

CoE legal instruments on CBC: are they useful and still relevant?

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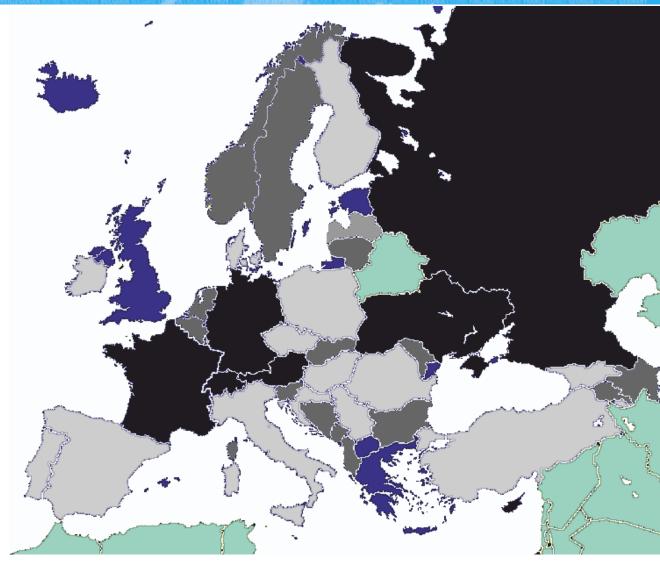


Madrid Convention = 39

Additional Protocol = 24

Protocol 2 = 23

Protocol 3 = 7













State

Albania Andorra

Cyprus Czech Republic

Hungary Iceland

Latvia

Lithuania Luxembourg Malta

Madrid Convention

Additional Protocol

Second Protocol

Third Protocol

EGTC





Madrid Outline Convention

- The Convention does not establish a "right" of local authorities in such cooperation, but rather an obligation for the states (as contractors) to "facilitate and promote" cross -border cooperation of local authorities.
- CBC is defined as any concerted action designed to strengthen and promote neighbourly relations between local communities and authorities belonging to two contracting states.











Madrid Outline Convention

- CBC may take place within the jurisdiction (i.e. competences and powers) which local authorities have under applicable domestic law (Art. 2, § 1). The Contracting States may (Art. 2, § 2) indicate to which local authorities the Convention is (or is not) applicable and in which fields local authorities can engage in CBC.
- States may list those local authorities to which the Convention applies or does not apply. States may subordinate local communities and authorities' right to cooperate across borders to the signature of bilateral agreements (treaties) between States (Art. 3, § 2).
- Overall obligation is the respect of foreign policy options of the State.







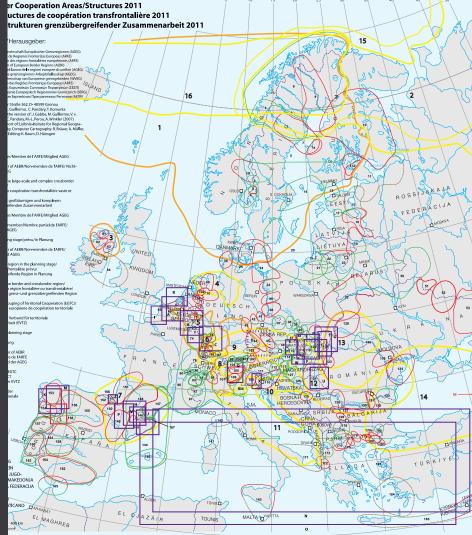




















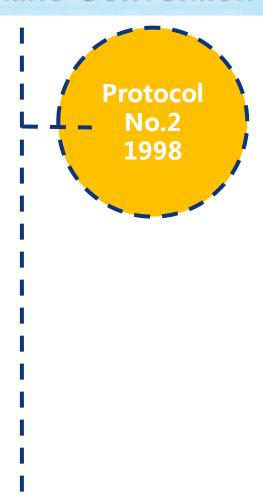




Protocol No. 2 Madrid Outline Convention

• The Madrid Outline Convention refers to transfrontier cooperation (i.e. CBC), that is, those forms of "concerted action" that can be put in place between neighbouring local authorities (i.e. "neighbourly relations"). It does not explicitly state that cooperation must take place between local authorities separated by the same border.

 Experience has shown, however, that CBC activities may develop even among non-contiguous local authorities. This raised the issue of applicability of the Madrid Outline Convention to local authorities geographically distant from the border and located far from each other.







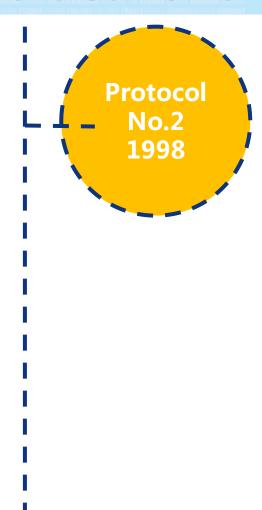






Protocol No. 2 Madrid Outline Convention

- Protocol No. 2 defines interterritorial cooperation as any concerted action designed to establish relations between territorial communities or authorities of two or more Contracting Parties, other than relations of transfrontier cooperation of neighbouring authorities, including the conclusion of co-operation agreements with territorial communities or authorities of other States.
- Interterritorial co-operation is made equivalent to transfrontier cooperation. In addition, local authorities that could not previously engage in such activities under the Madrid Outline Convention see that their right to promote discussions and agreements (in matters of common competence) is now recognised (Art. 2). Contracting States shall, on their part, undertake to recognise and respect this right.











