

INTENTION STATEMENT FOR THE CREATION OF A EURODISTRICT OF THE CROSS-BORDER CATALAN SPACE

"We, the institutional representative's signatories of this statement, are gathered today in Ceret in the aim to formalize collaboration in order to create a Eurodistrict intended to strengthen, structure, and harmonize the Cross-border Catalan Space.

This space of a million citizens, which joined together the "comarques" (*local administrative division in Catalonia*) of the area of Girona and the department of Pyrénées-Orientales (*Northern Catalonia*), constitutes a historical and geographical coherent whole, as well as urban than rural, and animated by complementary economic axes.

The ceremony of this day is part of willingness for a European construction at the local level, and proximity, which must allow to solve the difficulties related to the presence of the border which suffer the populations and territories, and to promote a shared development project.

Our desire is, in the medium term, to create an inter-institutional collegiate organization of integrated co-operation, equipped with legal personality and financial autonomy, which will lead to a cross-border policy of territorial governance in a space that will be marked by the arrival of the TGV (High-Speed Train).

In accordance with the subsidiarity principle put forward by the European Union and in complementarity with the actions implemented in the territory by each partner, this structure of cross-border cooperation will enable you to resolve and exceed progressively all the administrative, fiscal, infrastructure and mobility differentials that characterize our space. It may as well bring projects of common interest and to encourage all types of exchanges.

So, in the name of the institutions we represent, we, the signatories of this Declaration, we pledge to provide the impetus to the project of the Eurodistrict of the Cross-border Catalan Space, formalizing by this ceremony of foundation the constitution of a Steering Committee, composed of a political and a technical bodies, which will be in charge of the implementation of this ambitious initiative".

Done at Ceret the July 27, 2007