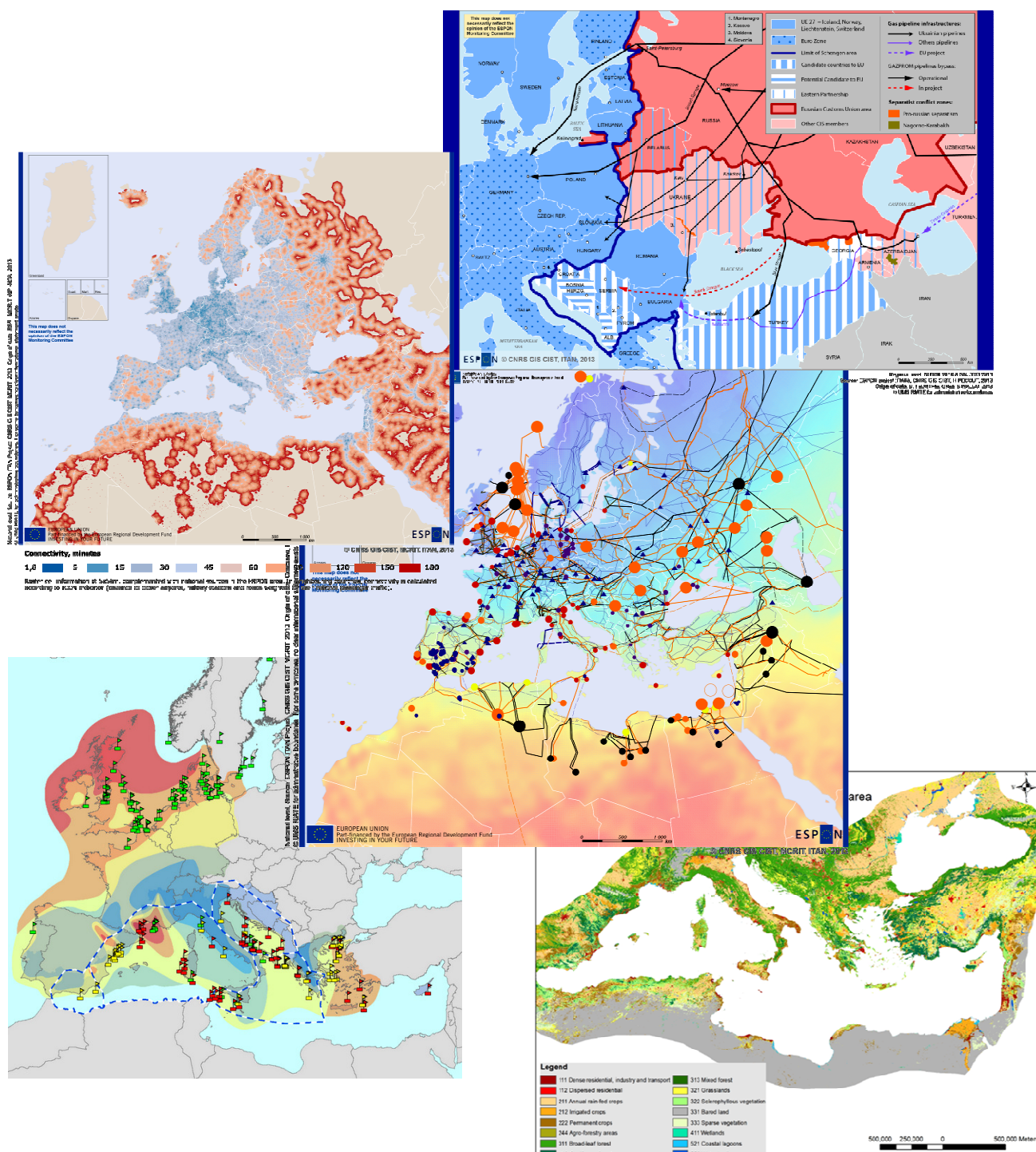


Contribution to the EU's consultation « Towards a new European Neighbourhood Policy »

A Territorial Agenda for a Greater Region's Deep Integration

29 06 2015



Contents

Introduction: strengths and weaknesses of the Joint Consultation Paper	3
1. Concept recommendation: “region” rather than “neighbourhood”	4
1.1. In the “co” era, the dissymmetry implicit in the term “neighbourhood” is anachronistic	4
1.2. The regionalization of globalization and the regionalization-globalization dialectic	5
1.3. Promote sub-regional integration	5
1.4. Which geographical boundaries?	5
1.5. Conclusion: “ <i>Should the ENP be maintained?</i> ”	7
2. Strategic recommendation: a shared vision for deep regional integration	8
2.1. Make East/South differences clearer but maintain a multilateral regional ambition	8
2.2. Free trade cannot be a mobilizing target for countries in the region	8
2.3. Replace “security” with “general security”	8
2.4. Shared long-term vision to measure progress in attaining deep integration	9
3. An operational recommendation to facilitate joint projects: Territorial Agenda for a Greater Region .	9
3.1. Why?	9
3.2. What?	10
3.3. How?	10
3.4. The importance of cartography	11
4. The signatories	13
4.1. Scientists from several countries and disciplines and experts on territorial issues	13
4.2. Involvement in several international research programmes	13
4.3. Networks fostering partnership with territorial development stakeholders	14
4.4. Technical and cartographic resources	14
4.5. List of signatories	15

Introduction: strengths and weaknesses of the Joint Consultation Paper

On 4 March 2015, the European Union, through its High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, launched a consultation to reformulate its neighbourhood policy. The Joint Consultation Paper¹ is one of the best papers that the EU has published on the issue to date. It recognizes that the situation in the neighbourhood has deteriorated over the last ten to fifteen years:

- transitions in partner countries are carried out unevenly, and are generally difficult;
- the deterioration of relations between Russia and the EU impacts the entire Eastern Partnership;
- the number of latent and open wars has increased in the Mediterranean neighbourhood.

