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DOCUMENT 467/74

INTERIM REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport

on regional policy as regards the regions at the Community's internal frontiers

Rapporteur: Mr H. GERLACH

On 13 March 1974 Mr Gerlach, Mr Mitterdorfer and Mr Wieldraaijer tabled a motion for a resolution (Doc. 5/74) on the Community's regional policy as regards the regions at the Community's internal frontiers.

At its sitting of 13 March 1974 the European Parliament referred this motion for a resolution to the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport with instructions to draw up a report.

On 6 November 1974 the Committee appointed Mr Gerlach rapporteur.

It considered the Interim report at its meetings of 18 December 1974 and 22 January 1975 and adopted the motion for a resolution and explanatory statement unanimously with two abstentions at the latter meeting.

Present: Mr James Hill, chairman; Mr Mitterdorfer, vice-chairman, Mr Gerlach, rapporteur; Mr Albers, Mr Creed, Mr Delmotte, Mr Dykes, Mr Fabbrini, Mr Giraud, Mr Herbert, Mr Kavanagh, Mr Mursch, Mr Scholten, Mr Schwabe, Mr Starke and Mr Zeller.

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The Committee on Regional Policy and Transport hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on regional policy as regards the regions at the Community's internal frontiers

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport (Doc.467/74),
- 1. Feels that for historical reasons the development of the regions at the Community's internal frontiers has been less favourable than would have been the case if the frontiers had not existed, since although these regions are mostly situated centrally in Europe, they constitute peripheral areas as regards the economy of the country to which they belong;
- 2. Notes the problems facing these regions, which above all concern the economy, transport, employment, health, education and cultural life, tourism and the protection of the natural environment;
- 3. Feels that trans-frontier cooperation between these regions is a basic condition for the solution of their problems;
- 4. Notes that the existing forms of cooperation have developed at local, regional or national level depending on the subject concerned and the degree of independence of the communities and regions in the various countries; that, in addition, international institutions, particularly the Council of Europe, have carried out valuable preparatory work for the continued development of this cooperation;
- 5. Is of the opinion that in its efforts to eliminate the difficulties encountered by frontier regions and to encourage cooperation between them the European Community is in a special position compared with local, regional and national authorities and other international organizations;
- 6. Feels that in view of this special position, the Community has an obligation to work with all the means at its disposal towards a solution to the problems of these regions;

7. Feels that until the Council adopts community measures of regional policy, the Commission should take the following steps:
 - (a) It should instruct the Statistical Office to draw up statistics on trans-frontier regions based on uniform criteria.
 - (b) It should assist with the preparation of economic studies of the regions which the regional authorities can use as a basis for the development plans they have to draw up; such activities might begin in regions such as Euragio, where there is already extensive cooperation.
 - (c) It should act as coordinator of the experience gained in cooperation between individual frontier regions.
 - (d) It should encourage cooperation on regional policy in all trans-frontier regions, particularly the Irish border area;
8. Hopes that the Community will, in particular, increase its efforts to solve problems connected with the mutual recognition of diplomas and with controls at internal frontiers: the continued existence of these difficulties affects in particular the inhabitants of frontier regions by obstructing their day-to-day life. The decision of the Heads of State or Government at the Paris Conference of 9 and 10 December 1974 to create a common European passport is welcomed and its great importance for the inhabitants of border areas stressed;
9. Feels that the institutions created within the framework of a Community regional policy can be of fundamental importance for the elimination of the difficulties encountered by trans-frontier regions, that it will be above all for the Committee on regional policy provided for in the Commission's proposal to examine the development plans prepared by the regions and that the European Regional Development fund must be designed to support Community development projects in the trans-frontier regions whenever these conform to the criteria laid down;
10. Instructs its Committee on Regional Policy and Transport to continue its consideration of this matter and to submit shortly a comprehensive report on regional policy as regards the regions at the Community's internal frontiers, for the preparation of which the Political Affairs Committee, the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment and the Legal Affairs Committee should deliver opinions;
11. Also instructs its Committee on Regional Policy and Transport to submit a separate report on problems of the areas at the Community's external frontiers;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of the Committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTIntroduction

