



Around a third of EU citizens live and work in Europe's border regions. These borders have a direct and indirect impact on their daily lives. People living in border regions often face specific challenges in terms of finding a job, gaining access to healthcare and other public services, commuting and overcoming administrative problems. Cross-border cooperation is demonstrably the most effective means of overcoming the divisions caused by borders.

A pan-European **Conference on the Future of Europe** will be launched in **Strasbourg on 9 May**.

The European Committee of the Regions wants to play an active role in this conference, and so its members are organising local debates in their regions. With this debate, we want to contribute to the development of a vision of how cross-border cooperation should look in the future of Europe. We will focus specifically on the Euroregion in which we live.

The **debate is open to the public** and we will be glad to have a wide-ranging debate. People with many years of experience in cross-border cooperation have accepted the opportunity to take the floor:

- **Martin Půta**, President of the Liberec Region, President of the Euroregion Nisa, Member of the Committee of the Regions
- **Bernd Lange**, Speaker of Görlitz District, President of the Euroregion Neisse, Member of the Committee of the Regions
- **Pavel Branda**, Deputy Mayor of Rádlo Municipality, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Vice-President of Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
- **Thomas Zenker**, Mayor of Zittau (tbc)
- **Iva Linder**, Director of the District Chamber of Commerce in Jablonec nad Nisou
- **Regina Gellrich**, Head of the Sächsischen Landesstelle für frühe nachbarsprachige Bildung
- **Hedvika Zimmermann**, pastor of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church, Councillor of Hrádek nad Nisou
- **Hynek Böhm**, Senior Assistant, Department of Geography, University of Technology, Liberec
- **Blanka Konvalin**, Emeritus Director of the Liberec Regional Science Library, President of Eurex Library
- **Martín Guillermo Ramírez**, Secretary-General of Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
- **Slaven Klobucar**, EGTC Monitoring Platform, European Committee of the Regions

Moderator: **David Hamr**, Czech Radio Liberec

Join the debate and connect via the following link:

<https://euconf-eu.zoom.us/j/98598410661?pwd=aElKS1p0cnRQS0gxOGFIOVhGWVdDQT09>

Questions for discussion:

- What is the importance of cross-border cooperation for our region?
- What are the main obstacles to the development of cross-border cooperation (e.g., legal, administrative, linguistic, economic, human)? How best to remove them?
- What impact has the COVID-19 pandemic had on cross-border cooperation? How should measures be taken in the future to ensure they do not affect cooperation so severely?
- What is the minimum level of cross-border cooperation that the EU and Member States must guarantee in the event of similar crises?
- How should cross-border governance look like in the future? For example, should there be a system of integrated spatial planning? A common strategy for territorial development?
- What should life look like in border regions? Access to public services? Education? Culture? Health care? Crisis management?
- Should cross-border identity be developed? If so, how to achieve that?