The EU notes that the ENP has resulted in more failures than successes. Rather than a Ring of Friends, Europe seems to be surrounded by a Ring of Fire. It is clear that, of the world's major regions, Europe is located in the one in which developing countries are most unsettled; and all the more so if we include Sub-Saharan Africa, which is part of Europe's regional environment in the broad sense of the term. This failure cannot just be put down to the ENP, since Europe's diminished capacity to make its neighbourhood into a stable and prosperous area has more historic origins; however, the ENP has failed to change the direction of this historic trend.

The Joint Consultation Paper recognizes that the multiplication of EU instruments has not resulted in providing adequate responses to the demands of neighbourhood countries. These countries have made very uneven commitments to their partnership with Europe, so that the idea of a region associating Europe with these countries has weakened in recent times.

Yet, despite the serious deterioration in the neighbourhood situation over the last fifteen years, and despite the shortfalls that it recognizes in the ENP, the EU is not calling into question its preferential free trade and security approach. The authors of this contribution are nevertheless of the opinion that neither security protection nor regional integration through free trade (i.e. "superficial" regional integration) can match the challenges facing the region. Free trade brings short-term commercial gains, but contributes nothing to the deep-seated structuring of a region that is home to one billion people. If the EU wants to positively and durably influence its regional environment, it needs to put together an ambitious, long-term (2050) policy that makes the region a strategic priority of its external policy.

This paper suggests that the EU should commit to a Territorial Neighbourhood Agenda², which would give an overall vision of the territory and its neighbourhood (section 3). This territorial approach would bring several kinds of added value:

- It would provide a long-term vision, whereas many neighbour countries work in a short-term ad hoc way; the ENP itself sometimes appears to be guided by opportunities more than foresight;
- It would consolidate the numerous, disparate policies that the ENP does not always coordinate consistently. A territorial approach is cross cutting by nature: it takes into account economic, social and environmental issues, i.e. sustainable towns, agricultural and rural development, integrated water resource and sanitation management, green and inland tourism (to avoid concentration on an overexploited coastline), clusters, participation of local stakeholders and local democracy;
- It would maintain a multilateral framework for the whole region to ensure its coherence with the EU's various bilateral actions with each of the partner countries;
- When diplomatic relations flounder, regional integration would continue to progress through networks (transport, energy, telecom), decentralized cooperation, and participation in projects that companies and NGOs would engage in because they would be expressed in the universal language of cartography.

¹ High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, European Commission, 2015, "Towards a new European Neighbourhood Policy", Joint consultation paper, JOIN(2015) 6 final, 4.3.2015, Brussels. All quotations here come from this Joint Paper.

² The European Union already has its own one. Cf. EU, 2011, "Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020 - Towards an Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions", Informal Ministerial Meeting of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning and Territorial Development on 19th May 2011 Gödöllő, Hungary

To represent this kind of long-term vision, it would need to be established by both Europe and its neighbours. Section 2 suggests that this shared vision should clearly be that of “deep” regional integration: converging standards but without obligatory *acquis communautaire*; shared value chains, development of productive channels associating Europe and partner countries; winning back of global markets through productive, sustainable and socially responsible cooperation. The current “superficial” integration through free trade cannot serve as a mobilizing vision. Only deep integration would contribute to a virtuous circle between economic transition and political transition in the neighbourhood, so that all countries in the region could forego various rent incomes (European commercial rent, economic rent of oil-producing countries, political rent of authoritarian regimes). Only deep integration would replace the image of a hegemonic Europe with that of a Europe based on partnership.

To achieve this shared vision, we should start by eliminating the very term “neighbourhood”, which implies dissymmetry, and instead use the term common “region” (section 1). Our contribution therefore comprises:

- ➔ A concept recommendation: put forward the notion of “region” rather than “neighbourhood”;
- ➔ A strategy recommendation: build together a shared vision to this major global region, that of a “deep” integration;
- ➔ An operational recommendation to facilitate common projects: a Territorial Neighbourhood Agenda – or, to avoid the term “neighbourhood”, a Territorial Agenda for a Greater Region.

1. Concept recommendation: “region” rather than “neighbourhood”

1.1. In the “co” era, the dissymmetry implicit in the term “neighbourhood” is anachronistic

- Eastern European and South and East Mediterranean countries have never appreciated being considered as simple “neighbours”. One result of the new global North-South relations is that emerging countries, although aware of their economic inferiority, tend to refuse political dissymmetry.
- The Joint Consultation Paper recognizes this: *“The approach of ‘more for more’ by the EU has not always contributed to an atmosphere of equal partnership”*. This partnership imbalance was a drawback in the 20th century; for the last decade or two, it has constituted a real hindrance for four basic reasons. In these times of knowledge economy, resources are increasingly *produced* rather than extracted. In these times of globalization and climate change, transnational public goods, in particular environmental ones, call for shared management. In these times of digital revolution, efficient interactions can radically enhance projects’ productivity. Lastly, in these times of European economic crisis, emerging and developing countries can be genuine sources of growth for Europe. For these four reasons, the coproduction of resources, the shared management of public goods, participation and economic complementarity, impose international relations based on genuine partnership, rather than the usual North-South dominance.
- To define its geographic scope, the ENP uses the vague term of “area”: *“an area of shared stability, security and prosperity”*. This indeterminate term indicates no strategic preference for this part of the world. The EU’s conception of Europe is a territory whose security should be ensured, and a centre of influence that should be extended to the rest of the world through free trade on an economic level and through its values on a philosophical level – a conception that resembles Great Britain’s 19th century vision. In actual fact, and in particular in terms of budget, the EU and its member states do not manifest any specific strategy in favour of neighbourhoods. In addition, the member states and even some of the Commission’s DGs rarely refer to the ENP’s geography.
- The Joint Consultation Paper does employ the term “region”, but ambiguously: the expression *“neighbourhood region”* does not imply that Europe and its neighbourhoods belong to one and the same region.

