

ECBM state of play and future

9th Annual meeting of the
EGTC Platform

Palma de Mallorca (ES)
26 September 2019
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Cohesion Policy post-2020



The Cross-border multistage or step rocket

A **multistage rocket**, or **step rocket** is a launch vehicle that uses two or more rocket stages, each of which contains its own *engines* and *propellant*.

- **Stage 1: INTERREG**
(joint strategy and money)
- **Stage 2: European grouping of territorial cooperation**
(common structure and mutual trust)
- **Stage 3: ECBM**
(legal obstacles and initiators)



Why is it needed?

- *Article 174 of TFEU: "particular attention to ...cross-border...regions"*
- *In spite of the Single Market legal and administrative obstacles still hamper cross-border interactions in the EU.*
- *"If only 20% of existing obstacles were removed border regions would still gain 2% in GDP."*

(Com(2017)534, data from Politecnico de Milano)

What is it?

- *A legal mechanism to overcome legal obstacles that hamper stronger cross-border interaction*
- *A framework to establish case by case agreements to overcome existing obstacles :
European cross-border commitments (ECBC); or
European cross-border statements (ECBS)*
- *Within those limits, allows for the application in one MS of the legal provisions from another MS*

What it is not?

- *A revision of, or a new form of EGTC*
- *A mere support for INTERREG*
- *A way to bypass national legislative powers*

(When a ECBS is agreed, it only commits authorities to present proposals to the respective legislative bodies)

(An ECBC concerns mainly non-legislative obstacles, but also legislative if the MSt so wish)

Obstacles in emergency services

- *Firefighters and ambulances are in many cases prevented to intervene as legal restrictions impede them from crossing the border*



13/5/2000

Major explosion in firework factory in Enschede (NL) on DE border; Police cars were already allowed to cross the border with their signals, but not the ambulances! An on-the-spot solution had to be found: one police car with the siren on ran in front of an (silent) ambulance which followed at the same speed.

Solved for DE-NL: 2004.

Solved for NL→ DE/BE: 2009!

... just some examples under b-solutions

➤ Health:

- *EGTC-Hospital de Cerdanya (ES-FR): absence of a standardized method of mutual recognition of qualifications prevents the creation of stable cross-border teams*

➤ Institutional cooperation:

- *EGTC Arrabona Ltd (HU-SK): renting across the border of machines used for different purposes (e.g. to cut down larger trees, to shift snow, baling, etc.)*
- *EGTC Galicia-Norte de Portugal (PT-ES): high bureaucratic burden for school exchanges of minors*
- *EGTC Eurodistrict SaarMoselle (FR-DE): joint establishment and use of facilities for shared cross-border public services of crèches*

➤ E-government:

- *EGTC GO (IT-SI): Cross-border e-procurement*

... just some examples under b-solutions

➤ Public transport:

- *EGTC Rio Minho (ES-PT): elaboration of a multilevel protocol at local, regional and national level needed*
- *EGTC Eurocity Chaves-Verín (PT-ES): Regular transport difficult because of cabotage rules*
- *EGTC Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau (FR-DE): European solution for a vignette for air pollution control*

➤ Employment:

- *EGTC Duero-Douro (ES-PT): Double personality is a single reality: working in PT and quoting in ES due to impediments*

➤ Multilingualism:

