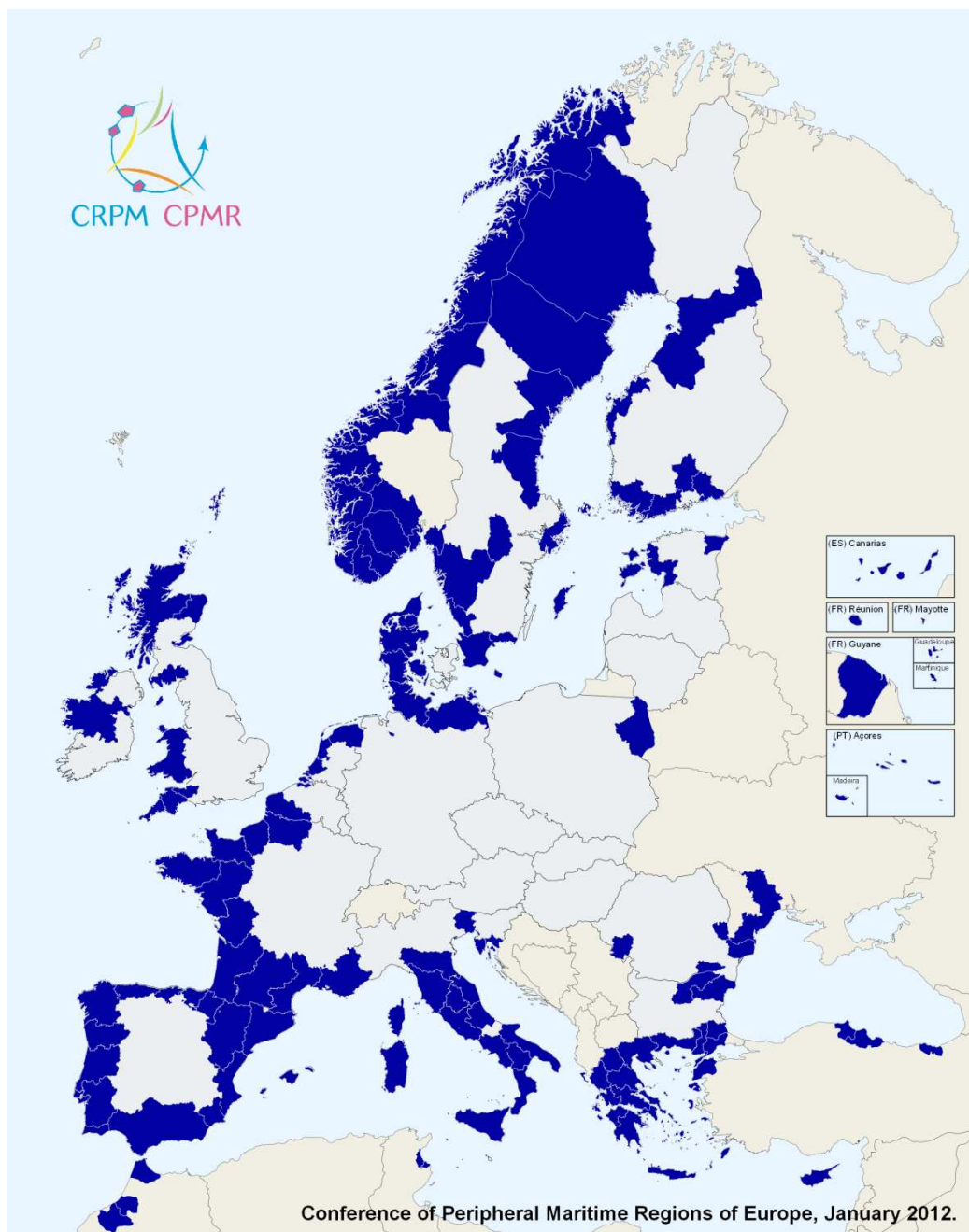


CPMR ACTIVITY REPORT 2011 - 2012



Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe
www.cpmr.org

Dear colleagues,

And so we find ourselves at the end of my second term as President of the CPMR. The last two years have been spent tackling major issues affecting the future of Europe. On the day after my election in October 2010, I proposed harmonising all of our actions with respect to the theme of European solidarity. Since then, many of our partners have taken up this theme, which has become central to the European debate, even in difficult discussions on the European project and the future of the single currency.



