



## Questionnaire to prepare the Atlantic networks' reaction to the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion

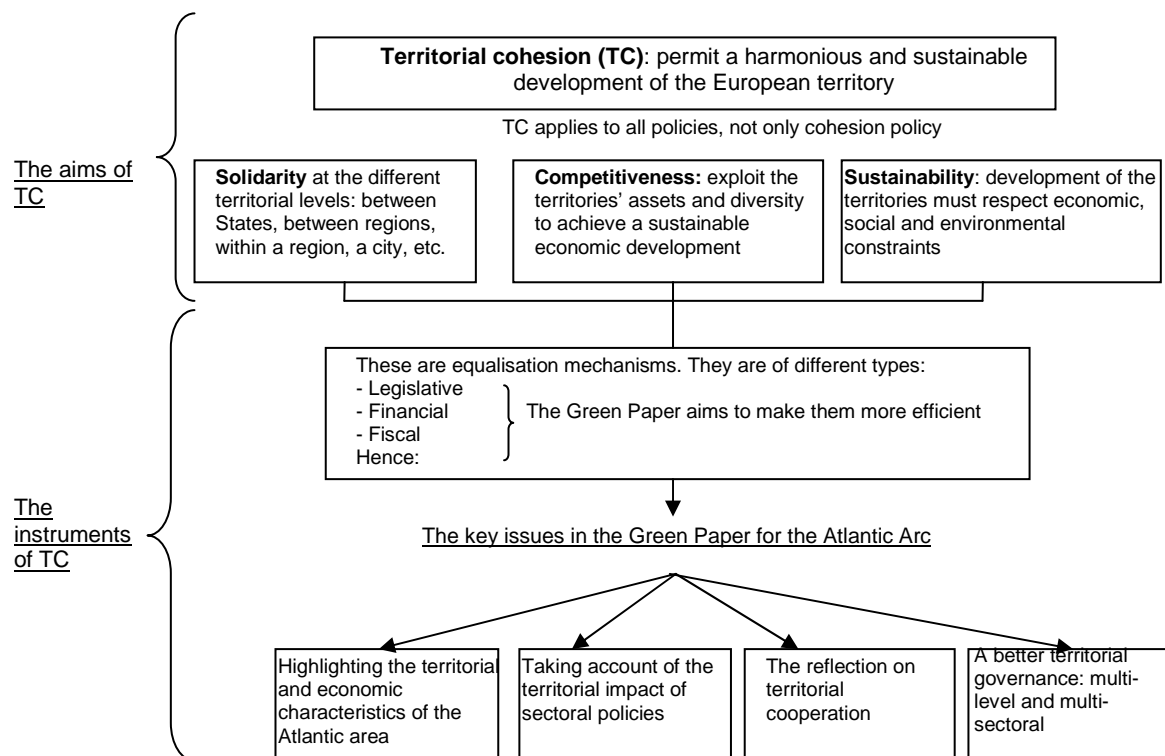
The Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion, published by the European Commission on 6 October 2008, is of strategic importance for a number of reasons including the following:

- It should provide a clear definition of the concept of territorial cohesion and consequently of its impact in European policies;
- It offers an opportunity to put forward proposals for improving the instruments of territorial cohesion: territorial cooperation (transnational cooperation in particular), territorial governance (multi-level and multi-sectoral), etc.;
- It falls within the scope of the debate on the future of cohesion policy, and should therefore have an influence on this policy's guidelines.

### **For the Atlantic Arc, this contribution represents a key opportunity to:**

- Position the Atlantic Arc as a strategic space for cooperation and for the implementation of EU policies, through its economic and territorial characteristics (coastline, urban-rural relationships);
- Prepare a basis for reflecting on a future contribution concerning the future of regional policy after 2013;
- Draw up a contribution in partnership with other Atlantic networks;
- Demonstrate the capacity of local and regional authorities to coordinate a range of territorial policies, respecting the role of the partners.