1. In the last few months the institutions of the Community and in particular the European Parliament have shown considerable interest in the areas along the two sides of frontiers and the special problems which the frontier creates for them.
2. On 2 October 1974 Mr Herbert put an oral question without debate to the Commission (Doc. 274/74) requesting information on the contents and completion of a report on trans-frontier cooperation which had been mentioned by Mr Thomsen, member of the Commission, during the July part-session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Also on 2 October 1974 Mr Jahn, Mr Artzinger, Mr Härzschel, Mr Klepsch, Mr Mursch and Mr Springorum put oral questions with debate to the Commission (Doc. 273/74) and the Council (Doc. 272/74) asking what possibilities existed for assisting the frontier area between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

During the debate on these questions¹ both the Commission and the Council showed considerable interest in the difficulties facing such regions and in trans-frontier cooperation. The Commission's representative stated that the relevant services were at that time preparing a report on the subject, and he gave an assurance that the European Parliament would be informed of the contents of the report.

3. The Committee on Regional Policy and Transport has sent delegations to various trans-frontier regions at the latter's invitation. These delegations have examined the problems facing the regions concerned and studied existing forms of trans-frontier cooperation. So far such delegations have visited Euregio, an area along the German-Dutch frontier, and the area adjacent to the two sides of the Irish frontier. A visit to the Danish-Dutch frontier will take place shortly. Other visits are planned.
4. Your committee suggests that this interim report should point out the most important and urgent problems and outline existing forms of cooperation and the role of the European Communities in this field. The final report will deal with all these items in greater detail and in addition describe the position of the various regions at the Community's internal frontiers - possibly following further visits by delegations from the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport.

Your committee will also submit, as soon as possible, a report on regional policy as regards regions on the Community's external frontiers.

¹ See Report of Proceedings of the European Parliament, provisional edition, 13 November 1974, pp.129-140

I. Problems facing frontier regions

5. Numerous factors have had a negative effect on the economic situation of frontier regions. Above all, political motives have inhibited and unfortunately continue to inhibit general economic development. Frontier regions have thus become peripheral areas even though their position in the Community is very much to be regarded as central.

6. Furthermore, the incomes of the inhabitants of frontier regions are more dependent than elsewhere on fluctuations in exchange rates which, though they frequently have nothing at all to do with their economy, cut them off from areas immediately adjacent to them.

7. Cooperation - at all levels - with the region on the other side of the frontier could produce excellent results from an economic point of view. It could be used to provide an incentive for the creation of the infrastructures needed for the economic development of trans-frontier regions and for the establishment of new and conversion of existing industries.

8. One sector of the economy which in frontier regions is usually deficient is the transport sector. This sector is so important that cooperation would appear to be a matter of the greatest urgency: a satisfactory transport system forms the basis of the economy of a region. As regards infrastructure, frontier regions have far more roads running parallel to the frontier than roads that cross it.

In addition, there is frequently a lack of cooperation in running means of public transport and in the tariff systems on the two sides of frontiers. This is noticeable in both long-distance and local transport. In the case of communities close to the frontier transport within a single town may often be affected.

An improvement of the transport sector would not only have a favourable effect on the economy in general. It might also be a valuable contribution to solving problems facing frontier regions, e.g. in tourism, and to eliminating difficulties encountered in reaching places of employment on the other side of the frontier.

9. In this respect, the application of Articles 48 and 51 of the Treaty of Rome, which deal with workers' freedom of movement within the Community, has undoubtedly been very important for all those workers who live on one side of a frontier, but work on the other side. The number of such workers is significant, and it fluctuates as the economic conditions on either side of the frontier change.

Despite the abovementioned improvement in the situation people crossing a frontier to go to work still have to contend with numerous problems and difficulties, e.g. the time lost as a result of frontier controls carried out twice to four times a day, the inconvenience caused by the closure of some check-points at night, variations in income resulting from parity changes and the problems of the right to social security benefits.

10. Health is another field in which cooperation is urgently required in many places. There is, for example, the possibility of trans-frontier medical care: one need only think of the difficulties and risks connected with the transport of a sick person to a distant hospital because he would not be accepted by another which, though quite near, is on the other side of the frontier. Thought should also be given to the possible savings if a situation in which two hospitals are situated in close proximity, one on each side of a frontier, could be avoided.

11. Education should be as little marked by nationalistic thinking as possible in frontier regions.

In frontier areas it is far more important than elsewhere for the language spoken on the other side of the border to be learnt. Unfortunately, school curricula are established to meet the demands of the country as a whole, not of the frontier population. Tuition in the language of the neighbouring country should be encouraged through trans-frontier cooperation.

