

FUTURE OF CPMR ENQUIRY

Following the presentation of a document on « The future of CPMR », the Political Bureau which met in Séville in January 2008 agreed that it was useful and timely to hold an enquiry on that theme, and gave mandate to the General Secretariat to do so. This enquiry is to be led by Islands Commission Executive-Secretary Jean-Didier Hache, in collaboration with the Executive-Secretaries of the other geographical Commissions as well as with the General-Secretariat. It is due to be concluded by February 2009.

The enquiry's detailed methodology, which has been drafted by the Geographical Commissions' Executive-Secretaries, is detailed hereby.

I - Foreword

The enquiry into the future of CPMR aims to give the organisation a clear vision of the nature of its membership, and of the political goals commonly shared by its members. It intends to assess the organisation's past strengths and weaknesses, and draw lessons from them. It will outline the main objectives which its members wish to pursue in the forthcoming years, as well as define the main fields of activities where they wish to see CPMR involved, be it within or outside the geographical scope of the EU.

The enquiry will not deal with strictly organisational matters, since addressing such matters before clarifying political goals would be putting priorities wrong. Debates and decisions on organisational matters will obviously have follow, but it seems appropriate that they be handled by the organisation's future Secretary-General.

It will be born in mind that this enquiry has to conciliate

- a rather tight schedule, considering the complexity of the issues at stake, and the size of an organisation which gathers nearly 160 Regions,
- the necessity to leave as much time as reasonably possible for CPMR members to debate, think over documents, and express their views in the course of CPMR events (Geographical Commissions annual conferences, Political Bureau meetings, General Assembly...) as well as individually.

The enquiry process will involve two stages:

- a) **STAGE 1, which will range from February to the holding of the next Political Bureau in June. It will deal with the very basic questions: "Who are we? What are our strengths, weaknesses and opportunities? What should be the scope of our activities? "**
- b) **STAGE II which will range from the aftermath of the June Political Bureau onwards. It will address the issue of "What do we want to do from now on, and how should we do it?"**

**STAGE 1: “Who are we? What are our weaknesses, strength and opportunities?
What should be the scope of our activities”**

It will involve four types of actions.

- **Producing a brief background paper** on the general European and world scene, and its evolution in relation to the evolution of CPMR.
- **Undertaking an analytical study of CPMR membership**, which has considerably evolved over the recent years. Its purpose will be to assess what is really its nature, and what are its core interests. The framework of this study is detailed in *Appendix I*.
- **Interviewing a limited selection of personalities within and outside CPMR**. The proposed list of interviewees is detailed in *Appendix II*.
- **Holding open debates** in the course of the annual conferences of the geographical commissions.

This process of interviews and debates will be undertaken according to a common framework of questions, to ensure a degree of consistency in the findings. This common framework is detailed in *Appendix III*.

These findings will be summarized and presented to the CPMR Political Bureau due to be held in Rhodes in June 2008. After discussion by the Political Bureau, one will proceed to Stage II.

STAGE II: “What do we want to do from now on, and how should we do it?”

It will involve two types of actions:

- **The drafting of a number of “scenarios”**. These scenarios will be drafted by the Executive-Secretaries of the Geographical Commissions on the basis of Stage 1 findings, and of the discussion within the June Political Bureau. They will be submitted to members in the course of the summer 2008, in view of a large debate during the general assembly of early October.
- The organisation of an **“opinion pool”**, via a short questionnaire which will be distributed to all member regions in electronic format (to enable quick processing) The members will be asked to give their opinion on each scenario proposed and to indicate their individual preference regarding the nature and goals of CPMR. They will also be given the opportunity to make comments or suggestions.
- These findings will be presented to the 2008 General Assembly early October, where they will be discussed. According to these conclusions and to the outcome of the General Assembly debate, the members of the Political Bureau will be presented with a final report at the meeting which will be held early 2009. This report, which will be circulated in advance to CPMR members, will propose either:
 - To approve a synthesis document
 - Or to choose between a number of options.

It will be noted that the same Political Bureau will also have to approve a procedure for the recruiting process of the future Secretary General. It will henceforth be possible to include the enquiry’s conclusion in the drafting “Post description” and “Candidate’s profile” leading to the recruiting of the future Secretary-General.

Appendix 1: Analytical study of CPMR membership.

This study will assess the situation of CPMR membership according to a number of indicators.

These indicators will be matched against two criteria:

- the **number of individual member regions** belonging to a category
- the **overall size of population** pertaining to a category, so as to take into account the wide discrepancy which exists between CPMR members when it comes to population size (with Regional populations varying from a few 10,000 to a number of million inhabitants).

The indicators will be:

- **Evolution of CPMR membership** since its inception (number of member regions)

And situation of CPMR member Regions with regards to

- **GDP/h** (<75%, <100%, >120%, in relation to their national and to the EU average)
- **Unemployment rates** (<75%, <100%, >120%, in relation to their national and to the EU average)
- **Level of accessibility** within Europe (<60, <100, >100; using the ESPON map of multimodal accessibility)
- **Maritimity** (existence or not of a shoreline)
- **External Borders** (eligibility under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument)
- **Exposure to natural handicaps** (island or part-island nature, mountainous or part-mountainous areas, low density of population (<12h/Km²), outermost regions). The accumulation of geographic or demographic handicaps in a same region (e.g: mountain+ island) will be highlighted.
- **Governance** (with four levels: State-run, Region with no legislative powers, Region with some legislative power, Federal system)

Appendix II: Proposed list of interviewees

Internal to CPMR

CPMR President + Presidents of Geographical Commissions

Pdt Alberto Jardim, past CPMR Chairman

Jean-Yves Le Drian, President of Brittany, CPMR founding and host Region.
CPMR Administrative Council

Mr. Luis VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA, President of CPMR Scientific Council

External to CPMR

Jean-Pierre Raffarin, Past French Prime-Minister and past President of Atlantic Arc Commission

Eneko Landaburu, Director General of DG External Relations, EU Commission, and past Director of DG Regio.