1.2. The regionalization of globalization and the regionalization-globalization dialectic

- The notion of “region” implies a territorial dimension, i.e. delimitation of the region, importance of proximity, and collective preferences justifying a specific strategy. On the other hand, the generic global approach of free trade does not differentiate the neighbourhood from the rest of the world.
- In recent decades, internationalization of exchanges has involved not just the globe but the regions (in the sense of a *de facto* or *de jure* association between several close countries). Although globalization has been clearly identified in the public debate, regionalization has not been perceived in its real dimension. Over the last few decades, regional integration has nevertheless emerged and been reinforced (e.g. EU, Nafta, Mercosur-Unasur, Asean+3, etc.). Despite the rise of a major global actor since the 2000s, i.e. China, the long-term trend in international economic trade over the last six decades has been regionalization: exchanges have increased faster within these major regions than they have between these regions and the rest of the world. The regionalization of the global economy is based on the advantages of proximity and complementarity; it fosters short supply chains; it encourages deep-seated partnerships that help developing countries open up their economy; it encourages establishing international regulation when the latter is difficult to apply on a vast global scale.
- The Joint Consultation Paper does not grasp the extent of this regionalization of the world economy and focuses too much on Europe’s specific context in terms of its neighbourhood. In particular, it does not take stock of competition from other great world regions; it does not consider that the growing success of China is based on the force of East Asia’s economic integration. When the text says, “*Passenger and migration flows between the ENP and EU have been constantly on the rise*”, it neglects to mention the increasing migration of qualified personnel from neighbouring countries to North America, Australia, the Gulf States, etc. to the detriment of Europe. In fact, for neighbouring countries movements of persons are a bone of contention with Europe.
- “*The EU is the main trading partner for most partner countries*”: this is true, but Europe’s importance is proportionately shrinking, to the East (The Eurasian Customs Union looks increasingly towards China: the diplomatic war between the EU and Russia in Ukraine mostly results in higher market shares for Asian economies in Ukraine); in the Middle East, which is less and less influenced by the European economy; in North Africa and Africa in general, economically and culturally very close to Europe but decreasingly so. In reality, the neighbourhood is escaping from Europe’s economic, cultural and political influence, while other major world players (e.g. the United States, directly or via the Gulf States, China, India, Brazil, etc.) are increasing their hold.

1.3. Promote sub-regional integration

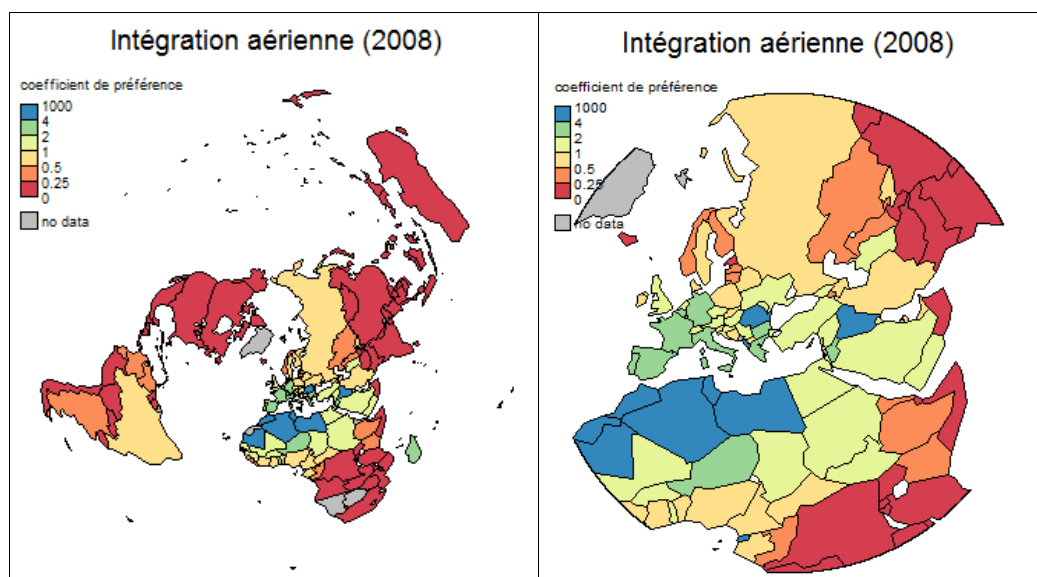
- Promoting the notion of a region can also foster greater sub-regional integration, open up small national markets (e.g. Maghreb, western Balkans) and boost insufficient South-South cooperation.
- This regional approach, which is actively supported by the African Development Bank, can also be useful in fostering the connection between Sub-Saharan African regions: a regional rationale has significantly developed there in the last fifteen years although regions are still inadequately connected with each other and with North Africa.