Today, even more so than two years ago, the economic and financial climate and austerity measures weighing heavily on the European territory demand our attention, while the negotiations with respect to the next multi-annual budgetary framework take a decisive turn.

The CPMR has made an official statement with respect to the European budget and has expressed its approval of the Commission's first draft proposal, taking the view that it constitutes a minimum basis for discussion. At the extraordinary summit on 22 and 23 November, important decisions will be taken on the future of the European budget, which must serve to promote growth and employment.

Recent developments in the positions taken by some Member States are a source of optimism in an otherwise bleak economic climate. The "growth pact" aiming to balance the austerity measures of the "stability pact", the stronger role of the ECB - with increased supervisory powers with respect to the banks, demonstrates an intention to provide Europe with the structures needed for further integration and to weather the storms of a globalised world. The most recent decision of the ECB to buy sovereign bonds is yet another step towards greater European solidarity.

Now is the time to bring together our collective socioeconomic powers to stimulate economic growth and sustainable job creation for young Europeans, create investment opportunities for businesses and ensure the well-being and prosperity of all European territories.

In order to achieve this objective, our States and Regions must deploy targeted initiatives aimed at creating sustainable, intelligent and inclusive growth within the framework of the European 2020 Strategy, based on European funding that meets the needs and ambitions of the Europe of tomorrow. Unfortunately, the European GDP is still shrinking (-0.4% this year, instead of the predicted -0.1%) and we are facing the greatest economic and financial crisis that Europe has ever seen. We need to be capable of thinking ahead in order to prepare for the future, and invest in the future of our young Europeans and future entrepreneurs.

Once again this year, the CPMR has been successful in making relevant proposals and we will be debating these during the coming 40th General Assembly, over which I will once again have the great pleasure of presiding.

Jean-Yves LE DRIAN

President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR)

Dear readers

It is with great pleasure that I introduce our 2012 annual report which outlines the work our Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions has achieved throughout the year. I am particularly proud of our attainments under the very exceptional circumstances affecting the European project. Our members, public authorities, are hugely under pressure by this unprecedented economic and financial crisis that jeopardises growth potential. The current financial crisis creates uncertainty and fear to our citizens who are looking to local and regional leaders for solutions. Austerity measures have an adverse effect on our regions across Europe in particular its periphery that we represent with anti European voices increasingly heard at political campaigns.



Against this background, the European Commission relaunched its growth Strategy on Europe 2020 and published in June 2011 its first proposal on the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020 to support this strategy. CPMR welcomed the initial proposal of the European Commission on the MFF but can only regret the €5.5 billion reduction to Cohesion Policy budget by the revised budgetary proposal on July 2012.

Today, more than ever, Europe's efforts should concentrate on utilising all financial means and associating all socio economic stakeholders in particular our regions, towards a prompt recovery from the crisis. Cohesion policy represents a very powerful ingredient for growth, jobs and investment opportunities on the ground and an essential catalyst for boosting economic development across Europe. A strong and ambitious budget is needed to boost and deliver Europe 2020. CPMR has been and remains fully abreast of developments on these issues delivering strong and substantial messages to EU institutions and Members States.

The maritime agenda is also high on CPMR's agenda and the blue growth is a very significant investment prospect, which brings new opportunities to Europe's competitiveness. Europe is substantially a maritime continent so protecting the seas and bringing about prosperity to its coastal areas is essential for CPMR. An integrated approach to maritime issues on sea and land is what we are focusing on and our positions are crystal clear when it comes to the future Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP). The funds related to the implementation of the IMP are not only sectoral but are available on a more comprehensive basis through the mainstreaming of maritime activities within the overall EU budget.

