

Kolding, 30 January, 2015

Dear members of the CECICN, Dear friends!

I write to you in times in which our thoughts are with our French friends. Let me express our European solidarity with France and with the victims of the brutal attacks in Paris in January this year. The bloody attacks were not only aimed at France, but at all of us. They were aimed at our democracies, our values and our open-minded societies. The hearts of the CECICN members are beating in unison with France's today. Democracy, freedom and solidarity are stronger than the boundless barbarity of terror.

In this light it is not easy to return to daily business, but it is necessary that we find the power to. For me it is honor, joy and commitment to act as President of CECICN in times in which our cooperation is more important than ever.

The member structure of CECICN has changed, because RIET has decided to leave our community. I accept this decision and thank for the cooperation.

According to the CECICN statutes and following the recommendation of the Executive Board the Political Board has nominated Mr. Wolfgang Schmidt, Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) as Secretary General of CECICN for the period from 2015 to 2016. The Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives (CESCI) has thankfully agreed to take over the Head office from 1 January 2015. With these decisions we are fully operational and able to concentrate on the tasks ahead. Back from her maternity leave, our dear colleague Silvia Gobert-Keckeis from the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) will support us again. Welcome back, Silvia.

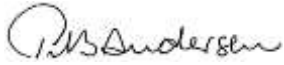
Our main targets for 2015 will be:

- direct access to EU institutions
- development of strategies, positions
- enhance and promote cooperation.

The Executive Board is already working on a detailed action plan for 2015/2016 under the auspices of the MOT. The further development of our successful work will only succeed if all members of the CECICN take actively part in this process. Therefore I kindly ask you to tell me until 20 February 2015, which of our main targets you judge with the highest and the lowest priority. Please send your comments and ideas for our future work to Wolfgang Schmidt (wolfgang.schmidt@kiel.de) and cc to Silvia Gobert-Keckeis (silvia.keckeis@mot.asso.fr) and Eniko Nyerges (eniko.nyerges@cesci-net.eu).

Dear friends, I will keep you informed about the progress of our common work and look very forward to meet many of you personally, as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Per Bødker Andersen
President CECICN