The Territorial Agenda (TA) for the European Union: New policy orientations

Thiemo W. Eser, Ministry of the Interior and for Spatial Development, Managing Authority of the ESPON programme
The process towards the Territorial Agenda

- ESDP (1999) Potsdam Informal Ministerial I/1999, and Tampere Informal Ministerial II/1999 (Action Programme) Necessity of coordination of sector policies, broaden the scope of EU regional policy, which was concentrate on economic and social cohesion in the narrow sense
- Rotterdam II/2004: Good moment to link into Lisbon discussion, added value of the territorial dimension, concept of territorial cohesion
- Luxembourg II/2005: Scoping of the TA/TSP: Operationalise ESDP in the current political context, stakeholder dialogue
- Structural Funds (SF) Regulation and follow up 2006
- Leipzig I/2007: Territorial Agenda
- And beyond Portugal II/2007: Action Programme
The institutional context of the Territorial Agenda

- **EU (and by that) the Commission does not dispose of an explicit formal competence** in territorial development and cohesion
- The Commission, the European Parliament and the Committee of Regions **interpretate the scope**, e.i.
  - Cohesion Report and Commission’s Strategic Guidelines for Cohesion
  - Resolution by the EP, various activities by the CoR
  - Member States in complementary documents such as National Strategic Reference Frameworks and Structural Funds OP
- **Dual system for treating territorial questions**
  - In the Structural Funds framework as an expert committee
  - Informal cooperation of MS with Commission and EU institutions
- **Draft constitutional Treaty** included Territorial Cohesion along side with Economic and Social Cohesion
- The **TA is an important bridge in a weak institutional environment** for politically addressing territorial development and cohesion
German EU Presidency: Informal Ministerial Meeting back to back

1. On Urban Development (24 May 2007) to endorse the Leipzig Charta on Sustainable European Cities
   - Aims of the Leipzig Charta
     - Strengthening the competitiveness of European cities and regions
     - Supporting the EU Sustainable Development Strategy

2. On Territorial Cohesion (25 May 2007) to endorse the Territorial Agenda
   - Aims of the Territorial Agenda of the EU
     - Promote economic growth and employment (Lisbon)
     - Promote sustainable development (Gothenburg)
     - Strengthen the European Social Model in global context
     - Promote a new understanding of “territorial governance”
     - Dialogue between economy, science and administration
The “Territorial Agenda” (TA) and the background document “Territorial State and Perspectives of the European Union” (TSP)

- **Four chapters of the TA document**
  - Future task: Strengthening Territorial Cohesion
  - New challenges: Strengthening regional identities, making better use of territorial diversity
  - Territorial priorities of the development of the European Union
  - Implementing the Territorial Agenda

- **TSP document’s structure**
  - Cross sectoral point of view: Growth and innovation, Transport and energy, Risk management, Environment, nature and culture,
  - Territorial point of view: Demographic imbalances, urban regions and major cities, rural diversity
  - Territorial impact analysis of EU sector policies
  - Discussion of possibilities for the implementation
  - Filling the gaps and being complementary to documents required by the Structural Funds regulation such as such as the Cohesion Report, Commission Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion
Events and conferences in the run-up to the Informal Ministerial Meeting

- Stakeholder dialogue (starting 28 June 2006, Amsterdam)
- Working level and information meetings
- Conference on Metropolitan Regions (14 March 2007, Berlin)
- Directors General Meeting (15/16 March 2007, Berlin)
- EP, Committee on Regional Development (12 April 2007)
- EESC, Plenary Session (25 April 2007)
- European Cities and Citizen Congress (26-28 April, Leipzig)
- CoR, COTER Commission (23 May 2007, Halle)
- EUROCITIES, European Mayors' Summit (23 May 2007, Leipzig)
The Territorial Agenda of the EU (1)

I. Future Task: Strengthening territorial cohesion in a Europe of diverse regions

II. Territorial challenges of the EU
- Climate change
- Energy supply and energy efficiency
- Transport and accessibility/mobility
- Territorial concentration of economic activities in the core area of Europe
- Global economic competition
- Demographic change (aging and migration processes)

The way
- Strengthening regional identities
- Making better use of territorial diversities
The Territorial Agenda of the EU (2)

III. New territorial priorities for the development of the EU

- Strengthening a polycentric development by networking of regions and cities of all sizes
- Creating new forms of partnership and territorial governance between urban and rural areas
- Promoting competitive and innovative regional clusters across borders
- Strengthening and extend the Trans-European Networks
- Promoting the trans-European risk-management (including impacts of climate change)
- Strengthening ecological structures and cultural and natural resources
The Territorial Agenda of the EU (3)

IV. Actions for implementation

- Consider the territorial dimension of EU policies
  - impact assessment (ESPON 2013)
  - reviews of EU policies
- Use the “new objective 3” for European territorial cooperation
- November 2007: Informal Ministerial Meeting (PT)
  - Action Programme of TA
- Spring 2008: preparation of European Council (SI)
- Spring 2008: conference “Territory and Economy” (DE)
- 2011: Evaluation of TA (HU)
For information … German EU Presidency Informal Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development (24 May 2007)

1. Adoption of the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities

- **Key strategies**
  - Integrated urban development policies
  - Focus on deprived urban areas
  - Making greater use of integrated urban development policies for the city as a whole and in the city-regional context

2. **Other territorial related issues**

- European exchange of experiences and knowledge on sustainable urban development (EUKN, URBACT II, .. )
- Financing sustainable urban development, role of the European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Urban mainstreaming (Urban in complementarity to the urban dimension in NSRF and OP 2007-2013)
More information ....

- by The German EU Presidency
  - www.eu2007.de
  - www.bmvbs.de

- or via the ESPON webpage www.espon.eu

Thank you for your attention!