

ALBANIA ALBANIE ANDORRA ANDORRE ARMENIA ARMÉNIE AUSTRIA AUTRICHE AZERBAIJAN AZÉRBАІDJAN BELGIUM BELGIQUE BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA BOSNIE HERZEGOVINE BULGARIA BULGARIE CROATIA CROATIE CYPRUS CHYPRE CZECH REPUBLIC REPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE DENMARK DANEMARK ESTONIA ESTONIE FINLAND FINLANDE FRANCE FRANCE GEORGIA GÉORGIE GERMANY ALLEMAGNE GREECE GRÈCE HUNGARY HONGRIE ICELAND ISLANDE IRELAND IRLANDE ITALY ITALIE LATVIA LETTONIE LIECHTENSTEIN LIECHTENSTEIN LITHUANIA LITUANIE LUXEMBOURG LUXEMBOURG MALTA MALTE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA MONACO MONACO MONTENEGRO MONTÉNÈGRE NETHERLANDS PAYS-BAS NORWAY NORVÈGE POLAND Pologne PORTUGAL PORTUGAL ROMANIA ROUMANIE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE SAN MARINO SAINT-MARIN SERBIA SERBIE SLOVAK REPUBLIC RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE SLOVENIA SLOVÈNIE SPAIN ESPAGNE SWEDEN SUÈDE SWITZERLAND SUISSE «THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA» «L'EX-RÉPUBLIQUE YOUGOSLAVE DE MACÉDOINE» TURKEY TURQUIE UKRAINE UKRAÏNE UNITED KINGDOM ROYAUME-UNI ALBANIA ALBANIE ANDORRA ANDORRE ARMENIA ARMÉNIE AUSTRIA AUTRICHE AZERBAIJAN AZÉRBАІDJAN BELGIUM BELGIQUE BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA BOSNIE HERZEGOVINE BULGARIA BULGARIE CROATIA CROATIE CYPRUS CHYPRE CZECH REPUBLIC REPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE DENMARK DANEMARK ESTONIA ESTONIE FINLAND FINLANDE FRANCE FRANCE GEORGIA GÉORGIE GERMANY ALLEMAGNE GREECE GRÈCE HUNGARY HONGRIE ICELAND ISLANDE IRELAND IRLANDE ITALY ITALIE LATVIA LETTONIE LIECHTENSTEIN LIECHTENSTEIN LITHUANIA LITUANIE LUXEMBOURG LUXEMBOURG MALTA MALTE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA MONACO MONACO MONTENEGRO MONTÉNÈGRE NETHERLANDS PAYS-BAS NORWAY NORVÈGE POLAND Pologne PORTUGAL PORTUGAL ROMANIA ROUMANIE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE SAN MARINO SAINT-MARIN SERBIA SERBIE SLOVAK REPUBLIC RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE SLOVENIA SLOVÈNIE SPAIN ESPAGNE SWEDEN SUÈDE SWITZERLAND SUISSE «THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA» «L'EX-RÉPUBLIQUE YOUGOSLAVE DE MACÉDOINE» TURKEY TURQUIE UKRAINE UKRAÏNE UNITED KINGDOM ROYAUME-UNI ALBANIA ALBANIE ANDORRA ANDORRE ARMENIA ARMÉNIE AUSTRIA AUTRICHE AZERBAIJAN AZÉRBАІDJAN BELGIUM BELGIQUE BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA BOSNIE HERZEGOVINE BULGARIA BULGARIE CROATIA CROATIE CYPRUS CHYPRE CZECH REPUBLIC REPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE DENMARK DANEMARK ESTONIA ESTONIE FINLAND FINLANDE FRANCE FRANCE GEORGIA GÉORGIE GERMANY ALLEMAGNE GREECE GRÈCE HUNGARY HONGRIE ICELAND ISLANDE IRELAND IRLANDE ITALY ITALIE LATVIA LETTONIE LIECHTENSTEIN LIECHTENSTEIN LITHUANIA LITUANIE LUXEMBOURG LUXEMBOURG MALTA MALTE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA MONACO MONACO MONTENEGRO MONTÉNÈGRE NETHERLANDS PAYS-BAS NORWAY NORVÈGE POLAND Pologne PORTUGAL PORTUGAL ROMANIA ROUMANIE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE SAN MARINO SAINT-MARIN SERBIA SERBIE SLOVAK REPUBLIC RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE SLOVENIA SLOVÈNIE SPAIN ESPAGNE SWEDEN SUÈDE SWITZERLAND SUISSE «THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA» «L'EX-RÉPUBLIQUE YOUGOSLAVE DE MACÉDOINE» TURKEY TURQUIE UKRAINE UKRAÏNE UNITED KINGDOM ROYAUME-UNI ALBANIA ALBANIE ANDORRA ANDORRE ARMENIA ARMÉNIE AUSTRIA AUTRICHE AZERBAIJAN AZÉRBАІDJAN BELGIUM BELGIQUE BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA BOSNIE HERZEGOVINE BULGARIA BULGARIE CROATIA CROATIE CYPRUS CHYPRE CZECH REPUBLIC REPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE DENMARK DANEMARK ESTONIA ESTONIE FINLAND FINLANDE FRANCE FRANCE GEORGIA GÉORGIE GERMANY ALLEMAGNE GREECE GRÈCE HUNGARY HONGRIE ICELAND ISLANDE IRELAND IRLANDE ITALY ITALIE LATVIA LETTONIE LIECHTENSTEIN LIECHTENSTEIN LITHUANIA LITUANIE LUXEMBOURG LUXEMBOURG MALTA MALTE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA MONACO MONACO MONTENEGRO MONTÉNÈGRE NETHERLANDS PAYS-BAS NORWAY NORVÈGE POLAND Pologne PORTUGAL PORTUGAL ROMANIA ROUMANIE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE SAN MARINO SAINT-MARIN SERBIA SERBIE SLOVAK REPUBLIC RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE SLOVENIA SLOVÈNIE SPAIN ESPAGNE SWEDEN SUÈDE SWITZERLAND SUISSE «THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA» «L'EX-RÉPUBLIQUE YOUGOSLAVE DE MACÉDOINE» TURKEY TURQUIE UKRAINE UKRAÏNE UNITED KINGDOM ROYAUME-UNI