Accessibility is the third key work activity of crucial importance to CPMR for all peripheries and islands that are penalised by their location. We shall insist in claiming that peripheries and islands have plenty to contribute to sustainable, smart and inclusive growth: from energy efficiency to sustainable use of natural resources and deployment of raw materials for scientific purposes. Linking the peripheries to the centre and between themselves will further the completion of the single market and support all of Europe's territories. Territorial cohesion is not an insignificant addition to the Treaty but a fundamental principle complementing economic and social cohesion.

CPMR strives for a better future using all of Europe's strengths. Trust, hope and solidarity among citizens and young Europeans towards retaining and accentuating the achievements we brought about over the years within the European project are what we are pleading for. We have gone a long way to be diverted to discussions on how to save over how to invest.

Eleni MARIANO

Secretary General of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)

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5. Accessibility: Trans-European Networks and Sustainable Maritime Transport

1. EU Budget and Solidarity

Against an unfavourable backdrop of a lasting economic and financial crisis, the European Commission kick started the debate on the post-2013 EU budget with the publication of the financial perspectives in June 2011. The Multiannual Financial Framework paved the way for individual legislative proposals on EU policies and programmes published later on in the year.

The CPMR welcomed the EU budget proposal for 2014 – 2020 as proposed by the Commission in its policy position “Financial Framework 2014 - 2020: a proposed level below which it would be unacceptable to go” which was adopted at the Aarhus General Assembly in September 2011. What’s more, the CPMR organised its action around two themes to defend the interests of peripheral and maritime regions throughout the negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council on the EU budget proposal.

An ambitious EU budget...

The first set of activities concerned a reaction against the pressures arising from a number of Member States to reduce the EU budget by a substantial amount. To this end, the CPMR organised and facilitated a political meeting with Mr Hervé Jouanjouan and Mr Walter Deffaa, Directors General of DG BUDGET and DG REGIO on 4 April 2012 to allow Members of the CPMR Political Bureau to provide evidence of the added value of Cohesion Policy as an investment policy and the long term risks associated with cutting the budget drastically.

... with regions at its core

The CPMR also reacted against the pressure to apply macro-economic conditionality to structural funds and the general trend of linking more closely discussions on the future EU budget with efforts to put back national public finances in order. Very early on in the negotiations, the CPMR made it clear that linking the payments of structural funds to a set of macro-economic conditions to be met at the level of the Member State (macro-economic conditionality) would go against the very core objectives of the policy, which is to invest in European Regions as well as support the development of the poorest regions.



CPMR Members (including elected Members from the Regions of South Holland, Madeira, Cornwall and South Aegean region) had the opportunity to spell out those views on the occasion of a high level seminar co-organised with the Committee of the Regions on 10 February 2012 in front of representatives from the European Parliament, the European Commission and Ministers from the trio of Presidencies of the Council, with each politician using regional examples of projects where structural funds had a clear triggering effect.

President Le Drian with Commissioner László Andor and Secretary General Eleni Marianou at the Seminar European Solidarity as a driving force behind the development of Europe's territories What are the challenges for EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020?" 10 February 2012, CoR

The Common Strategic Framework

The CPMR also reacted to the proposal for a Common Strategic Framework in a position paper (adopted in June at the Helsinki Political Bureau) by arguing that the framework should not be conducive to allowing the Council to review and potentially reorient structural funds on an annual basis, which would go against multilevel governance and the legitimacy of managing authorities in regions.

With the added risk of a late agreement on the MFF which would potentially penalise Regions further, the CPMR will monitor very closely the final phase of negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework to ensure that the agreement mirrors the needs of peripheral and maritime regions.

2. Territorial Cohesion

2.1 Cohesion Policy 2014 - 2020

With the publication of the Commission proposals for a revised Cohesion Policy published in October 2012, the activities of the CPMR on Cohesion Policy largely focused on influencing the course of the negotiations over the future of the policy for the 2014 – 2020.