In frontier areas there is frequently a great shortage of higher education institutions. Where there are such institutions near the frontier, they are often not working to capacity because the area for which they cater is too small.

It would be in the Community's interest to support efforts at increasing historical understanding of the various psychological problems which may affect relations between the inhabitants on both sides of internal borders.

12. Joint cultural activities between people living on opposite sides of an internal frontier are often hindered by the existence of the border. A Community initiative could also facilitate trans-frontier cooperation in sport and entertainment.

13. Many frontier areas could be developed to cater for tourism. However, the transit tourist should not be of primary interest: the natural beauty of frontier regions can itself become an asset for their development, for example if it is possible to create trans-frontier nature parks like the Ardenne-Eifel and Maas-Schwalm-Nette parks.

14. One of the features of the present time is that man is rediscovering the values of nature and attempting to protect the environment. This problem assumes special forms in frontier areas since it is difficult to combat any kind of pollution if it originates from across the frontier. For example, in the case of a river forming the frontier between two states, ecological efforts on one side would be useless if the other side did nothing to restrict pollution¹.

In respect of ecology and the fight against pollution, therefore, the results of trans-frontier cooperation could also be of considerable importance.

II. Forms of cooperation

15. Trans-frontier regional cooperation can take place at various levels: local, regional and national. Each level has a different kind of cooperation, depending on the objectives set, since the means employed by the three levels vary. An increasingly important role in trans-frontier cooperation is being played by certain international organizations.

There are numerous agreements between two or more communities on different sides of a frontier. Cooperation at this level is necessary in certain fields, e.g. drinking water supplies, coordination of trans-frontier local transport and assistance in the event of emergencies such as fires and flooding.

It must, however, be pointed out that this kind of cooperation has to overcome quite serious obstacles of a legal nature: the competence of a local authority is never sufficient for it to conclude an agreement with a similar body on the other side of the border without first obtaining the authority of the foreign ministry. The very best that a local authority can therefore do is to make contact with its neighbour; with few exceptions, it is not able to conclude treaties.

16. As regards cooperation at regional level the picture varies according to whether it is based on inter-governmental agreements, conventions or governmental recommendations, special initiatives, a treaty or civil law agreements. In addition, local authorities and other regional bodies cooperate closely in a number of ways with no particular legal basis, but simply characterized by fixed organizational structures.

¹On 7 November 1974 the Council of the European Communities adopted a directive on the pollution of trans-national surface water requiring the Member States to take the necessary action to ensure that the purity of trans-frontier waterways met certain fixed standards and that domestic and trans-national surface water was treated in the same way.

17. Although Euregio has a coordinating body with powers of initiative, namely the Euregio Working Party, consisting, on the German side, of the chairman of the Rhein-Ems local authority grouping and, on the Dutch side, the chairman of SSOG¹ and TOG¹ and their secretariats and, after 1975 when the Euregio Council has been set up, will have a parliamentary body, neither body has any legal basis under German or Dutch law.

The Mozer Commission, in a form specially designed for the purpose, looks after social and cultural matters.

18. As has already been mentioned, the state is at present almost exclusively responsible for the conclusion of trans-frontier agreements. Where the state has a decentralized or federalistic structure like the Federal Republic of Germany, the power to decide on cooperation may lie with the Federal Lander².

The signing of such international treaties is usually followed by the setting up of permanent bilateral or multilateral bodies with the task of looking into and solving problems of common interest. Examples of this are the bilateral Belgian-German and Dutch-German regional planning commissions which were set up on the recommendation of the European Conference of the Ministers responsible for regional planning, and the German-French-Luxembourg Commission for the Lorraine-Saar-Luxembourg region.

In this connection it is interesting to note that while the regions are occasionally represented in commissions of this type, local authorities seldom are.

19. In the last few years the work of a number of international organizations has become increasingly important for cooperation between frontier areas. Their work consists in examining existing activities and drawing up practical proposals based on what has already been achieved.

Although not wanting to go into detail, we should like to refer briefly to a number of bodies which are active in this field within the framework of the Council of Europe: the European Conference of Local Authorities, the Committee on Regional Planning, the Committee on Local Authorities within the Consultative Assembly, the Committee on Cooperation in Municipal and Regional matters.

The Council of European Municipalities, the International Union of Local Authorities, the Sub-Committee on Frontier Regions and the above-mentioned European Conference of Ministers responsible for regional planning could also be mentioned. All these bodies are in constant touch with the European Communities.

