

## Four Motors for Europe - Four Motors for Mercosul

### 1- The “Four Motors for Europe”

Since 1988, this interregional cooperation group has brought together the Baden-Württemberg (Germany), Catalonia (Spain), Lombardy (Italy) and Rhône-Alpes (France) regions to work on joint actions.

This alliance has two aims:

- To promote the role of the Regions in Europe,
- To contribute to the international development of the Regions and of their citizens.

The Four Motors approach is fully consistent with the Lisbon strategy adopted by the European Union, the objective of which is to strengthen Europe’s economic, scientific and technological competitive advantage in a context of global interdependence.

It has also chosen to open its doors to other European Regions such as Wales (Great Britain), Flanders (Belgium) and Malopolska (Poland).

### 2- The creation of the “Four Motors for Mercosul”

As well as its European action, the Rhône-Alpes Region also works in close partnership with the State of Parana (Brazil) in the following areas of cooperation: economic development, university and scientific exchanges, training, the environment, transport, culture and institutional cooperation.

Against this backdrop, the idea of creating the “Four Motors for Mercosul” emerged.

Inspired by the “Four Motors for Europe”, the “Four Motors for Mercosul” project advocates a new and original approach based on exchanges of experience and collaboration between South American regions. It is expected to contribute to the joint and coherent development of its member regions and to create a South-America-wide common platform.

The new alliance brings together the State of Parana (Brazil), the project’s leader, the department of Alto Paraná (Paraguay), the province of Cordoba (Argentina) and the department of Rivera (Uruguay).

On 17 November 2008, the governors of these four Regions made the creation of the “Four Motors for Mercosul” official.

### 3- Establishment of cooperation between the two alliances

Spurred on by the State of Parana and the Rhône-Alpes Region, the “Four Motors for Mercosul” and “Four Motors for Europe” alliances have initiated a joint approach aimed at capitalising on the success of European experience and using it in the construction of the South American network. These close ties are the cornerstone on which joint projects within the framework of relations between Mercosul and the European Union will be developed.

On 20 May 2009, the President of the Rhône-Alpes Regional Council signed a Memorandum of Intent with the “Four Motors for Mercosul” on behalf of the “Four Motors for Europe”, to establish cooperation between the two alliances.

This cooperation is primarily reflected in closer ties on the economic policy front and in research and development, the main aim being to set up joint projects.