In the diagram below we attempt to illustrate the different concepts and issues encompassed by the objective of territorial cohesion.



### 1- Key documents and ideas

Among the background documents the following can be downloaded from the respective web sites at the following links:

- CPMR: Technical Paper, May 2008 "Territorial cohesion, some indications about the concept and how it can be put into practice": [http://www.arcatlantique.org/pdf/doc\\_travail/141\\_en.pdf](http://www.arcatlantique.org/pdf/doc_travail/141_en.pdf) and Technical Paper, September 2008 "Territorial impact of EU sectoral policies": [http://www.arcatlantique.org/pdf/doc\\_travail/142\\_en.pdf](http://www.arcatlantique.org/pdf/doc_travail/142_en.pdf)
- Working papers produced by the French Presidency for the Conference on Territorial Cohesion and the Future of the Cohesion policy on 30/31 October 2008: [www.conference-cohesionue2008.fr](http://www.conference-cohesionue2008.fr)
- European Parliament: Working paper on the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion and the state of the debate on the future reform of Cohesion policy (Rapporteur: Mr Lambert Van Nistelrooij): <http://www.conference-cohesionue2008.fr/uploads/contents/62446/File/23544//epcohesionterritorialevannistlerooij.pdf>
- Committee of the Regions: Working paper of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion (Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian): <http://www.conference-cohesionue2008.fr/uploads/contents/62446/File/23544//cdrcohesionterritorialeledrianfr.doc>

## 2- Schedule of the Atlantic Arc and the EU institutions and bodies

	October 2008	November 2008	December 2008	January 2009	February 2009	March 2009	April 2009
<b>Atlantic Arc</b>			1/12/2008: Receipt of questionnaires 1/12/2008: Receipt of contributions from the GCs by the CPMR 17/12/2008: Meeting of the Atlantic Arc Coordination Committee → 1 <sup>st</sup> version of the contribution for discussion	23/01/2009: CPMR Political Bureau 30/01/09: Finalisation (if amended by the PB) of the CPMR's policy position	AAC Political Bureau in Normandy: validation of the reaction to the GP  Mailing of the Atlantic Arc position to the EC, with copies to members, States, etc.		
<b>European Commission</b>	6/10/2008: Start of the consultation				20/02/2009: End of the consultation		
<b>European Parliament</b>	17/10/2008: Submission of a working paper	5/11/2008: Exchange of views in REGI Committee	2/12/2008: Hearing on territorial cohesion 2/12/2008: Draft report 8/12/2008: Deadline for submission of amendments		19/01/2009: Vote in REGI Committee	1/03/09: Vote in plenary session	
<b>Committee of the Regions</b>		15/11/2008: 1 <sup>st</sup> version of the draft opinion	1/12/2008: Deadline for submission of amendments 12/12/2008: Discussion and adoption of draft opinion		Adoption of the opinion		
<b>Economic and Social Committee</b>		25/11/2008: Draft opinion	10/12/2008: Meeting of the EESC working group				1/4/09: Adoption of the draft opinion in plenary session

### **3-Questionnaire to prepare the reaction to the Green Paper**

#### **I- Your identity**

- Name and function: .....
- Organisation/City/Region: .....
- Spheres of competence of your organisation .....
- .....
- Has your organisation/city/region organised or planned to organise any events in relation to territorial cohesion (seminars, conferences, etc)?  
Yes/No  
If so, please give details.....

#### **II- Summary territorial analysis**

##### **- Demographic characteristics**

- Population: .....
- Density: .....
- Natural balance and migratory balance: .....
- Distribution by age group:
  - Under 20 .....
  - 20-39 .....
  - 40-59 .....
  - 60-74 .....
  - Over 75 .....
- Demographic issues (elements of interest for forward study)  
.....

##### **- Spatial dynamic**

- Share of the population living:
  - In the coastal area .....
  - In the country .....
  - In towns or cities .....
  - In semi-urban areas .....