The Core Group to lead CPMR action

The CPMR broadly welcomed the Cohesion Policy package in a comprehensive position adopted by its February Political Bureau, which took on board the guidelines promoted by the CPMR such as the principle of a policy covering all Regions, a transition Regions category, meaningful multilevel governance and partnership arrangements with regional authorities in partnership contracts. Led by the Core Group, the Political Bureau officers group on Regional Policy, the CPMR position focused on a number of key issues for its member Regions, in particular conditionalities and structural funds, thematic concentration (widening the scope of ERDF in richer Regions), simplification and the use of funds in specific territories.

The CPMR positioned itself as an ally to the European Parliament Regional Development Committee and set up meetings early on in the process with *Rapporteurs* on the legislative proposals, Mr Jan Olbrycht, MEP and Ms Constanze Krehl, MEP, to present the key messages of the CPMR's position and contribute to the European Parliament position with examples from the Regions.



EU Member States diplomats responsible for Cohesion Policy meet experts from CPMR regions dealing with structural funds management and implementation, including Dr. Kieran Moylan, Assistant Director, Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly (IE) and Silvia Vives I Pastor, Responsible of the Coordination of Structural policies, Ministry of Economy and Knowledge, Catalonia (ES) at a meeting hosted by Joan Prat, Delegate of Government of Catalonia, 26 April 2012, Brussels

Development and presentation of amendments

Based on technical expertise and evidence from CPMR Regions, amendments on the Cohesion Policy legislative proposals were developed. A roundtable meeting was organised on 26 April 2012 to allow representatives from structural funds managing authorities (Catalonia, Basque Country, Aquitaine and BMW Regional Assembly) to present and debate these proposals for amendments with negotiators from the Member States Permanent Representations, using concrete examples from the current period. These amendments were also circulated to the European Parliament. With Ms Danuta Hübner, MEP and Chair of the European Parliament Regional Development Committee, the CPMR organised an extraordinary Regional Development Committee session in the European Parliament on 8 May, with CPMR President Jean-Yves Le Drian delivering key messages – on conditionalities, simplification and ERDF priorities for richer Regions – in front of Members of European Parliament.



President Le Drian speaks at the EP Committee on Regional Development (REGI) where representatives of the EU major regional organisations were invited for an exchange of views with MEPs on the post-2013 EU Cohesion Policy 8 May 2012, European Parliament

European Social Fund

Led by the Aquitaine Region, the CPMR Employment and Training Group continued its work to focus particularly on the regional dimension of the European Social Fund, with meetings organised with the Chair of the Employment Committee in the European Parliament, Mrs Pervenche Bérès, MEP and Mrs Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, MEP, *Rapporteur* on the European Social Fund. A letter was also sent to the European Parliament to remind the role of Regions in the management and delivery of the European Social Fund in the context of the current negotiations.

Defending specific interests

The CPMR and its Islands Commission in particular played a major role in defending the interests of specific territories, from islands to sparsely populated territories, in the course of the negotiations. Following a successful seminar on this issue at the Committee of the Regions on 8 February 2012 chaired by Mr Cappellacci, President of the Region of Sardinia and President of the CPMR Islands Commission, the CPMR prepared specific amendments on the Cohesion Policy proposals, which were then successfully tabled by a number of islands MEPs and now form part of the official European Parliament position. For instance, these amendments touch on the need for the allocation method for structural funds to be adapted to take into account sparsely populated territories and their specific challenges. Another success of note is the extension of the specific allocation for outermost Regions to islands in the Council negotiating document (the negotiating box) in June.

On the invitation of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council, the Islands Commission will hold its annual General Assembly in Nicosia on 5 November this year, and the President of the Islands Commission will attend the Informal Council in behalf of CPMR together with the CPMR Secretary General.