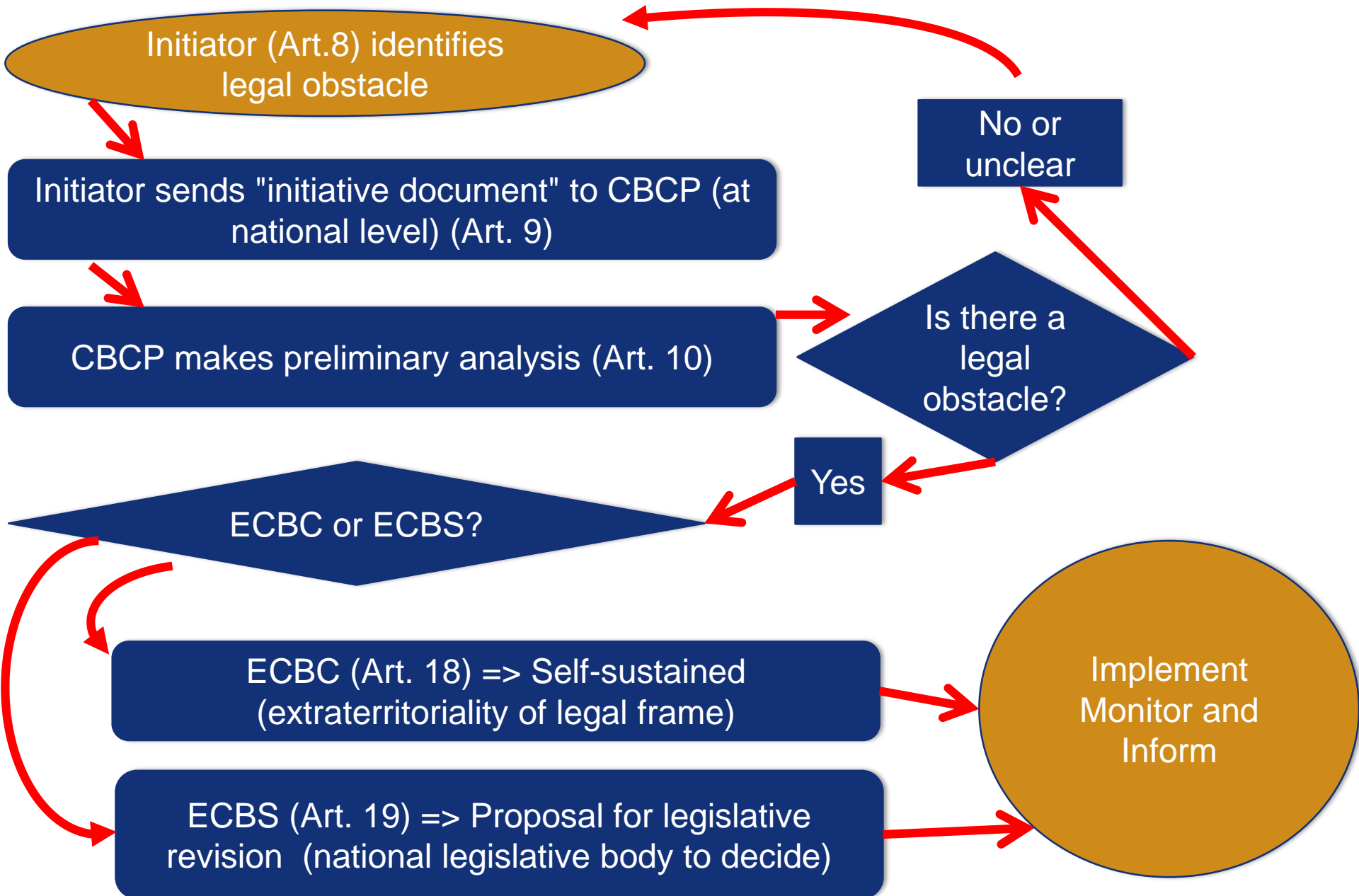
- *EGTC Euregio-Meuse-Rhine (BE-DE-NL): geo-blocking of audio-visual content in an increasing digital market*

First level (single decision per border – Article 4)

- *Member States identify Cross-border contact point*
- *Member States decide, per border, whether to use the ECBM or an existing mechanism*

- *Co-legislators?*
 - *Council? Opinion of its Legal Service*
 - *European Parliament*
 - Draft report on ECBM: **case-by-case***
 - Draft report on CB Healthcare Directive:*
 - 13. *"Encourages the MSt and border regions..."*
 - 14. *"Welcomes the COM's proposal..."*

Second level (one decision per obstacle Artt. 8-20)



**Many thanks
for your attention!**

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