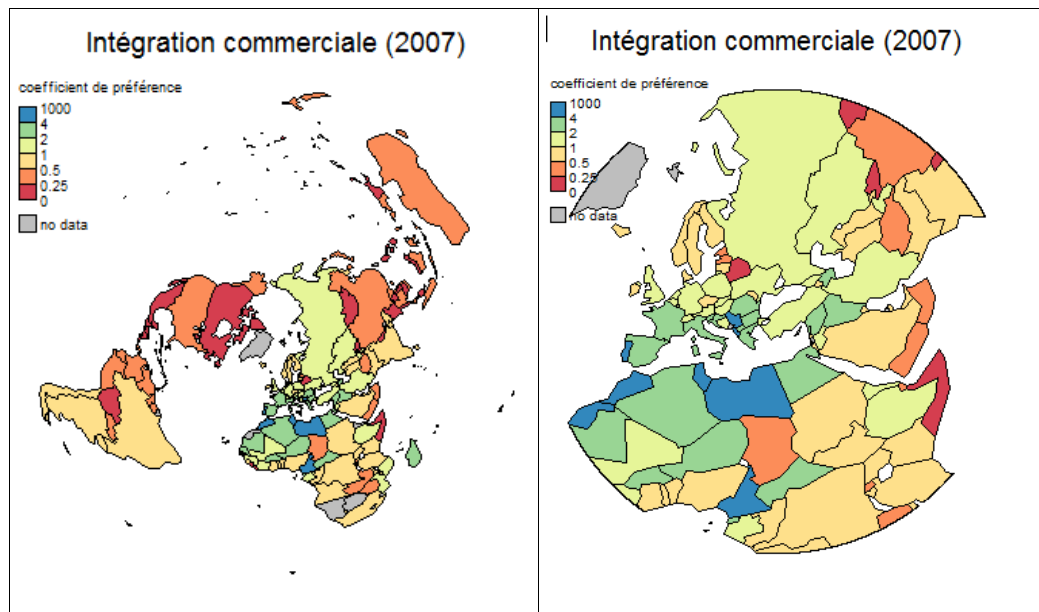
1.4. Which geographical boundaries?

- The Joint Consultation Paper raises the question of “*neighbours of neighbours*”. Apart from the vocabulary issue (i.e. “neighbours”), this also points to the problem of the ENP’s geography.

- Rather than the vague term, “neighbours of neighbours”, the European Union should promote a global region defined by shared collective preferences (rather than “common values”), which should not however be closed to the rest of the world (notion of “open regionalism”), and with a geography aiming to extend and take in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Gulf, along with Russia.
- Geography is clearly not sufficient to define a regional integration strategy. To say that the Gulf States, for example, are part of this region says nothing of what the European strategy should do vis-à-vis countries that some people see as characterized by a rent economy and support for fundamentalists, which move in the opposite direction to the European cultural project. Defining collective preferences to boost productive, sustainable, socially responsible development based on inclusion, implies political courage to deal with countries in the region whose democratic shortfalls are all too often accepted by the EU, through weakness, blind conformity with the United States, or commercial opportunism.
- If we agree that the term “Europe” can be extended to the current eastern neighbourhood, and if we consider the considerable human and economic potential of Sub-Saharan Africa, it is essential to think of the regional future in “Euro-African” terms. The expiry of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) in 2020 establishes a milestone for this future Euro-African partnership. Map 1 shows that merchandise trade and air travel already display such a region.

Map 1. Which countries preferentially exchange with Mediterranean countries ?
Inter-country exchanges bigger than the value resulting from a general equilibrium model of flows at global scale





Merchandise trade (values) in 2007 and direct air flights in 2008.
Source : Grasland, C. et Toureille, E., 2015, "La Méditerranée dans la division régionale du Monde", ASRDLF 2015

1.5. Conclusion: "Should the ENP be maintained?"

- Yes, provided that it would rather be called "*Greater Region Policy*", ultimately opening out into a vast Euro-African region with the Mediterranean as its hub.
- The three parts of the ENP as it stands are:
 - o *Security* (which is an everyday necessity for all countries in the region and works in favour of European weapons sales, but which goes against the sentiment of belonging to a common region when the concern for security goes before everything else and results in a frequent amalgam of Islam and Islamism in the public debate; mobility of people is what ENP countries require most of all);
 - o *Acquis communautaire* (beyond the reach of most of these countries);
 - o *Budgetary support* (EU aid benefits public administrations, very occasionally civil society stakeholders, and rarely inhabitants).
- This needs to be replaced by a regional cooperation that would be:
 - o *productive*: sharing the value chain is at the heart of East Asia's powerful integration and the same should go for our common region;
 - o *sustainable*: production that uses few resources (especially energy) and adapts to climate change constitute a common challenge for all countries in the region;
 - o *inclusive*: inclusive growth can be a key collective preference for the region compared to other regions around the globe. It can work on a national level (promotion of development models based on solidarity) as well as on the level of our common region (where joint co-conception of projects between Europe and the other countries should be the rule, whether involving senior officials or players in civil society).

2. Strategic recommendation: a shared vision for deep regional integration

The countries in the region have a common past and share a frequently difficult present (e.g. Palestine, Libya, Syria, Ukraine, terrorism); they need a shared vision to build a common future.

2.1. Make East/South differences clearer but maintain a multilateral regional ambition

- “*Should a single framework continue to cover both East and South?*” The issue of differentiating South from East clearly does not involve the same stakes. In the words of the EU text, we indeed need to undertake “*tailor-made*” action country by country, but maintain an overall regional ambition. A multilateral approach works badly on a global scale (e.g. the failures of the Doha Round, the difficulties of global financial regulation, etc.), whereas a multilateral approach is more necessary than ever on the scale of major regions.
- The central idea to put forward is that, in our greater common region, East and South need Europe *as much as Europe needs them*. This awareness is crucial to ensure growth that is productive (rather than led by consumption and imports of Asian goods), innovative (rather than dependent on the American Google-Apple-Facebook-Amazon quartet), sustainable and socially responsible.
- In these conditions, emerging countries in this greater common region can become tomorrow’s European “Dragons”.

2.2. Free trade cannot be a mobilizing target for countries in the region

- The regional model promoted by Europe, i.e. free trade (superficial regional integration) cannot inspire the support of stakeholders and inhabitants. The DCFTA (Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area), on which the Joint Consultation Paper has pinned its hopes for an improved partnership with its neighbours, is deep only in name.
- The declared objective should instead be “deep regional integration”, defined, far beyond free trade, by the convergence of standards (but without imposing those of the EU), sharing the value chain (rather than simple offshoring), and common policies starting with energy since Europe and its neighbours are clearly complementary in terms of energy resources and environmental challenges.
- Only deep integration would replace the image of a hegemonic Europe with that of a Europe based on partnership.