##### **- Strategic economic sectors:**

.....

##### **- Territorial characteristics (large urban areas, intermediate towns/cities, rural areas, etc.)**

.....

### III- Questionnaire

- Examples are given in the Green Paper of Regions that are developing certain concepts – such as territorial cooperation, multi-sectoral and multi-level governance – in their territory in a very concrete way.

- *The issues of territorial cohesion for the Atlantic Arc:* as illustrated in the diagram on page 2 of this paper, four major issues have been identified and serve as a framework for the questionnaire which is intended to provide a basis for the Atlantic Arc’s contribution to the consultation on territorial cohesion. The questions below include some from the Green Paper as well as others which apply more specifically to the Atlantic Arc.

#### 1- The concept of territorial cohesion

- How would you define territorial cohesion?

.....  
 .....  
 .....

- List the following concepts in order (starting with 1) of how closely they relate to your vision of territorial cohesion in Europe:

Competitiveness - A Europe that is economically competitive and dynamic in the global market	
Complementarity – A Europe that is comprised of different, interlinked, elements	
Connectivity – Improving the accessibility of all the European Regions	
Solidarity – Transfer of resources to the most disadvantaged Regions	
Equality – of opportunities for personal and social development across all the territories of the Union	
Sustainability – A Europe that is economically efficient, socially integrated through a cohesion-based approach, and which manages its natural and cultural heritage intelligently	
Polycentrism – A balanced and polycentric urban network	
Other .....	
.....	

- List in order of importance (starting with 1) the following tools that can be used in the process of territorial cohesion:

Spatial planning	
Territorial cooperation at all levels: local, regional and national	
Public-private partnerships	
Structural funds	
Services of general interest	
State aid	
Tools for financial transfers (equalisation)	
Other .....	
.....	

List in order of importance (starting with 1) the pertinence of the following quantitative and qualitative indicators for measuring features and trends of territorial cohesion:

% of the population living at a distance of less than 15 min. from a motorway	
% of households with broadband Internet access	
Per capita GDP	
% of the population living at a distance of less than 15 min. from a centre providing basic health care	
Investment per inhabitant in R&D and innovation	
% of schoolchildren having taken part in an international school exchange programme	
Gini index applied to the population system	
Complementarity between the hubs of the urban network	
Intensity of flows of information and knowledge between the cities	
Other .....	
.....	
.....	

## 2- Highlighting the territorial and economic characteristics of the Atlantic Arc

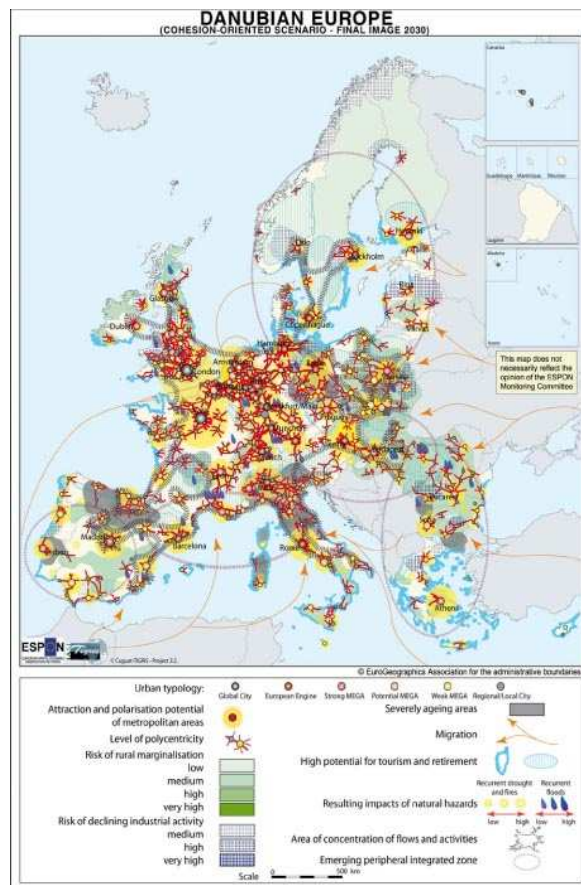
- List in order of importance (starting with 1) the following territorial characteristics for the Atlantic Arc:

