

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN BORDER REGIONS 2017

“Periphery – In the Centre of Cohesion”

Organised by:
Euroregion EUROACE – Alentejo-Centro-Extremadura
Association of European Border Regions



Alcántara Bridge, located near the intersection of the borders of the three regions Alentejo, Centro and Extremadura (Photo: Abraham Figuerido)

Programme of the Cross-Border Events Week
23 – 28 October 2017



Guillermo Fernández Vara
Presidente



JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

Dear Friends from European Border Regions

On behalf of my colleagues the Presidents of Alentejo, Mr Roberto Grilo, and Centro de Portugal (Center of Portugal), Mrs Ana Abrunhosa, I would like to welcome you in our home euroregion EUROACE Alentejo - Center of Portugal - Extremadura (Spain), to the Conference of European Border Regions, which will take place in the framework of a week full of cross-border events.

Our border is one of the oldest in Europe: the *Treaty of Badajoz* was signed in this town in 1267 and tried to establish lines of mutual assistance and friendship. 750 years have been a long time and our History, as the History of all the European borders, has been full of disagreements and conflicts. Nowadays everything is different and those lines of friendship and mutual assistance have become reality and we share a new scenario where cross-border cooperation is a part of our everyday life.

The walls of that frontier are now a treasure for us and we can take profit from living at a euroregion with a rich cultural diversity. We have been working together for several decades and we all know that the exchange of experiences and common representation of interests among all European border regions contribute to increasing the quality of life of the citizens living in our regions.

Border regions are a key element in Europe. Many of us live in the periphery of the continent but our role is crucial to achieving the necessary cohesion for our future in common because our continent needs more thread and needle than scissors: it is time to sewing instead of cutting.

The Conference of European Border Regions will be held in Badajoz under the title *Periphery - In the Centre of Cohesion* and there will be four different sessions to tackle issues such as 'Cross-Border Cooperation in the light of the 7th Cohesion Report', 'Cross Border Cooperation as driving force for the future European Cohesion', 'Circular Economy in Border Regions' and the 'Generation of Cross-Border Cooperation Societies'.

The framework programme will offer manifold opportunities to get acquainted with the diversity of our euroregion. This European Conference is organized on a cross-border level: we will travel from Badajoz (Extremadura, Spain) to Elvas (Alentejo, Portugal) and we will visit some other towns at the Spanish-Portuguese border.

Looking forward to meeting you in Euroregion EUROACE, Alentejo – Centro - Extremadura

With best regards,

Guillermo Fernández Vara
President of the Regional Government of Extremadura (Spain)

(Version: 19th October 2017)

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS *(Cáceres, Mérida, Badajoz)*

Monday, 23 October

EU-Latin American CBC and International Cooperation Forum

(venue: "San Francisco" Cultural Institution, Cáceres)

Final Event of the Technical Assistance Project with the AEXCID (Extremadura International Cooperation Agency) and report about AEBR implemented activities in Latin America in 2010-2017, including AEBR's legislative recommendations to four Andean countries. *AEBR Global Project*.

Organizers: AEBR, AEXCID,

Further information and registration:

http://www.aebr.eu/en/events/events_detail.php?event_id=586

Working Language: Spanish

Tuesday, 24th October

CB School

(Venue: University of Extremadura, Cáceres)

Promoters: Radboud University, Province of Gelderland, Euroregion Rhine-Waal, AEBR

Organizers: promoters and the University of Extremadura

Participants: AEBR members, CBC researchers

Session with researchers and practitioners in CBC to share different views about current and future CBC.

Further information and registration:

http://www.aebr.eu/en/events/events_detail.php?event_id=587

Wednesday, 25th October 2017

European Commission (DG Regio)'s Workshop for Spanish, Portuguese, French and Italian Border and Cross-Border Regions, on the Commission's Communication on "Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions"

Venue: Assembly of Extremadura (Regional Parliament), Mérida

Organizers: DG Regio (European Commission), EuroACE (Alentejo-Centro-Extremadura), AEBR

Participants: POCTEP, POCTEFA, the Principality of Andorra, the Regional Governments of Basque Country, Navarra, Aragón, Catalunya, Galicia, Castilla y León, Extremadura and Andalucía; the Coordination and Development Commissions of Norte, Centro, Alentejo and Algarve; the Regional Governments of Nouvelle Aquitaine, and Occitanie. The Ministries and other CBC stakeholders.

DG Regio has published information about this event in the link below and sent the invitations to the stakeholders:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/conferences/boosting_merida/

Thursday, 26th October 2017

AEBR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Meeting
Badajoz, Edificio Siglo XXI

- 08.30** Registration of participants (members of the Executive Committee)
- 09.00** Meeting of the AEBR **Executive Committee**
- 10.00** End of the meeting

AEBR GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Badajoz, Edificio Siglo XXI

- 10.15** Meeting in Plenary of the AEBR **General Assembly** (for AEBR members in good standing): *Regularia* issues and Election of AEBR President
- 11.45** End of the Plenary and Coffee Break
- 12.15** Workshops organized by the AEBR *Task Forces* in the framework of the GA
- 14.00** Lunch

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15.30 Official Opening

Guillermo Fernández Vara, President of the Regional Government of Extremadura

Francisco Xavier Fragoso, Mayor of Badajoz

Roberto Grilo, President of the CCDR de Alentejo, President of EUROACE

Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions

Video message of the Commissioner for Regional Policy and Urban Development, Corina Crețu

16.00 (16:15) 1st Session: CBC in the light of the 7th Cohesion Report

Moderation: Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions

Key-note speech: Ana Paula Laissy, Head of Interreg, Cross-Border Cooperation and Internal Borders Unit, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Speakers: Rosa Balas Torres, DG of External Action, Government of Extremadura

