



Aquamarina Working Group

The CPMR has established a working group called 'Aquamarina' to follow the development and implementation of the European Union's Maritime Policy. The group will be co-ordinated by the Brittany Region. The group was given a 2-year mandate by the CPMR General Assembly on 19 October 2007. The objectives of the group are to:

- 1) Monitor the 'Blue Book' and accompanying action plan for the implementation of the Maritime Policy;
- 2) Analyse priority subject areas which are not adequately covered by the Maritime Policy, with a view to influencing the development of EU policies.

The group is set to meet three times per year, with each meeting focussing on a specific thematic area. Thematic meetings may also be held to examine subject areas in more detail. The group's first meeting took place in Brussels on 26 March (see <http://www.crpm.org/index.php?act=6,1,2,85> for presentations and further information) and discussed the group's draft workplan. It is proposed to hold the following meetings in 2008:

July – Maritime space/transport
Autumn – Research and clusters

The EU's Maritime Policy priorities for 2008 will be guided by the Slovene and French Presidencies' priorities. A number of events will be held under these Presidencies, with a geographical focus on the Mediterranean area. The French Presidency is likely to focus on surveillance, governance, research and transportation.

The European Commission's Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs has been restructured. The DG will now be known as DG MARE and will be sub-divided into the following regional directorates:

North Sea, Baltic Sea and landlocked countries (*contact Nicole Schaefer - nicole.schaefer@ec.europa.eu*).

Arctic, Atlantic and Outermost Regions
Mediterranean and Black Sea

The work of these regional directorates will be co-ordinated by a horizontal directorate. There will also be an international directorate for external policy.

It is also planned to introduce Action Plans for the Mediterranean, Baltic and Black Seas this year. These seas have been chosen due to political commitments from the relevant Member States, which have not been as forthcoming in the North Sea region. The year's work will conclude with a meeting of the European Council in December, which will examine economic aspects of the Maritime Policy (e.g. clusters) as well as the impacts of climate change on coastlines.