the word, global challenges (climate change, new energy paradigm, demographic changes and migration, etc.) generate risk factors, as well as opportunities that must be taken into account as being likely to change the parameters that apply to the territories' economic, social and environmental contexts. This makes it necessary for the territories to adopt an approach that is one of constant anticipation and adaptation. The impacts of the major planetary challenges are asymmetrical : all regions will not be impacted in the same way, so the political responses must therefore be suited to the reality of each situation. The Ministers could use the results of the study conducted by the European Commission on the impact of the global challenges on regions up to 2020.

Developing a response to these challenges is first and foremost an issue for the relevant sector-based policies which have the expertise and financial resources for doing so. Nevertheless, the latter are not always able to put forward answers suited to the diversity of the various territories

² Residential economy covers all the activities generated on the local level by the consumption of the population living on the territory under consideration

and even less to respond to the combined effects of major challenges (economic, demographic, social and environmental). Beyond the necessary territorial breakdown of these sector-based policies, the cohesion policy which is neither designed to, nor has the resources to supplant such policies, does however have a role to play in helping the regions build strategies that take into account risk factors and the opportunities generated by these major challenges. The way it is elaborated and implemented (multi-level governance, partnership, integrated approach, etc.) make this a privileged tool for comprehensive sustainable development policies.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TERRITORIAL AGENDA

Within the framework of the Territorial Agenda, the Ministers responsible for Urban Development set out to ponder on a number of key case files.

In order to ensure that the work undertaken for each case file leads to operational conclusions, a methodology was implemented, notably in relation to the type of coordination to implement with the various political authorities concerned, at the European level and at the level of each Member State.

1/ Recommended methods for the inclusion of the territorial dimension in the key case files

Steps in implementing the Territorial Agenda

- **24 and 25 May 2007: informal meeting of Ministers in charge of Urban and Spatial Development in Leipzig**
 - Adoption of the agenda
 - Major objectives and orientations defining the political framework of cooperation between Member states and the Commission in view of reinforcing territorial cohesion
- **23 and 24 November 2007: informal meeting of Ministers in Açores**
 - First actions programme for the implementation of the Agenda

The implementation of the Territorial Agenda's orientations in terms of involvement in the major strategies and sector-based policies requires five conditions to be met:

1. **taking into account the territorial impact of major strategies and sector-based policies right from their inception.**
2. **Improving complementarity and coordination between these major strategies and sector-based policies and cohesion policy.**
3. **Gaining more in-depth knowledge of the territorial effects of the major strategies and sector-based policies, by undertaking appropriate studies and research and by monitoring and assessing the decisions taken in territorial terms, with suitable indicators.**
4. **Organizing coordination on territorial cohesion questions at European and national level.**
5. **Supporting and prioritising territorial approaches and projects among all the sector-based policies with a major territorial impact.**

2/ « Including a territorial aspect to sector-based policies»: few key actions

The Ministers responsible for spatial planning and cohesion policy wished to pursue the approach begun in Leipzig and the Azores, aimed at a practical application of the decisions taken, especially by expanding on the conditions for enacting the action line 2 of the 1st Action Programme "influencing EU key dossiers and giving a territorial/urban dimension to sector-based policies".

Several key case files were identified in the Territorial Agenda as especially significant for their contribution to territorial cohesion and for the links to be established with cohesion policy. Here are a few examples:

Development of rural territories

Given the importance and the specificity of the rural stake in the European territorial issues, it seems necessary to consider the rural areas in their diversity and to treat them in a particular and differentiated manner.

The stake of development of rural territories is at the crossroad of a number of European policies, in particular the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the cohesion policy, and it also relates to the contribution of other public policies at national and regional level. Thus it requires a constant effort of consistency.

With the view to adopt a more coherent and effective approach of rural issues, spatial planning ministers propose to the Commission and the ministers responsible for CAP and rural development to consider:

The European sustainable development strategy, in its fight against climate change and adaptation to the different territories

Within the scope of the implementation of the Territorial Agenda, of the contribution of Ministers to the Green Paper of the Commission on the adaptation, adopted in the Azores in 2007, and of the ongoing international negotiations on this issue, the Ministers consider as important to reflect on the impact of climate change on territories, which is one of the aspects of the European sustainable development strategy

The issues raised by climate change and the means to respond to them, are not only a challenge and a constraint but it is also an opportunity for our societies and our economies provided we react with resolute actions of forecasting, prevention and adaptation. Spatial planning and development policies are important to the successful implementation of strategies of adaptation to climate change.

Accordingly, it is necessary to better take into account for the implementation of Community and national policies aiming at mitigation of the impacts and adaptation to climate change, the territorial dimension, in terms of territorial diversity and potential. Mitigation of greenhouse effect gases and adaptation policies to climate change should not dissociated and should be dealt together as two complementary dimensions within the framework of integrated territorial sustainable development strategies of territories.