Heli Hjälm, member of the regional board of North Karelia (FI/RU)

Michael Fahmüller, EUREGIO Bayerischer Wald – Böhmerwald – Unterer Inn (DE/AT/CZ), District Councillor of Rottal-Inn District

Lasse Juliussen, County Councillor, Hedmark County Council (NO/SE)

Jean Peyrony, Director General of Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)

17.45 Coffee Break

18.15 2nd Session: **CBC – driving force of the future European Cohesion**

Moderation: Bernhard Bramlage, AEBR Vice-President (NL/DE)

Key-note speech: Martín Guillermo Ramírez, Secretary General of AEBR

Speakers: Krzysztof Soska, President of the Association of Polish Municipalities of Euroregion Pomerania (PL/DE), Vice-President of the City of Szczecin

Gabriele Lackner-Strauss, President of EUREGIO Bayerischer Wald / Böhmerwald / Mühlviertel (AT/CZ/DE), Vice-President of AEBR

Stefanos Georgiades, President of Euroregion Nestos-Mesta (GR/BG), President of the Chamber of Drama

Laurent Frideres, Head of Unit for Evidence and Outreach, ESPON EGTC

Heikki Aalto, Chief Executive Officer Bothnian Arc (SE/FI)

Ester Gomes da Silva, Vice-President of CCDR Norte

19:45 End of the first day

21.30 Reception-Dinner at San Cristóbal Fortress, offered by the Badajoz City Council

Music show

Friday, 27 October

09.00 3rd Session: ***The Case of the Host: Circular Economy in Border Regions*** (tourism, natural and cultural heritages, civil protection, ...)

Moderation: Jorge Pulido Valente, Vice-President of CCDR Alentejo

Video message of the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas

Key-note speech: *Natural Capital and Circular Economy in Border Regions*
Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director of Natural Capital, DG Environment, European Commission

Video message of Commissioner Carlos Moedas (Research, Science and Innovation)

Speakers: Santos Jorna Escobero, Coordinator of Local Actions, Junta de Extremadura

Raúl Martín Bejarano, Director of Sports Infrastructure, Junta de Extremadura

Ana Abrunhosa, President of CCDR Centro

Astrid Vliebergh, Head of Unit Economy, European and International Cooperation at Province of East Flanders, Euregio Scheldemond (BE/NL)

- 11.00** Coffee Break
- 11.30** 4th Session: **the Generation of CB Societies** (P2P projects, volunteering, new generation cross-border operations)
- Moderation: Zbigniew Kulik, Vice-President of AEBR, Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa
- Key-note speech: Pavel Branda, CoR Rapporteur on People-to-people and small scale projects in cross-border cooperation programmes, Vice-President of AEBR
- Speakers: Nacho Sánchez Amor, Member of the Spanish Parliament, Chair of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, Special Representative on OSCE Border Issues
- Vladica Tošić, Co-President of Euroregion Nišava (RS/BG)
- Pamela Arthurs, Chief Executive Officer of East Border Region (IE/UK)
- Fulga Turcu, Director of the Joint Technical Secretariat - Joint Operational Programme Romania - Republic of Moldova ENI 2014-2020, Regional Office for Cross Border Cooperation Iasi for the Romania-Republic of Moldova Border (BRCT Iasi)
- Harald Altekrüger, Landrat of Landkreis Spree-Neiße, President of Euroregion Spree-Neiße-Bober (DE/PL)
- Aguibou Diarrah, Expert in African CBC
- 13.15** Presentation of the GAAC 2018 in Bothnian Arc (FI/SE)
- 13.45** Closing Session of the Conference of European Border Regions
- 14.00** Lunch and transfer to the hotels
- 17.30** **Departure to Elvas**
- 17.00 (Portuguese time) ***
- Visit to the "Forte da Graça" and City of Elvas, World Heritage Site
- 20.00 (Portuguese time) ***
- Reception offered by Elvas City Hall. Bestowal of the AEBR Award "Sail of Papenburg"

* Note: When crossing the border, the applied timing changes (one hour less in Portugal). In this programme, the local time has been used all the time.



Saturday, 28 October

09.00 Departure from Badajoz

09.45 Study visit to the Puente Ajuda and Monsaraz

Presentation of some milestones in the history of the Spanish-Portuguese border.

Wine of honour offered by *Câmara Municipal* de Reguengos de Monsaraz,

13.00 (Portuguese time) *

End of the programme. Transfers to Lisbon and Badajoz.

Badajoz

Badajoz is the most populated city in Extremadura. It is just 5 km from its urban centre to the border with Portugal. Founded in 875, Badajoz preserves the largest Arab citadel in Europe, a 13th century cathedral and a walled and fortified complex of more than 6000 m in length. In 1267, the Treaty of Badajoz was signed, which fixed the borders between Portugal and Castile.

Elvas

This Portuguese city is located on the border next to Badajoz, and conserves one of the most complete fortified bastions of the world and an aqueduct of the XVI-XVII century of more than eight kilometres in length. In 2012, UNESCO declared Elvas a World Heritage.

Puente Ajuda

This bridge, which was built in the sixteenth century, suffered various destructions throughout history, the last of them in 1709 during the War of Succession. In 2000, Portugal built a new bridge 200 meters from the previous one.

Monsaraz

A small Portuguese village located on a hill with a great view on the great lake of Alqueva. Within its walled enclosure, you can find the castle (13th century) some streets with white houses that make it considered to be one of the most beautiful places of Portugal.