



CRPM CPMR

CONFERENCE DES REGIONS PERIPHERIQUES MARITIMES D'EUROPE
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CPMR

THE VOICE OF EUROPE'S PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS

"CPMR, not just an interest group but a think tank for Europe..."

Claudio MARTINI, President of Tuscany, President of CPMR

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR - www.crpm.org) brings together 161 Regions from 28 Member States, both members and non-members of the European Union. Representing almost 200 million people, it campaigns in favour of a more balanced development of the Community territory.

In its dealings with EU institutions and national Governments the CPMR has, since 1973, been targeting its action towards ensuring the needs and interests of its member Regions' territories are taken into account in respect of policies with a high territorial impact, e.g. EU regional policy, maritime policy, sustainable development, transport and spatial planning, fisheries, the environment, agriculture and rural development, research and innovation, energy, climate change, migrations and tourism.

In order to foster regional development and territorial cohesion in Europe, the association also acts as an incubator for cooperation projects between its members. The CPMR is sub-divided into 6 Geographical Commissions centred on the Union's seas (Islands, Atlantic, Mediterranean, Baltic, North Sea, Balkan/Black Sea) and, as such, initiates and facilitates cooperation projects between the regions on shared issues of concern.

The CPMR's member regions often constitute Europe's seaboard, with assets - such as exchanges with the rest of the world, outstanding environment, good quality of life, major marine resources - and difficulties - remoteness from economic and decision-making centres, pollution due to shortcomings in the maritime safety system, lack of infrastructures. Their joint work, through the CPMR acting as a 'think-tank' agent, aims to ensure that their actions, together with those of national governments and the European Union, help to reduce their handicaps and enhance their assets.

Today, the CPMR is also working to structure the voice of the Regions on the international stage. Thirty years ago, it acknowledged the urgent need to structure a mouthpiece for the regional level within a European Union in the process of being set up. Back in 2003, it supported the emergence of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD). Similarly in 2007, by seeking alliances with regional organisations from other continents, the CPMR supported the creation of the Forum of Global Associations of Regions (FOGAR), which shares the same concerns within the emerging circles of future world governance, such as the World Trade Organisation, International Maritime Organisation, Kyoto Protocol and United Nations.

In order to ensure a successful globalisation process, the CPMR will continue to promote the governance between regions and their states at a world level, in order to contribute to economic growth and sustainable development.

www.crpm.org

“The role of the Regions is crucial, that’s why the European Commission is firmly committed to the principle of subsidiarity and an increasingly regional element within all European policies...”

José Manuel DURÃO BARROSO, President of the European Commission

REGIONAL POLICY

“We could not have saved Regional policy without the support of CPMR...”

Michel BARNIER, European Commissioner for Regional Policy 1999-2004

Throughout the negotiations for the programming periods 2000-2006 and 2007-2013, the CPMR ascertained itself as a **legitimate authority in the debate on EU regional policy**. Its representative membership and ability to transform its knowledge of the European Regions into effective political arguments in a context of negotiations makes it a **highly respected player** whose opinions are valued by the Directorate General for Regional Policy and national stakeholders, as well as being a prominent partner of the Committee of the Regions.

Since the end of 2007, the CPMR has been leading a long-term thought process to prepare itself for the negotiations on the **future of regional policy after 2014**. After an initial set of proposals presented to a high-level political audience in Seville in January 2008, the onslaught of the **financial, economic and social crisis** has led it to conduct a survey among all its members on the **impact** of this crisis within the Regions. This is the first time that such an initiative has been undertaken and it is greatly appreciated by the EU and national actors, as remarked by the representative of the European Commission attending the Gothenburg General Assembly.

The Marseille seminar on **“Regional responses for leading Europe out of the crisis”** to be held on 27 November 2009 will raise the political profile of this work. It will also promote the proposed **European Territorial Pact** supported by the General Assembly, which calls for the creation of a European system of governance that systematically involves regional authorities in the design and delivery of EU policies. This kind of involvement would **make regional actors more accountable** for delivering regional policy and would in turn help to **streamline** it quite considerably, which is something that all actors are urging for.

Moreover, the CPMR is currently looking at the kind of **territorial cooperation instruments** that need to be introduced to face the challenges of the 21st century. Because it works on the basis of major sea areas, the CPMR has acquired sound **expertise in transnational cooperation** and is regarded as a respected stakeholder in this field. The European Commission is therefore seeking to work closely with the CPMR while leading its own reflections on this issue.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Integrated coastal zone management must become a political challenge and no longer just a game for academics and researchers...