Isolation from the major currents of European development	
Diversity of landscapes, of territorial models, of levels of economic development	
Weak connections between the hubs of the urban network	
An area characterised by a network of medium-sized towns and rural territories	
Maritime dimension or coastal aspect of the Atlantic seaboard	
Territorial imbalances	
Other .....	
.....	
.....	

- List in order of importance (starting with 1) the key obstacles, in your view, to the territorial cohesion of the Atlantic Arc

Weak accessibility	
Inadequate development of cross-border cooperation mechanisms	
Lack of interest in maritime policy as a factor for integration	
Absence of a defined, dynamic, and consolidated urban system	
Absence of a spatial planning instrument	
Non-existence of a culture of multi-level and multi-sectoral cooperation	
Other	
.....	

- The European Spatial Planning Observatory Network (ESPON)'s report on "Spatial Scenarios and Orientations in relation to the ESDP and Cohesion Policy"<sup>1</sup> shows that, even in the most favourable cohesion-oriented scenario in 2030, a large part of the Atlantic Arc's territory would be excluded from the areas in which flows and activities would be concentrated in Europe (see map). What do you think about this prognosis?



The final image of the cohesion-oriented scenario in 2030 - Source ESPON, 2006:31

<sup>1</sup> European Spatial Planning Observatory Network (ESPON) (2006), *Spatial Scenarios and Orientations in relation to the ESDP and Cohesion Policy* [online], ESPON Project 3.2.1., Final Report, Executive Summary, 46 p. <[http://www.espon.eu/mmp/online/website/content/projects/260/716/file\\_4015/fr-3.2\\_final-report\\_voll.pdf](http://www.espon.eu/mmp/online/website/content/projects/260/716/file_4015/fr-3.2_final-report_voll.pdf)> [31/10/2008]

3- The territorial impact of EU policies: How can the territorial impact be taken into account in the design of EU policies such as:

- ✓ The energy-climate package
- ✓ Transport policy
- ✓ The CAP
- ✓ Research and innovation policy
- ✓ European maritime policy
- ✓ Actions related to Services of General Interest
- ✓ ICT
- ✓ Other.

4- Strengthened territorial cooperation

- What role should the Commission play in encouraging and supporting territorial cooperation? (*Green Paper questions for debate*)
- Is there a need for new forms of territorial cooperation? (*Green Paper questions for debate*)
- After 2013, what changes would you envisage to strengthen the Atlantic Area transnational cooperation programme, making it a tool for territorial cohesion?
- Is there a need to develop new legislative and management tools to facilitate cooperation, including along the external borders? (*Green Paper questions for debate*)
- List in order of importance (starting with 1) the priorities for action at a transnational scale in the Atlantic Arc:

Maritime policy	
Coastal management	
Research & Development & Innovation	
Transport infrastructure	
Innovation clusters	
Environmental policy	
Climate change: mitigation and adaptation	
Energy	
Cross-border areas: the Euroregions	
Atlantic culture and identity	
Information technologies	
Other .....	
.....	
.....	

5- Better territorial governance (multi-level and multi-sector) at the service of a balanced and sustainable development of the European territory

- Is there a role for the EU in promoting territorial cohesion? (*Green Paper questions for debate*)
- Multi-level: Can you give examples of good practice in your territory in which several tiers of governance are involved (research and innovation, port and/or coastal zone management, the environment, etc.)?
- Multi-sector: Taking an issue of particular importance for your territory, can you give an example of good governance which has involved a reflection on the complementarity of sectoral policies?
- Do you have any further comments on any other aspects of the Green Paper or its annexe?