2.2 State Aid

Now, as guidelines are being drawn up on state aid for regional assistance, the CPMR has brought the need for recognition of the specific interests of specific territories to the fore. On 17 February 2012, a meeting was held in Brussels by the Commissioner for Competition, Mr Joaquin Almunia, and a delegation from the CPMR Islands Commission. Presided over by the President of the Sardinia Region and the Islands Commission, Mr Ugo Cappellacci, the CPMR proposed a more flexible approach to the rules for state aid to the islands, in particular as regards the directives applicable to state aid to regions post-2013. A summary document detailing the situation for all island regions with respect to the scope of application of provisions on state aid for regional assistance to islands with a population of less than 5,000 (Article 107.3.c of the Treaty) for all islands was drawn up on the request of the Commissioner.



Ugo Cappellacci, President of Sardinia Region and the CPMR Islands Commission meets with Competition Commissioner Joaquín Almunia - 17 February 2012, European Commission

2.3 Macro-regions

The CPMR has supported the development of macro-regional strategies ever since the inception of the concept, with the Baltic Sea Strategy seeing the light in 2009. Since the adoption of the Danube Strategy in 2011, other strategies are being developed and the Geographical Commissions of the CPMR have been very active at the level of their own sea basins, such as for instance the Atlantic Arc Commission which is playing a lead role in the implementation of the Atlantic Strategy and its action plan.



Ole Christensen, Member of the European Parliament and Gunn Marit Helgesen, President of the CPMR North Sea Commission Launch of the North Sea Strategy - 27 March

A dedicated “task force”

The CPMR took the initiative of building on this momentum to create a task force on macro-regions, in order to propose a concept for macro-regional strategies, on the basis of the experience from each of the Geographical Commissions. Led by the Region of Catalonia and in collaboration with the European Commission, a Task Force was created to pull together extensive guidelines on what should constitute a macro-region, which will be presented at the General Assembly of the CPMR in October. The aim of this work is to feed in the European Commission forthcoming Communication on this theme, which is due to be published in June 2013, as well as to provide a constructive platform for CPMR regions to exchange ideas on the development of macro-regional strategies.

Amongst the themes tackled, the concept will examine the issues of financing (which fits in with the preparation for EU programmes for 2014 – 2020), governance, scope and synergies with other EU policies. A dedicated session on macro-regional strategies is being held at the General Assembly in Bialystok on 4 October 2012.

3. The territorial approach of sectoral policies

3.1 Research and Innovation

The CPMR’s approach is based on the principles set out in its Policy Positions on research, in particular with regard to the new Horizon 2020 programme and the research, development and innovation policy, underpinning cohesion policy.

“Research” working group

Following the adoption of the Political Position in February 2012 on the Commission’s draft proposal for Horizon 2020, a working group, led by Mrs Annika Annerby Jansson, President of the Regional Council of Skåne, with specialised support provided by numerous regional authorities with regard to various working themes (in particular, Navarre on “Smart specialisation” and Schleswig-Holstein on maritime research) was reorganised to lead CPMR activity in these areas.

The CPMR at the centre of negotiations

During this decisive phase of negotiations on proposals for financial regulations in support of research and innovation, the CPMR has prioritised regular dialogue with the European institutions. Mr Rogier van der Sande, Vice-Governor of the Province of Zuid-Holland, represented the CPMR during the Conference “Regions for Economic Change” in May 2012. The CPMR actively participates in the “smart specialisation” discussion platform. For example, the Arc Atlantic Commission received an invitation from the Commission to participate in a discussion seminar involving peer-review of regional strategies for smart specialisation at Azores in June 2012, and will also be organising a joint seminar with the Aquitaine Region in November on the development of its strategies, financed by the European Commission.

With the support of the General Secretariat of the CPMR, an ESPON-AMCER project was launched on the territorial indicators for the Horizon 2020 programme. The project, led by the Region of Tuscany, culminated in a conference in April 2012 aimed at fomenting important dialogue among the European institutions and the Member State ministers with responsibility for these issues. Following these exchanges, the Member States wrote a letter to European institutions detailing the need for an approach characterised by inclusive excellence within the framework of Horizon 2020.

