

# **Territorial Agenda of the EU**

## **Guidance Note**

**(as of 26 June 2006)**

**Prepared by the Coordinator of the Editorial Group**

**Sent by Coming Presidencies Group / Editorial Group to EU 25**

**(via email on 13 June 2006)**

### **Preliminary Remarks:**

**At the EU Working Level Meeting in London on 13/14 December 2005 it was suggested to extract the policy observations from the Territorial State and Perspectives of the EU Document and to compile them in a separate document, the Territorial Agenda of the EU.**

**(The proceedings of the 6th Conference of Ministers for Spatial Planning and Development held in Gdańsk on 19 September 2005 may serve as an example.)**

**On the occasion of the Informal Ministerial for Territorial Cohesion to be held in Leipzig on 24 May 2007 Ministers responsible for Spatial Development in EU Member States will agree upon the Territorial Agenda of the EU being based on the Territorial State and Perspectives of the EU Document.**

**The Informal Ministerial supports to position spatial and urban development in a wider European context.**

**It thus contributes to sustainable economic growth, innovation and a knowledge society as well as territorial and social cohesion.**

## **Part A – Introduction**

### **1. General Approach and Aim**

(1) The Territorial Agenda of the EU resumes – in the light of the Lisbon and the Gothenburg Agenda – key policy messages for the EU. It formulates policy recommendations for mobilising the diverse territorial potentials in Europe for sustainable economic growth and more jobs aiming at strengthening Europe's competitiveness in the world. At the same time it addresses relevant EU Sector Policies in particular as well as spatially relevant policies in general in order to enabling these to better consider local, regional and national sector policies and development ideas for enhancing efficiency on the EU level.

(2) In times of designing and starting the upcoming financial perspectives for the period 2007-2013, of influencing regional and urban development by EU Structural Funds and environmental policies, of a consolidation in Trans-European Infrastructure Networks, and of facing the challenges of globalisation a new understanding of development and planning in Europe's regions and cities is necessary. Integrative spatial and urban development approaches constitute the basis for spending available funds more place-based and target-oriented. There is a need to let the territory talk politics.

(3) The Territorial Agenda of the EU strengthens the different regional diversities through supporting regional specialisation by each region and city relying on its own strengths and territorial division of labour while fostering Europe-wide networking and cooperation. In doing likewise it supports bringing Europe closer to its citizens and relevant stakeholders emphasizing that they both form an integral part of the European Territorial Model.

(4) The Territorial Agenda of the EU has no binding character, it delivers policy recommendations, and it sets a framework for national spatial development policies based on the assumption that no European regions should withdraw from the Lisbon Process.

### **2. Process**

(4) The process of compiling and applying the Territorial Agenda of the EU is a permanent political cooperative process amongst EU Member States. At their Informal Ministerial in Rotterdam on 29 November 2004 Ministers responsible for Spatial Development agreed upon introducing the territorial dimension in the Lisbon Process, to present opportunities for better using the territorial diversity and potentials of Europe. The analytical outcomes are collected in the Territorial State and Perspectives of the EU Document being the basis for the Territorial Agenda of the EU. At their Informal Ministerial in Luxembourg on 20/21 May 2005 Ministers arrived at the conclusion to give way to six priorities of territorial resources (see part B of this Guidance Note and part C, chapter 4 of the Territorial State and Perspectives of the EU Document) for analysis, discussion and agreement, and to discuss outcomes with stakeholders.

### **3. Political Background**

(5) The Territorial Agenda of the EU concretises the economic aspects – embedded in the context of sustainability – of both the ESDP and the CEMAT Guiding Principles. The European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) and the CEMAT (European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning) Guiding Principles constitute the basis.

(6) The Territorial Agenda of the EU not only take the EU Enlargement into consideration, but also the different Spatial Visions of Transnational Cooperation Areas having been strengthened in the framework of the EU Community Initiative INTERREG III B. These areas considerably contribute to implementing the Lisbon Agenda in order to stimulate sustainable economic growth as well as other European macro regions do, e.g. in risk management. Initiating future cooperation projects in these areas shall thus demonstrate their multiplying competency and added value for and in Europe.

## **Part B – Key Policy Messages**

### **4. Territorial Potentials and Priorities – Territory Talks Politics**

#### **Promoting Urban Development Networking in a Polycentric Pattern**

(7) (Promoting a Territorial Policy for Agglomerations, Cities and Urban Areas in a Polycentric Pattern as Motors of Europe's Development)

... (To be further elaborated in the framework of the stakeholder dialogue.)

#### **Strengthening Urban-Rural Partnership**

(8) (Strengthening Urban-Rural Partnerships and Ensuring a Sufficient Level of Services of General Interest for Balanced Territorial Development)

... (To be further elaborated in the framework of the stakeholder dialogue.)

#### **Promoting Trans-National Competitive and Innovative Clusters of Regions**

(9) (Promoting Trans-)National Clusters of Competitive and Innovative Activities [by Strengthening the International Identity and Specialisation of Cities / Regions and Identifying Priorities for Cooperation and Synergies in Investments, Including Cooperation on Territorial Development, Job Markets, Training, Education, R&D, Capital Risk for SME etc])

... (To be further elaborated in the framework of the stakeholder dialogue.)

#### **Strengthening Trans-European Technological Networks**

(10) (Strengthening the Main Trans-European Transport, ICT and Energy Networks in View of Connecting Poles in the EU and their Links to Secondary Networks [with Special Attention to Development Corridors, the Accessibility of Naturally or Geographically Handicapped Areas, Maritime Links and Connections to EU Neighbours])

... (To be further elaborated in the framework of the stakeholder dialogue.)

#### **Promoting Trans-European Risk Management**

(11) (Promoting Trans-European Technological and Natural Risk Management, Including Integrated Development of Coastal Zones, Maritime Basins, River Basins and Mountain Areas)

... (To be further elaborated in the framework of the stakeholder dialogue.)

#### **Strengthening Ecological Structures and Cultural Resources**

(12) (Strengthening the Main Trans-European Ecological Structures and Cultural Resources)

... (To be further elaborated in the framework of the stakeholder dialogue.)

## **Part C – Action Programme**

### **5. Recommendations for the EU Level**

(13) ...

### **6. Recommendations for the National Level**

(14) Each EU Member State should ensure – within its own institutional framework – that needs of local and regional stakeholders are appropriately considered when focusing spatially relevant issues.

### **7. Good Practices**

(15) ... (To be selected in the framework of the stakeholder dialogue.)