This is a field of activity that lies at the heart of CPMR’s orientations. From the outset the maritime Regions have founded their arguments for a **balanced development** of the European area on assets related to the **quality of the environment** and **attractiveness** of their territories.

The Conference is mainly oriented towards three types of activity in this field:

- i) **Integrating the environment** into development policies;
- ii) Taking part in the Commission’s efforts to **promote integrated coastal zone management**;
- iii) Developing and disseminating the right **methods and tools for integration**, especially data and indicators.

With regard to integration, the CPMR is taking part in the different discussions led by the Directorates-General REGIO, MARE, ENV, Transport and Research in particular. The thrust of its action is in its position papers and the guidelines it is proposing for these policies.

With regard to integrated coastal zone management, the Conference is taking part in the different working groups set up by the Commission (DG ENV). The General Secretariat is part of the **group of experts on Coastal Zones** and also a member of the **group on climate change indicators**. For the CPMR, the aim is to highlight within these different groups the needs of the Regions both in terms of delivering regional development programmes as well as in terms of their content.

The General Secretariat also takes part in projects designed by the Geographical Commissions which contain sustainable development aspects.

MARITIME POLICY

CPMR has worked at our side, helping to make a success of maritime policies...

Joe BORG, European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

For all those involved, the CPMR is **the reference organisation** when it comes to territorial aspects of the new **EU integrated maritime policy**, which it helped to introduce in 2004.

The CPMR is a stakeholder in all European initiatives in this field, and its Geographical Commissions are providing analyses, strategies and projects for each of the major sea areas. At a time when the concept of the **"macro-region"** is gaining ground and where the issues of maritime governance and planning are at the heart of the EU agenda and discussions, the CPMR is ideally organised to influence the maritime content of EU policies for 2014-2020.

Talks are in progress at the European Parliament to form an **intergroup** focusing on the seas and coastal areas. If this intergroup is created, then **CPMR will act as its secretariat**, thus giving its member Regions privileged access to policies and instruments that will be debated within the group.

All of CPMR's Regions have the possibility to take part in these actions and discussions by participating in the **Aquamarina** working group.

In addition to the integrated aspects of maritime policy, the CPMR and its Aquamarina group are taking forward groundwork in the field of **marine and maritime research and innovation** designed to help adapt EU instruments and strengthen regional clusters.

Being a member of CPMR means being part of this motivating and ambitious project to see the coastal Regions, with the support of Europe, spearheading **sustainable growth** after the economic crisis.

FISHERIES

The main issue at stake in the CFP reform is to succeed in restoring hope and confidence to the fishing industry and all its stakeholders...

The **Common Fisheries Policy** (CFP) has been one of CPMR's core activities since the organisation was set up. The Fisheries Inter-Commission Group was the first to be established by the Conference to give maritime Regions the opportunity to speak as one with a view to influencing policy guidelines.

The **FIG (Fisheries Intercom Group)** is chaired and led by Shetland and brings together representatives from all the Geographic Commissions (including Shetland for the Islands Commission and Aberdeenshire for the North Sea Commission). The group **coordinates** the positions of the various working groups on fisheries that exist in each of the Geographical Commissions and **drafts the CPMR's position** that is sent out to the European institutions after approval by the Political Bureau and/or General Assembly of the Conference.

The CPMR leads **three types of actions** in relation to fisheries:

- i) It **drafts the Regions' policy position** regarding proposals put forward by the Commission, Parliament and Council (it is currently drafting its position on the Green Paper on the CFP Reform).
- ii) It ensures **regional participation in EC initiatives on fisheries**. In this way, the CPMR organised eleven Fisheries Conferences between 2005 and 2008, which aimed to facilitate the implementation of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF). It is currently a member of the FarNet network which is in charge of implementing axis 4 of the EFF with regard to the "*Sustainable Development of Fisheries Areas*".
- iii) At the request of the Geographical Commissions it **helps to draft fisheries aspects of transnational and interregional cooperation programmes**, as is currently the case with the Maremed Project presented by the Inter-Mediterranean Commission.

ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

50 to 80% of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and almost 100% of adaptation measures are implemented below UN member level – by regional and local government at sub-national level

Yvo DE BOER, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC

The peripheral maritime Regions are concerned by energy issues on several counts. Firstly, many of them have considerable **potential in terms of renewable energies**, which is likely to make a significant contribution to their economic development. Secondly, these territories are, on account of their geographical location, particularly exposed to the potential consequences of **climate change** (rising sea levels, extreme weather events, etc.), and are therefore motivated by a policy to reduce the causes of the greenhouse effect.

These reasons have led CPMR to set up a **working group** especially devoted to work on energy issues. The action of this group focuses on two areas.