Finally, the CPMR has co-signed draft amendments with other organisations in support of the reintegration of the programme “Regions of Knowledge” within the framework of Horizon 2020.



Rogier Van Der Sande, Vice Governor of the Province of South Holland speaks at Regions for Economic Change conference - 15 June 2012

3.2 Sustainable tourism

In order to respond to growing interest in this theme among Member States, the CPMR Inter-Commission working group on tourism relaunched its activities in 2011, focusing on two specific objectives: recognition of tourism as an economic sector that deserves specific attention from the European Union, such as access to eligible actions under the Cohesion Policy for the period 2014-2020.

The CPMR is also working on a collaborative basis with the Commission to ensure that tourism will be among the top investment priorities associated with the “blue growth” concept within the framework of the Integrated Maritime Policy.

The Inter-Commission Tourism Working Group has therefore been working in close collaboration with technical networks, notably NECSTouR (Network of European Regions for a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism), and organised a political meeting last July 3rd in Brussels in which the Vice-President of the Alentejo Region and the Regional Minister for Tourism of the Region of Istria participated, as well as the European Commission and various technical experts from among the Member Regions of the CPMR.

3.3 Energy and Climate Change

The CPMR has continued to examine closely the territorial dimension of EU policies on energy and climate change.

On climate change issues, the CPMR plays an active role on the Adaptation Steering Committee, a European Commission expert group led by DG Climate Action. Following endorsement from the Helsinki Political Bureau in June, the CPMR will examine the question of risk management of climate change related disasters by insurance companies to feed in to a European Commission Green Paper, with a view to ensuring that

territories particularly affected by those risks benefit from certain guarantees.



Jari Sainio, Member of the CPMR Political Bureau and Vice-Chairman of the Board of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region, and Eero Heinäluoma, President of the Finnish Parliament and chairman of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council host the CPMR Political Bureau - 8 June 2012, Helsinki

On energy efficiency, the CPMR supported the European Parliament *Rapporteur* on a proposal for a directive on energy efficiency, Mr Claude Turmes MEP, with comments from its Members on the proposals sent in October 2011. On renewable energy, a working group meeting of the Atlantic Arc Commission was held in May 2012 in Cherbourg focusing on opportunities for territories. In anticipation of the a Green Paper on marine renewable energies to be published by the European Commission by the end of the year, the CPMR will organise a meeting with interested Regions and the European Commission in October.

3.4 CAP and Rural Development

Building on a Technical Paper defining the main lines of the CPMR position on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Rural Development adopted in June 2011, the CPMR and its dedicated working group on CAP and Rural Development led by the region of Andalucía developed a comprehensive response to the package of proposals for a reformed Common Agricultural Policy for 2014 – 2020, which were published by the Commission in October 2011.

The CPMR argues the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy needs to recognise the role of Regions, particularly with regards to managing rural development funds. It is more important now than ever to improve the coordination of European funding sources, particularly with regards to linkages between Structural Funds and Rural Development Funds. It also stresses the need for the CAP to recognise the needs of specific territories.

3.5 Neighbourhood and Development

Peripheral and maritime Regions have natural links with the EU's neighbours, hence the CPMR's long lasting involvement on this issue. The regions and the CPMR geographical commissions therefore have a natural long-standing affiliation with projects and partnerships with their counterparts in the South of the Mediterranean, the East of the Black Sea and in Russia.

European Neighbourhood Instrument

In 2012, the CPMR sought to make their contribution with respect to neighbourhood policy more concrete, following repeated expressions of interest and political positions adopted in previous years. On June 8th in Helsinki, the Political Bureau debated and approved amendments that the CPMR had provided to the *Rapporteur* in charge of the report to the European Parliament on the new European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, Mr Eduard Kukan.

In addition, the Geographical Commissions of the CPMR participated in proceedings led by bodies created by the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) and the Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP).