Additional Protocol Madrid Outline Convention

- Local communities and authorities involved in CBC may sign agreements with their counterparts across borders. Such agreements may include the purpose, content and arrangements of CBC, yet within the abovementioned restrictions (i.e. compliance with domestic law).
- These agreements may also create structures, organisations, institutions in which the authorities concerned pursue and implement their cooperation. These structures can be more or less complex, temporary or permanent, may or may not have legal personality, etc. according to the law of the headquarters' state.







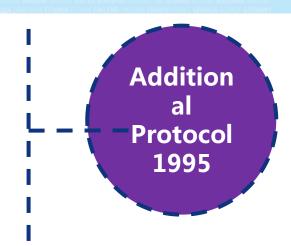






Additional Protocol Madrid Outline Convention

This Protocol responds to concrete CBC developments.
Local communities and authorities engaging in CBC activities across borders tend to develop CBC arrangements to coordinate, promote and support CBC itself. Such structures serve as contact structures; they can promote ongoing dialogue between CBC partners, support information exchange, and establish common offices to carry out specific activities.







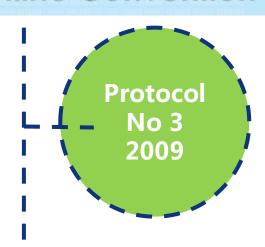






Protocol No.3 Madrid Outline Convention

- Protocol No. 3 provides the legal status and operational form of the Euroregional Co-operation Groupings (ECGs).
- ECGs may be composed of local authorities and other public agencies of member countries with the aim of putting into practice cross-border and inter-territorial cooperation in the areas covered by their role and responsibilities. States, from the moment of ratification of the Protocol, can indicate all those communities, local authorities, public law and private entities that they wish to exclude from the scope and applicability of the Protocol (Art. 16).







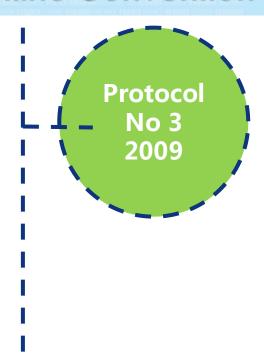






Protocol No.3 Madrid Outline Convention

- Protocol No. 3 allows for the establishment of CBC bodies with or without legal personality (in this case the protocol connects the legal personality to the law applicable in the state where the ECG has its headquarters). In addition, the Protocol provides the basic rules for the establishment, membership conditions, tasks and responsibilities of the ECG.
- Territorial communities or authorities of non Member States may under certain conditions become members too.

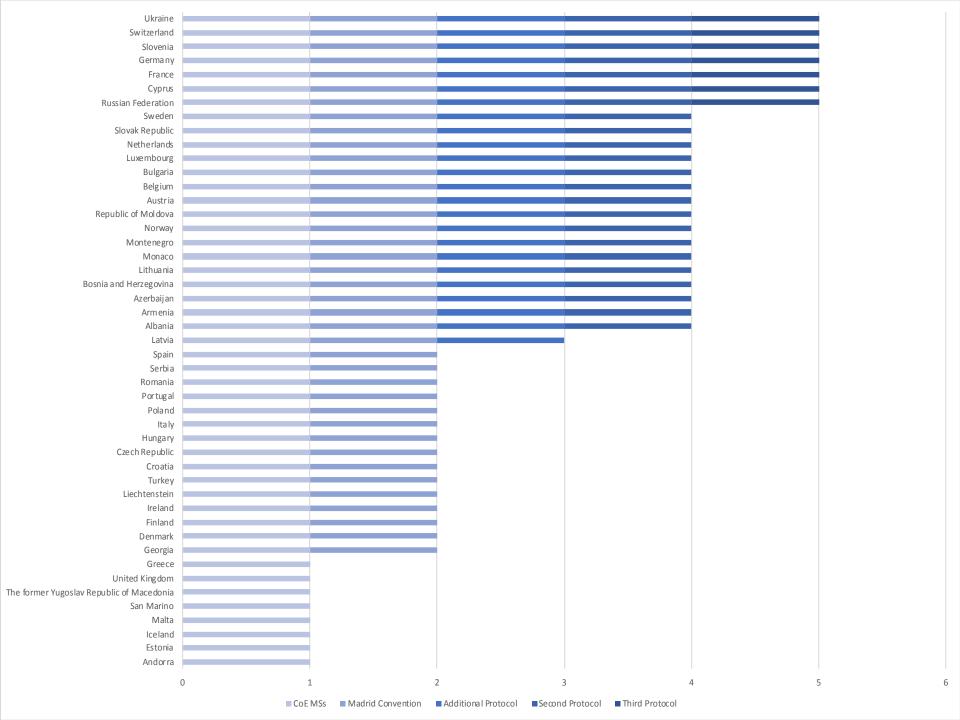














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