



Kolding, 7 May, 2012

Dear friends!

Today I am writing you in my capacity as the President of the Conference of European Cross-Border and Interregional City Networks – CECICN. This network of networks involves six cooperation networks that represent more than 500 cities and border regions and 37% of European population.

I want to inform about the very successful conversations that I have done together with the Board of CECICN with various EU institutions on 2/3 May 2012 in Brussels.

These high-level talks had the following objectives:

- Increase the awareness of CECICN at the European Union
- Discussion of our key ideas for future territorial cooperation in Europe
- Promote our conference in La Coruna in June 2012
- Explore the possibilities of cooperation between the EU institutions and CECICN

We had the chance to discuss intensively with the President of the Committee of the Regions, Mercedes Bresso and Michel Delebarre, Chair of the Commission COTER and President of the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT). In addition, we could discuss our concerns with Normunds Popenis, Deputy Director General for Regional Policy and Pierre Delsaux, Deputy Director General for Internal Market and Services.

All in all we had the chance to present our main demands:

- Financing Territorial Cooperation in Cohesion Policy
- Improving the strategic dimension of cooperation
- Developing the tools for Territorial Cooperation
- Contributing to the Single Market to overcome the economic crisis

In all the conversations we have had a great interest in CECICN and our demands. We have been asked to inquire about the interests of our members systematically, to bundle these interests and discuss the practical implementation with the EU administration.

In addition, observer status at the Committee of the Regions and a prominent role in the design of the Open Days were offered.

Dear friends, we are on the right way! Now, you have the chance to register for the 1st Congress on Smart Cooperation, to be held on 25/26 June, 2012 in A Coruña (Spain). The aim is to discuss key messages and goals and transmit them to the European Institutions. All participant institutions will have the opportunity to transmit their position to the representatives of the European Institutions attending to the congress.

Registration is open under www.cecicn.eu

Yours sincerely

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President UBC
President CECICN