¹SSOG = East Gelderland Regional Interests Foundation
¹TOG = Twente and East Gelderland Interest Group

²Treaty of 1964 between the Federal Land of Rhineland-Pfalz and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on the creation of a German-Luxembourg nature park; treaty of 1974 between the same signatories on water supplies and waste water removal.

III. The responsibility of the European Communities

20. The Committee on Regional Policy and Transport is convinced that the European Communities are in a particularly favourable position to encourage trans-frontier cooperation.

Compared with local, regional and national bodies the Community has the advantage of being able to consider these problems on a much broader basis. It can coordinate the various forms of cooperation at local level, promoting those which promise the greatest success and seeking ways of using them elsewhere. At the same time it will always bear in mind the features peculiar to the various frontier regions and the need to find solutions that suit the requirements of each individual region.

21. The Community differs from other international organizations in both its objectives and the means at its disposal. The European Community is moving towards integration; the goal of the other international organizations is, however, merely cooperation. The Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and many of the legal acts based on this Treaty apply directly to the territory of all Member States and have priority over national law even if national legislation is enacted at a later date; in contrast, all the other international organizations can usually do is make recommendations.

22. Although the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport very much appreciates the efforts made by the abovementioned international organizations and is convinced that contact should be maintained with them, it feels that the European Community bears a special responsibility for assisting the frontier regions in seeking solutions to their problems.

23. In the committee's view the very peculiarity of the Community's position gives rise to possibilities for practical action; we feel that it is the Community's duty to take steps to assist the underprivileged areas generally and the frontier areas in particular, using the means at its disposal to encourage trans-frontier cooperation, and to remove any obstacles to such cooperation.

24. The joint preparation of development plans for the trans-frontier regions is not a simple undertaking. They must be based on regional economic studies which draw on comparable statistics, so that programmes can be set up that offer the greatest possible opportunity for economic success and positive effects in the social field. One of the Community's first tasks, therefore, is to collect statistics on the frontier regions with the help of its Statistical Office and to participate in the preparation of analyses that allow for regional differences and can be used as a basis by the regional agencies drawing up certain plans. A start could be made on statistics for regions such as Euregio, where there is already considerable cooperation. Your committee feels that the results of such

activities may be very positive in that they will encourage regional authorities to cooperate, a start also being made on eliminating the feeling of isolation from more central areas under which the inhabitants of frontier regions often suffer. One necessary first step would be reciprocal provision of information on development plans for frontier regions.

25. In addition, the Community institutions might promote and suggest the creation of official permanent bodies (committees) in all trans-frontier regions. The long-term objective would be to overcome the economic problems of the frontier regions through trans-frontier cooperation, which can only be achieved by creating trans-frontier institutions which also have powers of decision.

The task of such 'European Regional Associations' could therefore be to make available to local organizations in the frontier regions of the Member States of the European Community which are interested in intensive cooperation a decision-making body competent to take binding decisions on the implementation of common projects (with its own resources as well as ad hoc subsidies from Community funds: Regional Fund, Social Fund, EAGGF, EIB).

A legal act of the Community could be used to establish a form for a legal person subject to Community law and governed by a specific organizational statute and appropriate rules of procedure, which would serve as a model for cooperation. The statute would have to be flexible enough to be adapted to the particular characteristics of individual regions.

26. As we all know, there is still no effective Community regional policy. However, thanks to the decisions of the Paris conference of Heads of State or Government of 9 and 10 December 1974, the Regional Development Fund has now been set up and will make possible the first concrete action. Compared to earlier proposals, the Paris decision has concentrated the Fund's allocations in such a way that Ireland will receive 6%, Italy 40% and the United Kingdom 28%.

However, concessions were at the same time made to the wish not to divide the Community into 'givers' and 'takers', so that the countries with fewer regional difficulties would also receive some - though limited - allocations from the Fund: 1.5% for Belgium, 1.3% for Denmark, 15% for France, 0.1% for Luxembourg, 1.7% for the Netherlands and 6.4% for Germany.

Your committee considers that these funds could be used in particular to support trans-frontier regional cooperation by financing trans-frontier projects. The Community authorities will in any case have to give consideration to the problems of trans-frontier regions.

