



WORKSHOP ON "MISSING TRANSPORT LINKS IN BORDERS REGIONS".

Tuesday, 28 June 2016

10.00 a.m. – 13.00 p.m.

Room : JDE 53

European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 101

Background

The integrated development of border regions in Europe largely depends on the availability of transport infrastructure which allows short crossings between cities, businesses and citizens located on both sides of the border. Border regions are increasingly understood as functional regions which can exploit their full potential for growth and employment only if there is a sufficient internal connectivity between both sides of the border and an external connectivity with the wider European networks.

Missing links in border regions form part of a wider issue: lack of financing for the development of local and regional transport infrastructure. While in recent years the European Union has focused on providing solutions for large scale Trans-European transport Infrastructures using in particular the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), there are only few resources available through instruments such as the INTERREG programme to address the challenge of closing the missing links in small scale infrastructure in Europe's border regions.

This is why it is important to assess the needs for closing the missing links in small scale infrastructures in Europe and to find ways to finance them in the future. TEN-T networks are crucial for the sustainable development of Europe's regions. However, whilst the majority of funding is dedicated to TEN-T core networks, the local and regional comprehensive networks should not be overlooked. The review of the multi-annual financial framework of the EU at the end of 2016 could be an excellent opportunity to put forward new proposals for providing EU support for closing the missing links in the future.

The workshop will debate the recommendation of the study commissioned by the European Committee of the Regions and have a look at existing transport gaps in border regions. The seminar will be focused on recommendations on how these links could be closed by mobilising additional resources including private investment and by focusing on targets that are achievable. The objective of the workshop is to initiate the establishment of an ad hoc group at the working level between the interested stakeholders and establishing an action plan. The outcome of the discussions could serve as a valuable resource in the preparatory work for the upcoming COTER opinion on missing transport links in border regions.

Agenda

10:00 -10:15	Welcome and introduction by Coen Mekers, Senior Advisor Province of Gelderland (Netherlands)
10:15 – 10:50	Presentation of the study "The potential of closing missing links of small scale infrastructure in Europe's border regions" Wolfgang Schausberger – Consultant, METIS GmbH <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of cross border passenger flows and infrastructure• Existing funds, possible financing through EFIS, EFSI and EIB and other options for developing small scale transport infrastructure• Case studies• Recommendations of the study
10:50 – 11.10	Presentation of DG Move on their recent activities on missing transport links <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gudrun Schulze, Team Leader, DG Move, Trans European Network
11:10 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:00	Experience from the ground <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mário Fernandes, Director of Planning, Infraestruturas de Portugal S.A. The case of Euroregion Extramadura/ Alentejo, ES/PT border- Sandra Sodini, Director, EGTC GO. The case of train connection Gorizia- Nova Gorica, IT/SLO border
12:00 – 12:45	Discussion with participants: further steps to close missing transport links in border regions
12:45 – 13:00	Conclusions by Thomas Wobben, Director, the CoR

Practical information

You can already register to participate in this workshop. You are kindly asked to **register your participation before 1.00 p.m. on 27 June 2016** by sending an email to the following email address: coter@cor.europa.eu.

For more information, please contact Petr Votoupal, Tel: +32 2 282 2214: in the COTER Commission secretariat, e-mail: petr.votoupal@cor.europa.eu