**HUMAN RIGHTS,
DEMOCRACY
AND THE RULE OF LAW**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**DROITS DE L'HOMME,
DÉMOCRATIE
ET ÉTAT DE DROIT**

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN EUROPE: DECENTRALISATION, LEGAL FRAMEWORKS, AND PRACTICE

Cross-Border Cooperation: possibilities, but also challenges and obstacles – A point of view from Flanders, Belgium



International Conference
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN EUROPE
25 May 2018 | Dubrovnik, Croatia

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- 2. **Council of Europe:** all CoE instruments for CBC have been approved by Flanders
- 3. **European Union**
- Implemented by an act of the Flemish Parliament of 21 December 2007 and a decree of the Flemish Government of 18 January 2008, as amended by the decree of the Flemish Government of 26 September 2008
- Limited implementation: f.i. consent for Flemish entities to participate given by the Flemish minister for Home Affairs
- 5 EGTC with Flemish participation
- Keep it simple: complex structures drains money and means away from the real purpose, which is to enhance CBC.



- Advantages of CBC on the base of the Benelux set of instruments for CBC:
 - No prior consent is required;
 - Flexibility: different forms for CBC
- Situation of the Flemish municipality of Baarle-Hertog and the Dutch municipality of Baarle-Nassau: enclaves.

5. The Belgian - French agreement for CBC

- Signed in 2002
- Only two applications



6. Border consultation between Flanders and the Netherlands

- Regular CBC consultation takes place between Flemish and Dutch authorities.
- The agenda of the meetings has the following structure:
 - 1° to inform;
 - 2° to tackle the obstacles through the assignment of the competent authorities for dealing with the concerned issues and follow-up;
 - 3° an common exploration of possibilities for CBC.



7. Impact of territorial reforms on the development of CBC

- Territorial reforms take place in Flanders
- They concern mainly the amalgamation of municipalities and the slimming down/ the decrease in competences of the provinces.
- The new amalgamated municipality will accede to the CBC forms of which one or more of the previous municipalities belonged.
- Larger municipalities will bring more governance capacity to them, which will give on its turn more capacity to them for dealing with CBC issues.



• 8. Difficulties, challenges, obstacles to CBC in Flanders

- Cumbersome structures in some EGTC
- Different languages
- Different administrative cultures
- Different cultures
- Different political or policy importance/ priorities

Thank you for your attention!

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