The Commission of the European Communities has already taken account of this possibility since it states in its proposal for a regulation establishing a Regional Development Fund:

'The Fund's assistance shall be decided by the Commission in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 13, with reference to the relevant severity of the economic imbalance of the region where the investment is made and its direct and indirect effect on employment, and taking account of the following considerations:

.....

(f) the trans-border character of the investment, that is, concerning adjacent regions in different Member States.'¹

27. The bodies to be set up within the framework of the common regional policy may be of fundamental importance for the elimination of difficulties encountered by the frontier regions. One of the principal tasks of the Committee on Regional Policy would thus be to examine the development plans drawn up by the region. The European Regional Development Fund should then intervene with investments in areas in which Community projects are being implemented.

28. In the meantime other Community means can be used to assist the frontier regions: the European Social Fund, for example, could help where there are employment or retraining problems and the European Investment Bank with 'projects of common interest to several Member States which are of such a size or nature that they cannot be entirely financed by the various means available in the individual Member States' (Article 130(c) of the Treaty establishing the EEC).

29. More generally, Community action may be very helpful in solving problems connected with, for example, the mutual recognition of diplomas and the abolition of controls at internal frontiers. The continued existence of such difficulties is particularly inconvenient for the inhabitants of frontier areas because they frequently encounter them in the pursuit of their occupations.

Your committee welcomes in this connection the decision adopted by the Heads of State or Government at the Paris Conference of 9 and 10 December 1974 (Paragraph 10 of the final communiqué):

' A working party will be set up to study the possibility of establishing a Passport Union and, in anticipation of this, the introduction of a uniform passport.

If possible, this draft should be submitted to the Governments of the Member States before 31 December 1976. It will, in particular, provide for stage-by-stage harmonization of legislation affecting aliens and for the abolition of passport control within the Community.'

¹Doc. 152/73 of 11 September 1973, Article 5

Your committee emphasises the great importance of this proposal for the inhabitants of border regions and expresses the hope that the deadline mentioned in the communiqué will be met.

30. The above proposals do not constitute a complete programme: they concern only some of the activities which could be carried out in the next stages of developing a regional policy at Community level which favours the frontier regions.

31. Your committee intends to submit a more detailed programme for regions at the Community's internal frontiers in the report that will follow this interim report.

32. Your rapporteur will have to examine in particular ways of eliminating through Community action the legal difficulties now insurmountable for those regional bodies which wish to cooperate.

For this a legal model must be set up which allows the development of a legally sound basis of cooperation in planning and action between local and regional authorities on either side of an internal frontier in the Community in spite of the different organization of responsibilities and the different and complicated official channels involved. Your rapporteur has in mind a model similar to those already developed for the European Company and the European Monetary Cooperation Fund.

33. The Council of Europe and other bodies have already done considerable preparatory work along these lines. The Community, however, has the opportunity of not only making recommendations and appealing to the goodwill of the central authorities. It can create, for example in the form of a Community regulation or at least a directive, a legal instrument that allows those concerned, i.e. the local and regional representatives of the inhabitants of frontier areas, to take the initiative. If, as suggested in para. 25, a trans-frontier association is set up by regulation in the form of a legal person subject to Community law, there are bound to be instances of loss of power by the Member States or their lower administrative bodies, which could be expected to lead to resistance and legal difficulties.

However, since the economic, social and cultural disadvantages of the frontier regions can be solved in the long term only by bodies with binding powers of decision and since the Community bears responsibility for frontier regions (Art. 2 and 3 of the EEC Treaty, medium-term economic policy programme, progressive economic and monetary union, 1972 Paris Summit, etc.), there can be no doubt that the Community can enact such a regulation under Article 235 of the EEC Treaty.

Provision must obviously be made for the right of appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Communities in Luxembourg in the event of any legal disputes arising from the application of such legal acts of the Community.

34. A Community legal basis would permit those concerned to institute proceedings without the latter being blocked by national authorities, supervisory rights or authorization requirements, as is at present the case. The Community institutions should be made responsible for initiating and promoting action so that even in those cases where the situation is not yet ripe for trans-frontier cooperation, such cooperation can nevertheless be brought about. Finally, a way must be found for the Community to provide financial support for trans-frontier cooperation, at least initially.

As already mentioned, such support might be provided by the Regional Development Fund in financing investment projects, or the Community might assist local and regional bodies cooperation on the two sides of an internal frontier. Moreover, applications submitted by these bodies should be regarded as equivalent to applications from the Member States so that where a conflict arises or where there is a lack of interest on the part of the central authorities, the trans-frontier regions together with the Community authorities are able to act.