Firstly, **organising seminars** that bring together the regional authorities most concerned, as well as representatives of national and EU authorities, civil society and NGOs (environmental protection organisations), in addition, more especially to private sector businesses working in the energy field.

The aim of these seminars is to define areas where CPMR's members encounter **shared problems** and agree on a certain number of **solutions**. The Energy working group has therefore addressed or will shortly be addressing issues such as constraints in terms of planning for offshore wind farms, conflicts that may exist between designated protected environmental areas and the development of renewables, or the way in which maritime peripheries are likely to take real advantage of innovation policies in marine energy.

Secondly, and in direct correlation with the above point, the Energy working group prepares and carries out **lobbying** actions with the European Institutions to get the EU to bring in measures that respond to the shared concerns and interests of its members. The CPMR therefore played a very active role when the **Energy/Climate package** went through the European Parliament and more especially the Directive on promoting renewable energies. The CPMR also intends to follow with great attention the preparation of the **8th Framework Programme on Research and Development (FP8)** and ensure that future cohesion policy after 2013 gives sufficient resources for delivering a sustainable energy policy.

Since its General Assembly in Porto in 2001, the CPMR has been aware of the **climate challenge** for its Regions whose territories and economies are among the most exposed to the consequences of climate change.

It very quickly realised that solutions in this field had two complementary dimensions: a **global dimension** insofar as the major guidelines were taken at this level (cf. Copenhagen Conference), and an **EU dimension**.

The CPMR's is involved in **international aspects** of climate change through the action led by **nrg4SD** (Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development), which was set up at the 2002 Johannesburg Earth Summit. The CPMR is **co-founder** of this global network and from the beginning has acted as its Treasurer. This network has the original feature of having a dual North-South chairmanship. The Co-Chair for the North is currently the Welsh Environment Minister, Mrs Jane Davidson.

The current challenges of this network - and therefore those of the CPMR - consist in gaining **recognition of the contribution made by sub-state levels** (particularly the Regions) in the guidelines that will be adopted at the Copenhagen Conference in December 2009. They also consist in drawing up **cooperation projects between the North and South** on this issue under the European development programmes (DG DEVE) in so that development policies led by Europe's Regions can be oriented towards taking on board climate change.

The **EU dimension** consists in taking part in programmes introduced by the European Commission and particularly in the guidelines and working groups proposed by the **White Paper on Adaptation**.

To this end, an **Inter-Commission working group** is due to be set up by the end of 2009. Hampshire County Council has already expressed interest in this.

The General Secretariat takes part in projects drawn up by the Geographical Commissions that include Climate Change aspects.

INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

"In this crisis, the importance given to research and innovation in the Lisbon strategy must not decrease"

Alain BENETEAU Vice-President of Midi-Pyrénées Regional Council

The CPMR is stepping up its action in the fields of innovation and research with the aim of influencing the **8th Framework Programme for Research & Technological Development**, the upcoming **Competitiveness and Innovation Programme** and **other European programmes** in these areas. Its initiatives focus on three aspects, namely regional policy, the European Research and Innovation Area and sectoral policy areas, in particular maritime policy and energy.

The CPMR is supporting the principle that future **regional policy should maintain a sizeable component on research and innovation**. Considerations on its content began in 2008 and led to a partnership being set up between the CPMR and Region Skåne (Sweden) in the framework of the conference entitled "Innovation in Mind" sponsored by the Swedish Presidency which was attended by many businesses. Other issues such as the effectiveness of financial instruments like Jeremie will be addressed in the near future.

The role of the Regions in the **European Research and Innovation Area** is the subject of a new working group coordinated by Midi-Pyrenees Region (France). The group will be looking in particular at the results of FPRTD and CIP **projects** in the Regions, FPRTD and CIP **funding** targeted at regional authorities (Knowledge Regions, Era-Net, co-funding for mobility grants), and the **links between Regions and European structural initiatives** (ESFRI research facilities, particularly maritime-based, European Technology Platforms, joint programming and the main networks of excellence). East of England and Wales are involved in these aspects.

With regard to the maritime field, further to the adoption of a CPMR policy paper on the **European strategy for marine and maritime research**, a seminar will be organised on this issue during the forthcoming European Maritime Days to be held in Gijon (Asturias, Spain) in May 2010. In this context, the CPMR is working together with the Regions and public and private research organisations. The Marine Institute in Plymouth (South West of England) is just one of the stakeholders with which the CPMR is looking to interact. This seminar will also deal with European funding for maritime clusters, an issue on which the CPMR is already working in relation with the Regions and businesses, including Marine South East (maritime cluster located in the South East of England).