Towards recognition of the role of the regions

The CPMR will be pursuing internal mobilisation around this future-oriented theme involving a number of objectives. The first shall be to ensure that the regions are consulted by European institutions at the same level and to the same extent as civil society organisations, both with respect to strategies for implementation and implementation provisions, as well as on cooperation programme governance. The CPMR is also calling for greater attention to be given to cross-border cooperation greater attention in future programming periods, since cross-border cooperation programmes are one of the key means by which to involve local and regional authorities in neighbourhood policy.

The CPMR strongly supports "maritime basins" programmes and will provide the European Commission with recommendations on appropriate ways of improving their implementation. Finally, specific attention should be given to the Nordic dimension of this policy in terms of the development of EU-Russian Federation relations, the latter being a full partner in neighbourhood programmes.

4. Maritime Affairs

4.1 Integrated Maritime Policy

The CPMR has been a strong contributor to the promotion of reengaging an ambitious and cross-sectoral European maritime vision, the key messages of which constituted the subject of a Technical Message ("Messages relating to the European maritime agenda in view of the future Cypriot Presidency of the Council of the European Union"), presented during the meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau in June 2011 and on which the Draft Political Position adopted at the Assembly General meeting in Aarhus was based.

A direct link to European institutions

The CPMR has prioritised regular dialogue with the Cyprus Presidency, DG MARE (notably, with the presence of Commissioner Lowri Evans at the CPMR General Assembly meeting in September 2011), as well as with the European Parliament, where the CPMR was represented by Mr Henrik Ringbæk Madsen, Regional Councillor, Chair of International Affairs, Region Nordjylland (DK), Member of the CPMR Political Bureau) during the Maritime Intergroup debate held on 27 June 2012, on the Integrated Maritime Policy.

The CPMR has made a significant contribution to strengthening the institutional basis for the Integrated Maritime Policy and has supported proposals from the European Commission on the Integrated Maritime Policy of the EMFF in a Political Position adopted by the Political Bureau in February 2012. In particular, the CPMR supports at the very least that the budget proposed by the EC for the Integrated Maritime Policy within the EMFF be maintained, and is in more regular contact with DG MARE, Member States and the European Parliament, asking for their respective involvement.

The CPMR continues to support efforts to strengthen a cross-sectoral approach to maritime issues at the EP, through CPMR support to the Seas and Coastal Areas Intergroup.

Coordination of CPMR Geographical Commissions as regards maritime issues

In order to structure their actions with respect to maritime issues, a working group known as the “core maritime group” was created by bringing together regional leaders of maritime groups within the CPMR. The CPMR also strengthened their interaction with the geographical commissions on maritime matters, such as the IMC (through the MAREMED project), the Baltic Sea Commission (strong dialogue with the Black Sea Commission), the Balkan Black Sea Commission (the sea being an important element to EU actions aimed at creating a future macro-region), the North Sea Commission (with the growing participation of the Member Regions of the NSC in maritime activities) and the Atlantic Commission (through the drawing up of an Atlantic strategy).

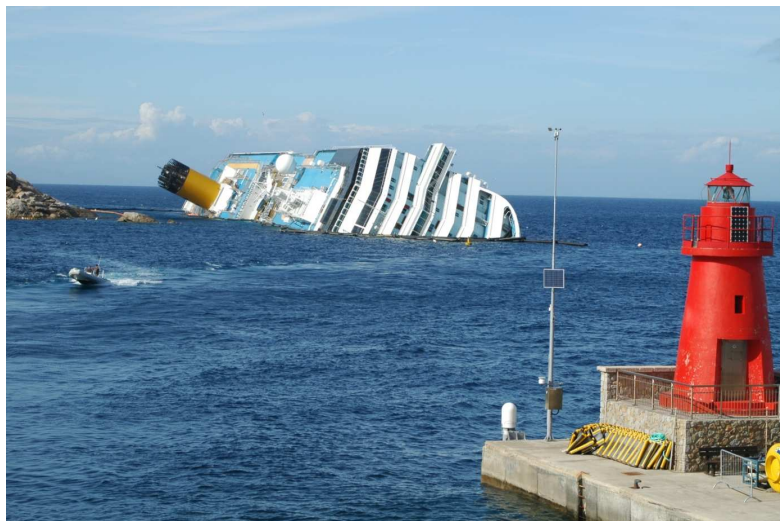
The CPMR will keep a close eye on developments related to the Inter-Ministerial Conference organised for 8 October 2012, which should reaffirm support for a European maritime agenda, and as well as the details of the Integrated Maritime Policy which are expected to be published by the European Commission before the end of 2012.