2.3. Replace “security” with “general security”

- The prevalence of security in the ENP does not work: Europe has not succeeded in accelerating political and economic transition in its neighbourhood, resulting in massive destabilization in several of these countries, wars, the expansion of illegal trafficking, and human tragedies especially in the Mediterranean.
- Instead of security, joint action should be put in place to boost “general security”. Going further than the United Nations debates on “human security”, the launch of a joint debate between Europe and its neighbours on the general acceptance of security could prove mobilizing. “General security” would centre not just on people’s security, but on securing energy supplies and access to electricity, the supply and safety of medicine, and food security. General security could become a joint component of market regulation and a collective preference of the region. Putting it in place would involve joint policies, and thus converging standards and shared responsibilities – in other words, deep integration.

2.4. Shared long-term vision to measure progress in attaining deep integration

- A shared vision should be put in place between countries in the region. This should not be occasional, e.g. in European calls for tender, but constant. It is not an academic exercise, but a long-term partnership process, given that the *process* is as important as the product. We need to provide a snapshot of the region that is shared by all stakeholders and inhabitants, just as the Schuman Report regularly does for the EU with its *State of the Union*. Scenarios should be established on regional integration (or de-integration!); these scenarios should be regularly compared to the changes actually observed. A common web publication produced every two years should show the state of this regional integration.
- This exercise should involve numerous actors and research departments in the region (with EU/neighbourhood parity), in order to come up with a consolidated representation of the integration process – instead of the usual separate approaches: energy / trade / migration / security, etc. Contributors to the common publication should, for their respective domains (public administration, think tanks, NGOs, business, etc.), say how the changes they observe compare with the scenarios.
- The exercise would start by focusing on the economic issues. Then it could employ the same method of validating the scenarios at work to look at the geopolitical field, and the cultural field which is the touchstone of regional integration.

3. An operational recommendation to facilitate joint projects: Territorial Agenda for a Greater Region

The Joint Consultation Paper poses the question: “*Are the Association Agreements and DCFTAs the right objective for all?*” Our answer is that such agreements should be accompanied by a common “Territorial Agenda for a Greater Region” (TAGR).

3.1. Why?

The EU has hitherto financed a great amount of studies and programmes in the neighbour countries, but a global vision is lacking. A territorially integrated perspective could add value to these disparate initiatives on trade, transport, energy, agriculture, environment, etc. It could be a relevant tool for cooperation, driving a common vision that could be shared by the EU's countries and their neighbours. A TAGR would meet several needs:

- The need for up-to-date multi-actor, multi-scale territorial governance, because most of the challenges encompass macro-regional, national and local scales. The EU paper asks: “*Is the multilateral dimension (UfM and Eastern Partnership) able to deliver further added value? Are these formats fit for purpose, how can their effectiveness be strengthened?*” A macro-regional territorial scheme fits into the wide vision fostered by the UfM, the Northern Dimension and the EaP. The paper also asks: “*Can we better cooperate with other regional actors (Council of Europe, OSCE, League of Arab States, Organisation of the Islamic Conference, African Union)?*” A vision on territorial challenges and structural projects, such as transport, the environment, etc. is one of the rare issues that could be shared by these various regional bodies. At local scale, it is relevant in the field of essential local services, such as access to water and sanitation, education and health. A spatial vision and good practices for territorial development could be shared and exchanged; who would believe that such sharing could take place easily in the fields of religion, culture or politics?
- The need for a cross-cutting approach to the various European projects and funds, fulfilling the requirements of “Elements for a Common Strategic Framework 2014 to 2020”³, which a

³ European Commission, 2012, Commission staff working document “Elements for a Common Strategic Framework 2014 to 2020: the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund”

territorial approach perfectly fits in with. As the EU paper says, “*The ENP has provided a framework for sector cooperation across a broad range of areas (including energy, transport, agriculture and rural development, justice and home affairs, customs, taxation, environment, disaster management, research and innovation, education, youth, culture, health, etc.*”; because it is transversal by nature, only a territorial approach can provide a synthesis of these various projects launched by the ENP.

- The need for better interaction between policies dedicated to the EU's territory / and those dedicated to neighbours, in line with the EU Partnership Instrument's goals to support the external dimension of EU internal policies.
- For each non-EU country, the need (i) to draw up a long-term vision (since territorial development necessarily means long term) instead of their usual short-termism, and (ii) to improve coordination between the various public producers of data on local territories (a national prerogative for sure, but which can sometimes be implemented more successfully in the framework of an international cooperation).

3.2. What?

The content of the ATGR could be as follows:

- Territorial policies in non-EU countries common to, or derived from, EU policies
The region needs a concise overview of all the policies launched by the EU and each of its member states that have a significant impact on the neighbour territories. Nowhere, except perhaps in the field of Mediterranean transport thanks to the Euromed Transport Forum, are the policies of France, Spain, Germany etc. analyzed in terms of the territorial impact on their neighbourhoods. Even at EU level, it is presently difficult to ascertain how much money the different European bodies have spent in the neighbourhoods, on which policies, and in which precise territory.
- Infrastructural projects to facilitate exchanges, and thus regional integration. This would be the central part of the TAGR because, as the Joint Consultation Paper states, there are “*strong shared interests in improving connectivity, notably in the fields of sustainable transport and energy*”. It would promote all projects of interest for the wider region. If we take the case of transport, this is what the Euromed Transport Forum did for the Mediterranean. This work should be reactivated, and implemented in all countries in the region. If we take the example of water and sanitation, the TAGR should state the main common principles of resource-conserving demand management and the need for good governance; again, the main projects of interest for the region should be identified, financially supported, mapped and widely disseminated. Some of these items already exist but not all of them, and they are scattered throughout a great deal of documents, websites and databases, rarely released and never cross-cut. Moreover, regional integration through key infrastructures is perfectly in line with the necessary extension of the neighbourhoods' scope, in particular toward sub-Saharan Africa. With time, the Agenda could become a “Euro-African Territorial Agenda”.
- Common governance of common public goods
The quality of water in common seas, the preservation of Northern resources, civil protection issues related to natural and industrial hazards, and other transnational common goods of key interest for the greater region's territories, would constitute the third part of the TAGR. Such transnational common governance would be in line with the strategy for deep regional integration.

