



Arc Manche Position on the European Territorial Co-operation Objective

1st July 2004

Arc Manche:

- Welcomes the proposals in the 3rd Cohesion Report as a major contribution to economic, social and territorial cohesion within the enlarged European Union, as well as the link established between regional competitiveness and sustainable development of the EU territory.
- Supports, as a minimum, the proposals from the Prodi Commission concerning the financial perspectives (1.24% of the European Union GNI), considering it is necessary to provide sufficient financial means for cohesion policy.
- Welcomes the creation of a «European territorial co-operation objective » as a fundamental added value activity in Europe
- Welcomes that the Commission intends to prepare a legal instrument to support cross-border cooperation programmes and projects and would welcome this instrument to be applicable to all types of co-operation: interregional, transnational or cross-border.
- Welcomes the recognition of maritime borders in the Cooperation Objective and recommend that local and regional authorities play a key role in the definition of areas eligible for the cross-border strand of the future Cooperation Objective.
- Urges the Commission to continue to make interregional co- European territorial Co-operation Objective itself in order to facilitate the matching of partners, especially between regions from the previous EU 15 Member States and regions from the 10 new Member states.

- Welcomes the proposal of the Commission to assess the effectiveness of current transnational cooperation areas and recommends that maritime regions be recognised as specific transnational areas having to deal with issues specific to them.
- Urges that local and regional authorities along the Channel be involved in the assessment that Member States will make of current transnational cooperation areas.
- Emphasises that the Channel area is a coherent area for cooperation. The importance of co-operation within the Channel area will allow common issues such as integrated management of the Channel coastal area, development of coastal and maritime tourism, maritime safety, fishing and the management of fishery resources to be dealt with more efficiently at an interregional level.