

## What is the Upper Rhine Council?

In its capacity as trinational parliament the Franco-German-Swiss Upper Rhine region, the Upper Rhine Council addresses and tackles cross-border issues since 1997. It is a platform for political exchange and coordination, encourages new cross-border initiatives and monitors the activities of the Upper Rhine Conference.

## Why an Upper Rhine Council ?

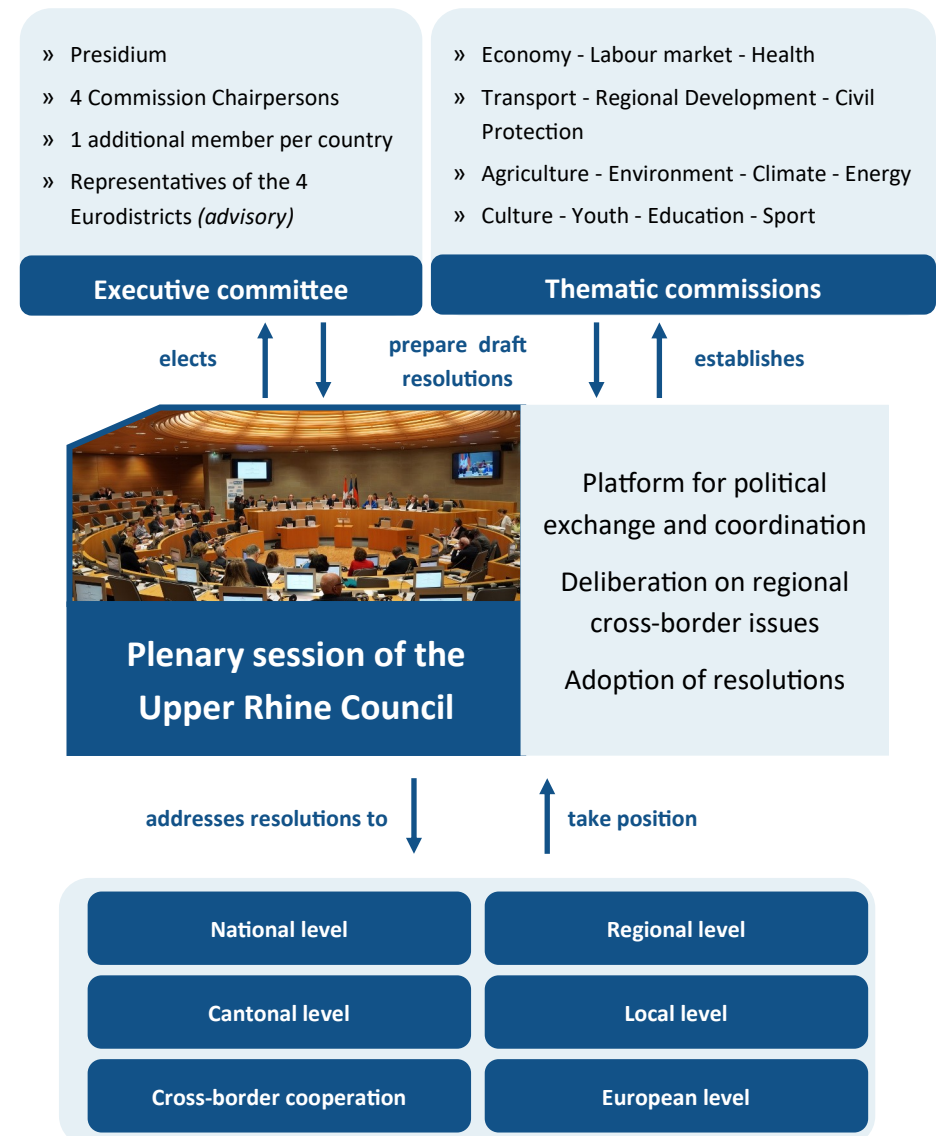
Due to its trinational structure, the Upper Rhine Council is the ideal platform for discussing regional issues that affect the entire Upper Rhine. The aim is to mutually coordinate political action in the border region and to take joint positions. In this manner, the Upper Rhine Council's activities allow the Upper Rhine to speak with a single political voice, especially with regard to Brussels, Paris, Berlin and Bern.

## How does the Upper Rhine Council work?

The Upper Rhine Council meets twice a year for plenary sessions. The members deliberate and vote on resolutions on cross-border issues that have been prepared by the four thematic commissions or the executive committee. Once adopted, the resolutions are addressed to the competent local, regional, cantonal and national governments as well as other stakeholders in cross-border cooperation and the European level, who are invited to provide their opinion.

## Who are the members of the Upper Rhine Council?

The Upper Rhine Council consists of 71 members of parliament and elected representatives of the population of the Upper Rhine region. 26 of them come from Alsace (France), 26 from Baden (Germany), 11 from the cantons of Northwestern Switzerland and 8 from the Southern and Southwestern Palatinate (Germany).



## Historical overview about the Upper Rhine Council

With the signing of the Bonn Agreement between Germany, France and Switzerland on 22 October 1975, a trinational government commission and two administrative regional committees were formed to strengthen cross-border cooperation in the region, which later became the Upper Rhine Conference. At the same time, different exchange platforms emerged at the parliamentary level to monitor and foster cross-border cooperation.

1976

The **Franco-German Working Group of the Elected** (1976-91) brings together representatives of the assemblies of the German regional associations and the Alsace Regional Council to accompany the work of the binational Northern Regional Committee, which was founded in 1975 alongside the trinational Southern Regional Committee.

1991

As part of the **Permanent Meetings between the Alsace Regional Council and the Landtag of Baden-Württemberg** (1991-96), their respective members discuss cross-border issues.

1997

On December 16th 1997, the founding agreement of the trinational **Upper Rhine Council** was signed in Baden-Baden, Germany. Its inaugural meeting took place in April 1998 in the European Parliament building in Strasbourg.

2019

The **permanent office of the Upper Rhine Council**, located in the Villa Rehfus in Kehl am Rhein, starts its work. It is initially financed for three years within the framework of an INTERREG project.

## The Upper Rhine region

The Upper Rhine includes the French region of Alsace, the Baden region and the Southern and Southwestern Palatinate in Germany as well as the five cantons of Northwestern Switzerland (Aargau, Basel-Landschaft, Basel-Stadt, Solothurn, Jura).



For more information about the Upper Rhine Council:

[www.oberrheinrat.org](http://www.oberrheinrat.org) (in German) or [www.conseilrhenan.org](http://www.conseilrhenan.org) (in French)