3.3. How?

- The Territorial Agenda must primarily be a shared process. This is the condition for greater engagement and visibility. Engagement by whom? Fig.1 provides a first overview, and

suggests possible multi-level governance. The main idea is that the process should gather bodies from the EU and the partner countries during the whole process. Whatever the process timeline, the priority should be the participation of bodies belonging to a significant number of countries in the region, with *parity* between EU and non-EU countries.

- When it comes to European stakeholders, “shared” also means shared by EU bodies and member states. The new design of the ENP implies much better coordination between the EU and member states.
- The precondition of success is a common platform for local territorial data. Without comparable territorial data, no shared vision of our common region can emerge. Some research and operational projects have targeted territorial analysis of this vast world region, but methods remain varied, data heterogeneous, and findings scattered. A common tool for territorial data would meet two needs:
 - o Help coordinate the various projects dedicated to integrated territorial geometries and databases of the greater region,
 - o Steer collaborative work between experts and decision makers on shared spatial tools for decision-making, and build interfaces with territorial stakeholders.

This “Local Data Platform” would have the following tasks:

- o Update territorial delineations at the greater region scale,
- o Set up metadata models and sustainable local databases that are compliant with EU databases, so as to ease integrated and comparable territorial analyses. As the reliability of non EU data might be less reliable, a special attention relates to the quality and reliability of data joined and harmonized together,
- o Harmonize local data (harmonization of indicator definitions, spatial geometries and temporal discrepancies) and disseminate them with an open data approach.

The platform would respect two principles:

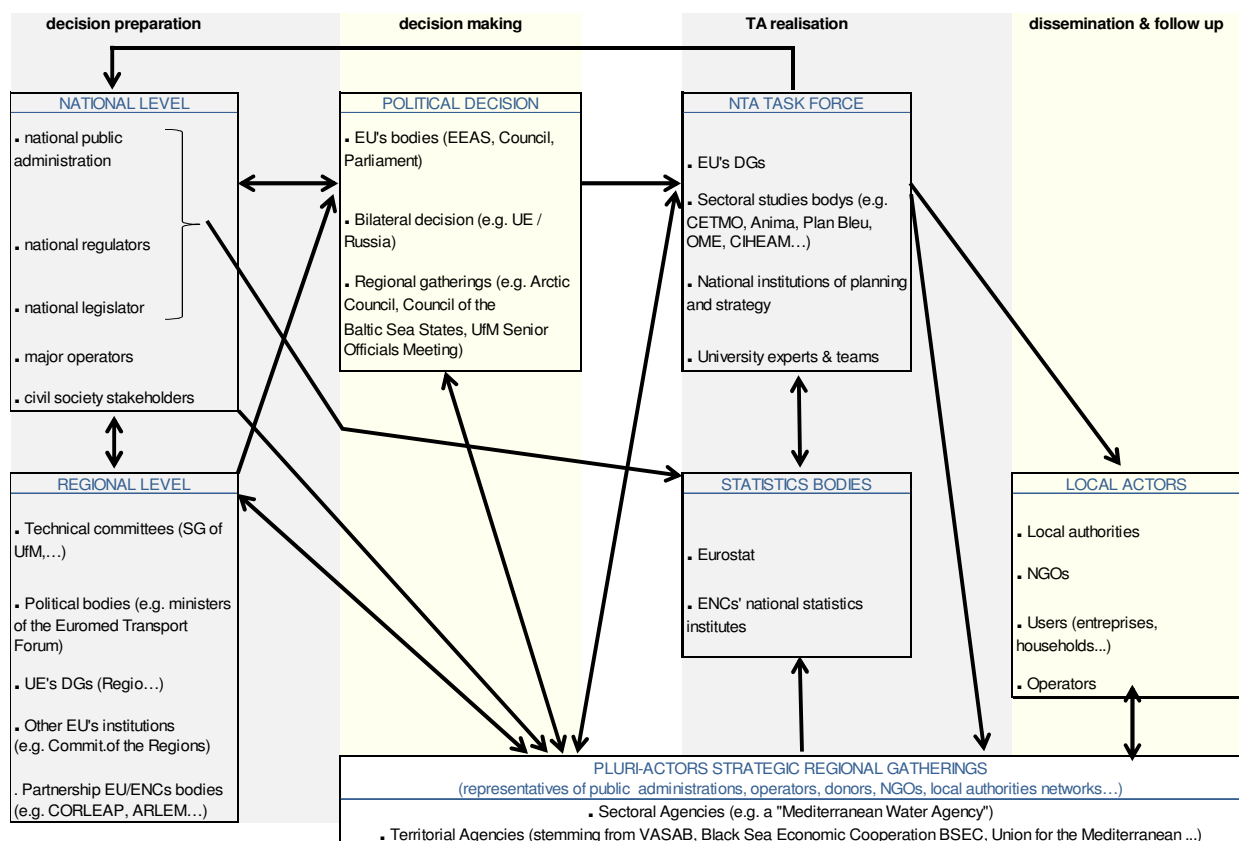
- o Participation of research networks and public bodies (national-international) dedicated to territorial data and analysis,
- o Parity between EU and non-EU countries in the region.

