

ESPON briefing of regional offices  
at the Committee of Regions, Brussels, 22 May 2007  
European Territorial Futures – Regions, comparable evidence and spatial scenarios

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# 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

ESPON  
EUROPEAN SPATIAL PLANNING  
OBSERVATION NETWORK

The Territorial Agenda for the European Union:  
New policy orientations



LE GOUVERNEMENT  
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG  
Ministère de l'Intérieur  
et de l'Aménagement du Territoire  
Direction de l'aménagement du territoire

## The process towards the Territorial Agenda

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- **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
- **Lisbon and Gothenburg strategy Summit of Lisbon and Gothenburg 2000/2001, Luxembourg 2005** sectoral approach, territorial coordination missing
- **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

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## 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)

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## ■ 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

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- 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)
- EFAP – European Forum for Architectural Policy on “Baukultur – Building culture” (26/27 April 2007, Hamburg)
- European Cities and Citizen Congress (26-28 April, Leipzig)
- CoR, COTER Commission (23 May 2007, Halle)
- EUROCITIES, European Mayors’ Summit (23 May 2007, Leipzig)
- Informal Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion (24/25 May 2007, Leipzig)

# The Territorial Agenda of the EU (1)

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- 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)

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### 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)

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### 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)

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## 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 ....

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- by The German EU Presidency



- [www.eu2007.de](http://www.eu2007.de)
  - [www.bmvbs.de](http://www.bmvbs.de)
- or via the ESPON webpage [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)

***Thank you for your attention!***