35. Your committee will look into these questions in greater detail, and requests the opinions of the Political Affairs Committee, the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment and the Legal Affairs Committee. The other committees will be given the opportunity to say whether they also wish to deliver an opinion.

IV. Concluding remarks

36. As the preamble of the EEC Treaty states, the European Communities are

'determined to lay the foundations of an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe'

and

'resolved to ensure the economic and social progress of their countries by common action to eliminate the barriers which divide Europe'.

Such action is particularly necessary in the frontier regions. The barriers must be eliminated and joint action by the local authorities on the two sides of frontiers made possible.

37. In this way the Community can make an extremely valuable contribution to raising the standard of living in frontier areas, which often number among the backward regions.

38. Conversely, however, it must be stressed that the Community is assuming considerable responsibility if it does not act, since the people of frontier areas, who hear and read daily of the alleged existence of a European Economic Community, are confronted to a greater extent than the

people living in the interior of the Member States with the lack of Community development, evidenced by the continued existence of frontier barriers and customs officials agreement cannot be reached in Brussels on the harmonization of a few taxes, and the continued existence of passport controls. The people living in frontier areas are faced with a situation in which the victims of accidents die on the way to hospital because the ambulance is not allowed to cross the border, in which specialists on the other side of the border may not be consulted because the health insurance fund will not pay, in which the specialist cannot work on the other side of the border because his diploma is not recognized there.

Any number of examples could be given of these difficulties, which the people in the frontier areas see more clearly and under which they suffer more than those further inland.

39. All the above-mentioned factors are indicative of the Community's special responsibility towards the frontier regions.

40. With this in mind your committee requests the adoption of the motion for a resolution contained in this interim report.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr Gerlach,
Mr Mitterdorfer and Mr Wieldraaijer

on the Community's regional policy
as regards the regions at the
Community's internal frontiers

(Doc. 5/74 of 13 March 1974)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the previous proposals of the Commission of the European Communities on the creation of a European Regional Development Fund;¹
 - having regard to the reports submitted by Mr Mitterdorfer and Mr Delmotte on behalf of its responsible committees;²
 - recognizing that it is necessary for the smooth functioning of the Communities that the economic significance of frontiers between Member States be removed and that this must be encouraged by cross-frontier cooperation in matters of regional policy;
 - having regard to the fact that certain regions which cross the Community's internal frontiers have remained backward or are likely to become backward solely on account of the frontiers, whereas if there were cross-frontier cooperation they could develop common centres of growth;
1. Calls upon the Commission to include the programmes for cross-frontier cooperation in regional policy at the Community's internal frontiers in the support offered by the Regional Development Fund and to extend accordingly in its new proposals to the Council the list of regions to receive support;
 2. Demands that resources of the European Investment Bank and the Social Fund should be used in particular for projects in areas which are near to or which cross frontiers;
 3. Calls upon the Commission to create legal bases for cross-frontier cooperation between local authorities in frontier areas;

¹Doc. 152/73 and Doc 205/73

²Doc. 276/73, 228/73, 120/73, 123/72 and 264/71

4. Calls upon the Commission to support as a model case the cooperation in matters of regional policy resulting from local initiative at the Dutch-German frontier, which has become known as the 'Euregio', and to this end:
 - to help finance the 'socio-cultural study commission' set up for this region,
 - to make it financially possible to bring up to date the expert opinion on structure produced for the region,¹
 - to make it financially possible for common statistics on the 'Euregio' region to be produced as a model case for the approximation of statistics in Europe, and to have them produced by the Community Statistics Office;
5. Also calls on the Commission to give greater consideration to the recognition of diplomas in terms of the need for cooperation at the Community's internal frontiers, and to speed up considerably work concerned with this;
6. Instructs its Committee on Regional Policy and Transport to submit a report on all problems concerning regional cooperation at the Community's internal frontiers, and a further report on the possibility of encouraging cooperation in matters of regional policy by the European institutions at the Community's external frontiers;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission of the European Communities.

¹ 'Gesellschaft für regionale Strukturentwicklung e.V.' and 'Stichting Het Nederlands Economisch Instituut:' 'Strukturuntersuchung/Struktur-
onderzoek: Twente, Oostgelderland, Westmünsterland, Grafschaft Bentheim',
Bonn and Rotterdam 1971.