3.4. The importance of cartography

- Section III.4 of the Joint Consultation Paper (“Ownership & Visibility”) states, “*One of the most often repeated criticisms of the ENP is a lacking sense of ownership with partners, across their societies, and the general public’s weak awareness of the policy’s aims and impact*”. We totally share this point of view.
- A cartographic representation of the whole region would foster this sense of ownership, provided that the representation is subject to minimal harmonization – rather than the current juxtaposition of formats, frameworks and disparate graphic charters, which do little to foster a shared vision.
- DG Regio has done much to disseminate a harmonized representation of the EU’s territory and territorial data, in contrast to the variety of different approaches by member states. The same harmonization approach should be gradually put in place for all countries in the region.
- Cartographic language is a way for public stakeholders to communicate their infrastructure and equipment projects. If the EU wants to support the constitution of democratic and transparent states in the region, it needs to invest in this educational way of contributing to public debate.

- Cartographic language can be understood by public stakeholders, private stakeholders (companies) and collective stakeholders (associations). The EU report asks the question: *"How should the ENP further develop engagement with civil society in its widest sense?"*; obviously, mapping the challenges and realities in the region is not the only answer, but it could ease ownership by the various stakeholders.
- In particular, companies are familiar with cartographic language. They need to know the location of dynamic territories, the possibilities for public-private partnerships, the opportunities for investing in equipment, infrastructures or clusters and development projects because economic development requires a long-term vision.
- Lastly, cartography is an excellent way to communicate projects to inhabitants, local public stakeholders, the local education system, and users, whatever their culture and language, so that they can understand what the decision makers in this greater region are doing and intend to do for them.
- Consequently, this cartography should be open, easy for stakeholders to access and engage with, interactive to respond to their different requests, upgradeable, and extendable to take in the territories of "neighbours of neighbours".

Fig.1. Stakeholders of a Territorial Agenda for a Greater Region



4. The signatories

4.1. Scientists from several countries and disciplines and experts on territorial issues

The signatories are academics who work directly or indirectly on territorial issues. They come from varied scientific backgrounds: geography, cartography, land planning, economics, sociology, political science, demographics, statistics, information sciences, media and communication sciences, etc.

They are of different nationalities: European (French, Belgian, Spanish, Italian, German, etc.) and non-European (American, Canadian, Brazilian, Argentinean, etc.) because the issue of regional integration extends much further than Europe.

Some signatories are experts in analysis and local data.

4.2. Involvement in several international research programmes

The signatories have coordinated or participated in a number of international research programmes, including European Union programmes such as:

ESPON Programme (European Spatial Planning Observation Network):

- Integrated tools for European spatial planning (2000-2006)
http://www.bbsr.bund.de/BBSR/EN/RP/ESPON/Projects/BBR_LP/project_31/project31.html?nn=389160
The project served as a key project for the creation of common principles for all projects of the ESPON Programme and also for the analysis, synthesis and integration of the project results. The project developed computer-aided tools in the area of cartography.
- Europe in the world (2004-2007)
http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_ESPON2006Projects/Menu_CoordinatingCrossThematicProjects/uropeintheworld.html
The project analyzes trends, goals and strategies of European spatial development from a more global view and covering three demands. The first is related to flows, the identification of relations and linkages between Europe and other parts of the world. The second deals with territorial structures, the elaboration of structural comparison with comparable "regions" of the world. The third is devoted to the embedding of Europe into the geographical neighbourhood.
- Modifiable Area Unit Problem (2005-2006)
http://www.espon.eu/export/sites/default/Documents/Projects/ESPON2006Projects/StudiesScientificSupportProjects/MAUP/espon343_maup_final_version2_nov_2006.pdf
The project deals with the problem of cartographical pattern of spatial distribution of variables, according to the level of aggregation of spatial units and to the spatial grid used for collecting and presenting spatial information.
- European Seas and Territorial Development, Opportunities and Risks (2011-2013)
http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/ESaTDOR.html
ESaTDOR is the first ESPON project that explicitly looked to the seas as part of European space and not simply as an adjunct to the land or as a barrier to territorial development. It focused on understanding land and sea interactions as an integrated whole and explored territorial development opportunities and risks for Europe's maritime regions. It has been wide ranging, aiming to Map different types of sea use across Europe with the objective of creating typologies of different types of coastal/sea regions.
- Database I (2009-2011) and ESPON Database II (2011-2014)
<http://database.espon.eu/db2/>
The project was the core of the statistical and cartographic platform of a major policy applied research program for DG Regio and member states.
- Integrated Territorial Analysis of the Neighbourhoods (2011-2014)
http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/itan.html
The ITAN project directly mobilized 44 researchers from four European countries and ten countries of the neighbourhoods. It has (i) set up the first database at local scale of the European neighbour countries, compliant with the local database of the EU, (ii) set up a network of researchers, teams and bodies dedicated to local data in the neighbour countries, and (iii) provided a territorial analysis of threats and opportunities in the neighbour countries.

DG Regio:

- The impact of globalization and increased trade liberalization on European regions (2008)

<http://www.espon-usespon.eu/library,the-impact-of-globalisation-and-increased-trade-liberalisation-on-european-regions>

European parliament:

- Shrinking regions : a paradigm shift in demography and territorial development (2008)
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2008/408928/IPOL-REGI_ET%282008%29408928_EN.pdf

FP7:

- EuroBroadMap (2010-2013)
<http://www.eurobroadmap.eu/>
The project analyzed the vision of Europe from the outside through a very large survey of 10,000 students located in 18 countries and 43 cities of the world.
- Pegaso (2010-2014)
<http://www.pegasoproject.eu/>
The main goal of the project is to construct a shared Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Governance Platform (figure 1) with scientists, users and decision-makers linked with new models of governance.