Michel Delbarre, President of the Committee of the Regions

Michel Barnier, French Minister for Agriculture, and past European Commissioner in charge of Regional Policy

Kostas Hatzidakis, Greek Minister for Air Transport, and past Chairman of the Regional Affairs Committee at the European Parliament.

Yavuz Mildon, President, Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

Jean-Charles Leygues, DG Regio.

These interviews will be undertaken by either the Secretary-General or by the Executive-Secretaries of the Geographical Commissions, according to a common framework (see Appendix III).

Appendix III : Common framework for the process of internal and external interviews, and for the debates within the Geographical Commissions.

Note:

- The Geographical Commissions are invited to debate the future of CPMR on the basis of this framework. These debates are not expected to lead to any formal position, but essentially to raise comments and ideas which will be used to draft various scenarios.
- The particular conditions and membership of the Balkan and Black Sea Commission may require a different framework or specific questions, which will be proposed by its Executive-Secretary. The same may apply, to some extent, to the Baltic Sea because of the issues related to its direct neighbourhood of non-EU countries.

1°) Definitions.

First of all, the components of the organisation's name "Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe" need to be defined, since this choice of words is not neutral.

Regions

This usually means the democratically-elected level of government below the national government. However, this rule has been applied with a large degree of flexibility by CPMR, which accepts in its ranks regions whose political leaders are nominated by central government. CPMR's practice has been not to reject such membership, but to accompany the process of regionalisation which brings some countries to establish gradually democratically elected regional authorities.

It will be noted that this situation leaves CPMR membership exposed to institutional changes when countries delete an existing tier of government, or establish a new one.

Periphery

The definition of periphery can be the subject of endless debates. We will hereby propose the following definition, inspired by the work of Norwegian sociologist Johan Galtung:

"A periphery is a territory whose inhabitants are, or feel that they are, distant in space from a centre where the economic, political, or cultural power lies".

As such, the notion of "peripherality" or "periphericity" is:

- **Subjective**, since it may depend on the inhabitant's view of their own condition, and perhaps also of how they are viewed by others;
- **Relative**, since a periphery may depend not from one, but from a number of centres, and also since a periphery may be in turn a centre for another periphery
- **Fluctuating**, since changing political, economic, technological, etc. conditions may result in a periphery becoming a centre, or a centre a periphery.

The concept is both simple and complex, and cannot be quantified by mere statistical criteria only. It is nevertheless a political reality, as demonstrates the 35 years existence of CPMR.

Maritime

Article 2 of CPMR Organisational Charter states that may be CPMR members “*Any European region which, because of its geographical, economic or political situation, considers itself to be a part of the maritime periphery of Europe*”.

The obvious definition of a maritime region is a region which has a maritime border.

However, Article 2 of the Organisational Charter states that, with the agreement of the organisation’s members, membership may be opened to regions which “*considers itself to be a part of the Periphery of Europe*” and “*which form part of the large geographical maritime areas of Europe*”.

This has led to the inclusion within CPMR of regions with no maritime borders.

Europe

Article 2 of the Organisational Charter states that CPMR membership is open to the Regions of the Member States of the European Union, as well as to “*Member States of the Council of Europe, as well as other European regions belonging to States that respect the fundamental principles of the Council of Europe.*”

Associated membership is open, under certain conditions to “*Any region of the States belonging to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.*”

2°) Questions.

Two sets of questions are to be raised during the interviews and in the course of the Geographical Commissions debates:

1°) SWOT ANALYSIS

- What do you consider as CPMT biggest achievements during the recent years .
- In what occasions, or in what areas, do you consider that CPMR has failed, or could have done more ?
- What do you consider as the most important issues which CPMR should address in the foreseeable future?

2°) CPMR external relationships.

- Do you think that CPMR should get more actively involved with other stakeholders on the European scene, and if so which ones?
- Do you think that CPMR should play a greater role with the territories covered by the EU Neighbourhood Economic Policy?
- Do you think that CPMR should become increasingly involved with other structure or networks of regional organisations worldwide?

To allow a fruitful debate, the Executive-Secretaries will ensure that these questions will be distributed to the Members prior to the annual conference of their Geographical Commission.

CALENDAR

January 2008	CPMR Political Bureau, Séville. Decision to undertake an enquire into the future of CPMR.
February 2008	5th - Drafting of enquiry procedure by Executive-Secretaries Validation of procedure by email by Political Bureau Members.
STAGE 1	
March 2008	Start of interviews process Start of analytical study & background paper.
Avril 2008	3-4 th NSC Steering Cttee, Vastra Gotaland 7 th – Meeting with CPMR Administrative Council 10-11 th IC annual Conference, Mallorca.
Mai 2008	
June 2008	12-13 th BSC-NSC Joint annual conference 12-13 th AA Annual Conference 23-24 th IMC annual meeting, Marseille 26thBBSC annual Conference, Rhodes 27 th CPMR Political Bureau Rhodes. Presentation of paper and report of debates and interviews to PB. Validation of Stage 1
STAGE 2	
July 2008	Drafting of scenarios and questionnaire.
August	Consultation sent to members by email
September 2008	Mid –September: end of consultation
October 2008	1-3 rd CPMR General Assembly, Aquitaine. Presentation of enquiry conclusions. General debate.
November	Drafting of a synthesis position paper, or of different options. Circulation of these papers to members.
December 2008	
January 2009	
February 2009	Decision by CPMR Political Bureau. Start of recruiting procedure for future Secretary-General