Finally, the CPMR's Energy working group is organising a seminar on **technological innovations in marine energies** which will take place in Falmouth on 22 and 23 October 2009.

AGRICULTURE

Regions should be considered as main actors in adapting the CAP to all EU territories...

At first glance, the **Common Agricultural Policy** might seem far-removed from the concerns of an organisation of maritime Regions. However, CPMR's members have decided to look into this issue, as they felt that they could not remain indifferent to the **implications for their territories** of the first and second pillar of the CAP, which in total mobilises around 40% of the EU budget.

The debate on the CAP after 2013 will get under way as of 2010, and the CPMR intends to be part of it by looking together at the **different options for upgrading this policy**, drafting joint positions (at least on some aspects of this policy) and **promoting the regional tier and regional authorities** as being the right place and actors for delivering a renewed CAP.

A seminar on the **CAP and the Regions** in Andalusia in the first half of 2010 will be just one step in this joint approach. It will be prepared in partnership with other interregional organisations working in this area wishing to take advantage of CPMR's reputation.

TRANSPORT

Making European peripheries more accessible...

For the past ten years or so, the CPMR has been considered a **valuable discussion partner** by the Directorate General for Transport and Energy of the European Commission in helping it to find out what the **priorities of the Regions** are and making sure that transport policy includes a territorial dimension.

As part of its multiannual programme, the CPMR has been tasked by its General Assembly to contribute towards the **review of the Trans-European Transport Network**. With the support of an Inter-Commission Working Group and input from the CPMR's Advisory Council, the General Secretariat is preparing the thematic and geographic options to be defended by the organisation throughout the review process of the 2004 guidelines. In the spring of 2010 under the Spanish Presidency of the EU, a **high-level seminar** will bring together Regions and EU institutions to debate the issue. Work will be taken forward throughout the negotiation phase which will ultimately conclude in the adoption by co-decision of a new priority transport network for Europe.

In addition to TEN-T, the CPMR will continue to advise the European Commission on **instruments to support maritime transport**, namely motorways of the sea, short sea shipping and the EU framework for State aid for maritime transport. The CPMR regularly alerts the EU bodies to the fact that there is too little European support for a mode of transport that is nevertheless fundamental in terms of sustainable and balanced development. In 2010, policy positions will be taken on upgrading the **Marco Polo instrument** and adapting the **framework on State aid**.

Undeniably, membership of CPMR not only allows a Region to help take forward transport policies but also to defend its own territorial priorities within a body of common principles.

CPMR NORTH SEA COMMISSION

The North Sea Commission was founded in 1989 to **facilitate and enhance partnerships** between regions which manage the **challenges and opportunities presented by the North Sea**.

Further NSC promotes the North Sea Basin as a **major economic entity** within Europe, by encouraging **joint development initiatives** and **political lobbying** at European Union level.

In June 2008 the NSC Secretariat presented a report "**Promoting the Success of The North Sea Commission**", based on a survey among politicians and officers involved in NSC work.

The Benefits of participating of the work of NSC is summarised in the report in the following table

For councils/areas	For individuals
Ability to raise issues at European level (lobbying)	Learning & exchange of experience
Learning & exchange of experience	Building a network, useful contacts
Ideas, partners, funding for Interreg projects generally	Practical achievements, projects and results from lobbying
Examples of successful lobbying work (Sellafield, mercury submarine, fisheries, maritime policy)	Ability to raise issues at European level (lobbying)
Basis for inter-regional co-operation, commonality of interests, working together across boundaries	Social benefits, friendships, nice people
Get valuable input and ideas to apply in local work	Building understanding of Europe and international dimension
Raises profile and influence of Council area	Develop new skills and awareness that can be used back home
Build a network, useful contacts	Co-operative approach to discussions and decisions, across party lines, politicians and officers
Develops the skills of politicians and officers, builds capacity	Pleasant, enjoyable work
Specific development projects, e.g. cycle route, Viking Festival	Quality of debates, quality of people

From the two lists, the main benefits can be summarised as **Influencing, Projects and Learning**.

For making most out of the NSC the report suggests following;

For councils

..... The most common suggestion was to ensure that participation is properly resourced, by giving officers dedicated time to support the politicians. At least four Councils had set up an international committee to make sure that their involvement in the NSC and other international organisations was properly reported on. This enables links to be made between international and regional policy-making. Evaluation can also be carried out of the benefits coming from each organisation, so that memberships can be reviewed on a regular basis.

For more information, the report is available on the NSC website, www.northsea. (About NSC)