Others:

- People Marie Curie IRSES 'MEDCHANGE' (2013-2017)
http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/109602_fr.html
MEDCHANGE sheds lights on changing relationships at the spatial scales of some Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Spain) due to the dialectics of global flows, borders crossing and local structural changes.
- Integrated Actions to Mitigate Environmental Risks in the Mediterranean Sea (2014-2015)
<http://www.medmaritimeprojects.eu/section/med-iamer>
Med-IAMER provides recommendations on integrated trans-boundary actions required to mitigate environmental risks in the Mediterranean Sea by putting together knowledge on regional Coastal and Maritime Environmental Pressures and by assessing their gaps. It proposes data integration and analysis approaches and maps the condition of existing trans-boundary mechanisms to mitigate these risks, focusing on cooperation and conflicts and involving regional stakeholders.

4.3. Networks fostering partnership with territorial development stakeholders

They belong to international networks that associate researchers from several fields, as well as territorial development stakeholders.

In particular, the International College of Territorial Science (CIST) was established in 2009 as a Joint Unit of Scientific Interest (GIS) by CNRS, University Paris Diderot, University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne and two universities of Grenoble, the National Institute of Demographic Research (INED), the Institute for Research on Development (IRD), associated with major institutions like the French National Planning Agency (DATAR-CGET), the National Agency for Reduction of Energy Consumption (ADEME) and the Paris Metropolitan Area Institute of Planning (IAU-IDF). The network involves 25 research teams in France and has established contact with equivalent structures in Canada, Italy, Germany, Brazil and Tunisia. The CIST develops three key activities: (i) Theoretical development of a science of territory, (ii) Methodological development of tools for the analysis of territorial information, (iii) Practical proposals to respond to social, political and civil demands on territories.

4.4. Technical and cartographic resources

The signatories come from institutions, teams and networks that have developed:

- databases on territories in Europe and its neighbourhood, sometimes in a pioneering way, and at variable scales down to very local. Their work has put the focus on sustainability (through scrupulously populating the metadata on these databases which makes them easier to update) and on comparison with the EU's territorial data (in line with the Inspire directive);
- tools for innovative cartography and dissemination of spatial issues with the aim of encouraging public debate.

4.5. List of signatories

<i>Name</i>	<i>first name</i>	<i>organization</i>	<i>position</i>	<i>country</i>
Abbassi	Inan	Ministry of Health	Head of General Affairs	Morocco
Abdul Malak	Dania	Universidad de Málaga (ETC-UMA)	head of Investigation Centre	Spain
Aubertin	Catherine	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement	Research Director	France
Bachmann	Veit	Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main	Assistant Professor	Germany
Baron-Yelles	Nacima	Collège International des Sciences du Territoire	Codirector of the "Regionalisation" Axis	France
Beckouche	Pierre	Collège International des Sciences du Territoire	President of the Scientific Committee	France
Bennasr	Ali	University of Sfax	Professor	Tunisia
Boulineau	Emmanuelle	University of Lyon	Assistant Professor	France
Bretagnolle	Anne	University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne	Professor	France
Breton	Françoise	Universitat Autònoma de Catalunya	Professor	Spain
Cohen	Yinon	Columbia University	Yerushalmi Prof. of Jewish Studies	USA
Du Tertre	Christian	University Paris Diderot	Professor	France
Gana	Alia	Institut Recherche Maghreb Contemporain	Research Director	Tunisia
Gana-Oueslati	Emna	University La Manouba	Professor	Tunisia
Grasland	Claude	Collège International des Sciences du Territoire	Director	France
Haddar	Mohamed	Association Tunisienne des Economistes	President	Tunisia
Kamaci	Ebru	Faculty of Architecture, Erciyes University	Assistant Professor	Turkey
Khaoua	Nadji	University Badji Mokhtar of Annaba	Professor	Algeria
Koleva	Petia	University Paris Diderot	Director of Department of Economics	France
Kolosov	Vladimir	Academy of Sciences, Inst. of Geography	Professor	Russia
Kotzamanis	Byron	University of Thessaly, Lab ADS	Professor, Director of the lab	Greece
Lafaye de Micheaux	Elsa	Rennes 2 University	Associate Professor	France
Magrin	Géraud	Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne	Professor	France
Mamadouh	Virginie	University of Amsterdam	Associate Professor	Netherl.
Marei	Nora	Collège International des Sciences du Territoire	Codirector of the "Regionalisation" Axis	France
Moisseron	Jean-Yves	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement	Researcher	France
Ndiaye	Néné Dia	Innovation, Environnement et Développement	Researcher	Senegal
Noel	Julien	University of Angers	Assistant Professor	France
Noutary	Emmanuel	Anima investment network	General Delegate	France
Noya	Eliane	CNRS, UMR Ladyss	Researcher	France
Paradiso	Maria	International Geographical Union	Chair Commission Mediterranean Basin	Italy
Pelus-Kaplan	Marie-L.	University Paris-Diderot	Professor emeritus	France
Richard	Yann	University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne	Faculty of Geography, Dean	France
Rizopoulos	Yorgos	University Paris Diderot	Professor	France
Severo	Marta	University Lille 3	Assistant Professor	France
Tarrius	Alain	University Toulouse Jean Jaurès	Professor emeritus	France
Tobelem Zanin	Christine	UMS RIATE	Director	France
Ulled	Andreu	Mcrit	Director	Spain
Van Hamme	Gilles	Université Libre de Belgique, IGEAT	Professor	Belgium
Verdeil	Eric	CNRS, University of Lyon	Research Director	France
Yomb	Jacques	University of Douala	Researcher	Cameroun