The Lisbon strategy after 2010

In the Territorial Agenda, the review of the Lisbon Strategy after 2010 was identified as a key case files. It is necessary to insist on:

- the necessity to better take into account the territorial dimension when implementing Lisbon objectives, what requires a strengthening of the stakeholders' role, in particular at local and regional level;
- the importance of Territorial Cohesion for the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy;
- the beneficial element of its connection with the Cohesion Policy.

Besides, considering the concerns expressed by the Committee of the Regions and in order to contribute to the formulation of practical solutions, it appears necessary to Ministers to promote a better involvement of the regional and local stakeholders for the success of the Lisbon Strategy.

Considering as necessary a better consideration of the territorial level both in the definition and implementation of the Community objectives regarding growth and employment, it seems important to facilitate the development of regional integrated strategies adapted to the specificities and potential of each territory. These strategies should be developed on the basis of a thorough territorial, economic and social prospective knowledge of the territories.

Considering that Territorial Cohesion is a full objective of the Lisbon process and a condition for its success, an increased territorialisation (NUTS 2 level) of the Lisbon Strategy would contribute to strengthen competitiveness for all territories and Territorial Cohesion of the Union as a whole. The achievement of this objective requires continuing the efforts to reduce the disparities of development between territories and to enhance the competitiveness and attractiveness of all territories.

The choice of the relevant territorial scale to tackle the challenges which a renewed Lisbon Strategy will have to deal with is decisive:

- spatial concentration of economic activities and innovation,
- intra-community relocations,
- extra-community delocations,
- territories' attractiveness (rural, ultra-peripheral or boarder areas),
- access of all territories and SMEs to innovation,
- clusters-building and networking,
- coordination of employment and training policies.

Transport policy

Germany conducted a similar approach on the European transport policy after 2010, which it will put forth to the Ministers in Marseilles as a first-step report that the French presidency of the European Union will have to implement

THE COHESION POLICY'S RESPONSES TO THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS

On 26 November, the President of the European Commission shall present an economic recovery action plan within the European Union as a response to the economic and financial crisis affecting the whole world. Amongst the measures envisaged by the European Commission, some of them directly concern the economic and social cohesion of the Union.

Actually, this policy whose aim is to foster economic and social convergence of Member States and regions lagging behind the development trail and sustain competitiveness and employment in all the regions of Europe, has an important role to play to revive the economy. With the financial package of over 350 billion Euros for the period 2007-2013, it will be a significant support to public investment in the Member States and regions of the European Union.

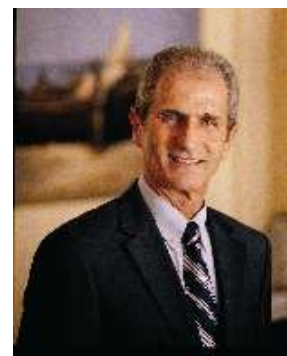
The French Presidency of the European Union has decided to adapt the agenda of the informal ministerial meeting at Marseille to devote enough time to this difficult current situation. Danuta Hübner, European Commissioner in charge of regional policy shall present the measures the Commission intends to propose within the framework of the regional policy to facilitate the completion of projects undertaken in the regions and efficiently orientate it toward sustaining economic activities and employment. An open discussion led by Hubert Falco will follow, to help Ministers attending the meeting in Marseille to debate on these proposals and put forth their own ideas.

ANNEXES

Biography of Hubert Falco

Secretary of State in charge of Spatial Planning

**Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development,
and Town and Country Planning**



Born on May 1947 in Pignans, France
3 children
Company director (S.M.E.)
Knight of the French Order of Agricultural Merit

POLITICAL CAREER

- 1971: Pignans Municipal Councillor
- 1983: Elected Mayor of Pignans
- 1985: Elected General Councillor of the Var Department
- From 1985 to 1994: President of the General Council's Agriculture and Forests Commission
- 1988: Elected Var Député (Member of Parliament)
- 1988: Elected Vice-President of the Var General Council
- 1989: Re-elected Mayor of Pignans
- From 1990 to 1994: Treasurer of the Mayors of France Association
- From 1990 to 1994: President of the Var Department Fire Service
- 1992: Re-elected General Councillor of the Var
- 1993: Re-elected Var Député (Member of Parliament)
- From 1993 to 1994: National Assembly Office Secretary
- 1994: Elected President of the Var General Council
- 1995 (June): Re-elected Mayor of Pignans
- 1995 (September): Elected Senator of the Var
Rapporteur of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Air Forces Commission
- 1996: Accredited Judge at the Court of Justice of the French Republic
- 1996: Deputy Judge at the High Court of Justice of the French Republic
- 1997: President of the Board of Governors at the Toulon-La Seyne Intermunicipal Hospital
- 1997 (October): Elected President of the Centre-West Var Study and Development Mixed Syndicate

- 1998 (March): Re-elected General Councillor of the Besse Constituency
Re-elected President of the Var General Council
- 1998 (June): Re-elected President of the Centre-West Var Study and Development Mixed Syndicate
- 1998 (September): Re-elected Accredited judge at the Court of Justice of the French Republic
Re-elected Deputy Judge at the High Court of Justice of the French Republic
- 1998 (October): Re-elected President of the Board of Governors at the Toulon-La Seyne Intermunicipal Hospital
- 2001 (23 March): Re-elected President of the Var General Council
- 2001 (25 March): Elected Mayor of Toulon
- 2002 (8 February): Elected President of Toulon Provence Méditerranée
- 2002 (17 June): Appointed Minister of State for Elderly People by Jean Pierre Raffarin, Prime Minister of Jacques Chirac
- 2004 (31 March): Appointed Minister with responsibility for elderly people by Jean Pierre Raffarin, Prime Minister of Jacques Chirac
- 2004 (26 September): Re-elected Senator of the Var
Member of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces Commission
- 2004 (28 October): Resignation from Government
- 2008 (9 March): Re-elected Mayor of Toulon on the first ballot (winning 65.2% of the votes)
- 2008 (18 March): Appointed Minister of State for Regional Planning by François Fillon, Prime Minister of Nicolas Sarkozy.
- 2008 (April 2008): Resignation from his term of office as Senator.

Biography of Mrs Danuta Hübner

**Professor Danuta Hübner, Ph. D.
Member of the European Commission**



Personal Details

Nationality: Polish

Born on April 8, 1948, in Nisko, Poland

Two daughters: Ewa and Karolina

Education and academic career

2008 : Honorary Doctorate in Political Science, Università degli Studi, Camerino, Italy

2007 : Honorary Doctorate of the University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria

2005 : Honorary Degree in Laws of the Sussex University

1992 : Scientific title of Professor conferred by the President of the Republic of Poland

1991-1994 : Deputy Director, Institute for Development and Strategic Studies, Warsaw

1988-1990 : Fulbright scholar, University of California, Berkeley

1981-1987 : Deputy Director of the Research Institute for Developing Countries, Warsaw School of Economics

1980 : Post-doctoral degree in international trade relations, Warsaw School of Economics

1974 : Ph. D. in economics, Warsaw School of Economics

1974 : Visiting scholar at the Centre for European Studies at the University of Sussex

1970's : Visiting scholar Universidad Autonoma in Madrid

As of 1971 : Scholar at the Warsaw School of Economics (currently on leave)

1971 : MSc in Economics, Warsaw School of Economics (Central School of Planning and Statistics)

Professional career

As of 1st of May 2004 : Member of the European Commission, Brussels

2003-2004 : Minister for European Affairs, Poland

2001-2003 : Head of Office of the Committee for European Integration and Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland

2000-2001 : United Nations Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva

1998-2000 : Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva

1997-1998 : Minister Head of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland

1996-1997 : Government Plenipotentiary for establishing the Committee for European Integration (KIE), Secretary of KIE with the rank of Secretary of State and Head of the Office of the Committee for European Integration (UKIE)

1995-1996 : Chief Negotiator for accession to OECD

1994-1996 : Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Poland

Extraprofessional activities

Posts in foundations or similar bodies

Member, Commission on Growth and Development, under the auspices of the World Bank

Member of the Scientific Board of the 'Bank and Credit', Polish monthly magazine

Honorary Chairman of the Programming Board of the "Euroregiony", Polish magazine published in Katowice.

Member of the Programme Council of "Nowe Życie Gospodarcze", Polish economic bi-weekly magazine

Member of the association for counteracting social exclusion of persons suffering from psychiatric disorders "MOST", Bydgoszcz

Honorary member of "Soroptimist International Poland — Dom Polski" Association, Warsaw

Member of the Board of Directors, Policy Network and Communications Ltd., London
Member of the Advisory Board, Global Public Policy Institute, Berlin
Member of the Advisory Council of BELA Foundation, Berlin

Posts in educational institutions

Member of the Programme Board of the Polish Institute of Oncology, Warsaw
President of the Programme Board of the Management Institute, Warsaw
Member of the Scientific Council of the State Veterinary Institute in Pulawy
Member of the Scientific Council of the Central Mining Institute, Katowice
Member of the Programme Council of the European Business Academy for Enterprises, Warsaw
Member of the Economic Sciences Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences (2007-2010), Warsaw
1998-2001 : Economic Advisor to the President of the Republic of Poland
1996-1998 : Member of the Scientific Board of Economic Sciences Institute of the Polish Academy of Science
1995-1997 : Member of the National Statistics Council of Poland
1994-1997 : Editor-in-Chief of "Gospodarka Narodowa", Polish monthly
1994-1995 : Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Co-author of the Government Programme "Strategy for Poland"
1992-1996 : Chairperson of the Council for Social Planning, Central Office for Planning
1991-1997 : Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the "Ekonomista", Polish bi-monthly
1987-1996 : Member of the Executive Committee of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes, Geneva