4.2 Maritime safety

The CPMR has structured all of its actions around the idea of an Erika IV package on maritime security.

The regions, fully and actively engaged in maritime security

An initial seminar was organised in December 2011 at the European Parliament, with the Seas and Coastal Areas Intergroup and the Baltic Master II project being led by Blekinge and Skåne Regions, before a formal Regional group, led by Mr Pierre Karleskind, Vice-President of the Region of Brittany, was set up to campaign on these issues. Specific discussions were held on the issues of compensation for ecological damage, maritime surveillance and the fight against pollution were initiated, as well as the implementation of Erika III and the link between social issues and maritime issues. The CPMR also once again obtained observer status with the IOPC Funds, and was represented by Mr Karleskind at IOPC Fund meetings in April 2012.



Three months after the Costa Concordia disaster, at the invitation of Enrico Rossi President of Tuscany, the CPMR organised a Seminar on «How to reconcile maritime safety and the development of passenger transport» 12 and 13 April 2012, Giglio Island (IT)

Following the Costa Concordia tragedy, the CPMR acted decisively to campaign on the issue of passenger ships, and organised a seminar to look at these issues in April 2012 in Giglio. One of these issues involved a Political Declaration presented at the CPMR Political Bureau in June 2012.

The CPMR will further expand its actions as regards maritime security, in particular, as on the Erika and Prestige procedures. Within the framework of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU, the CPMR will organise a seminar and anti-pollution drills in collaboration with the Maremed project in Cyprus from 9 to 11 October and will participate in a seminar organised by the Surfriders Europe Foundation on 22 and 23 November in Biarritz.

4.3 Maritime spatial planning and ICZM

The CPMR strengthened its capacity for action and remains a strong campaigner in the European institutions. In order to coordinate its activities on this theme, a working group has been established, under the leadership of Ms Joanna Geldhof, Vice-Governor for water management, from the Noord-Holland region, which is preparing the response of the CPMR to the Draft Directive on MSP and ICZM that was announced by the EC and which should be published before the end of 2012, and which should be further developed before being implemented.

There were many occasions on which to interact with European institutions with respect to maritime spatial planning in 2012, particularly with the participation of Mr Anders Carlberg (Västra-Götaland Region) in the conference on maritime spatial planning presided over by Commissioner Damanaki on 26 March 2012, and also with Mrs Eleni Marianou's participation at the plenary session of European Maritime Days on MSP held on 20 May 2012. The CPMR actively participates in dialogue organised by European Commission expert



groups, and in particular, participated in "Joint Eoinet and Member States workshops on MSP and ICZM", which will be held on September 11 and 12 in Copenhagen, the site of a specific discussion of EC projects.

The CPMR Geographical Commissions are also strongly engaged, including the Baltic Sea Commission via the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), as well as on a per project-basis, such as the application drawn up by the Atlantic Arc Commission and the CPMR in relation to a call from DG MARE within the framework of the IMP aid programme for 2011-2012.

4.4 Marine Research and Innovation

The CPMR actively supports the cross-sectoral marine and maritime dimension of Horizon 2020 and the initiative related to regional research and development policies, two subjects developed as a political position in February 2012 within the framework of a CPMR research and innovation working group. This position represents amendments on the cross-sectoral marine dimension, prepared and defended in coordination with European research organisations.

Influence at the European Parliament

Numerous efforts have been made with respect to the European Parliament, including the joint organisation of a seminar on marine research and Horizon 2020 held on 7 December 2011, to which several CPMR member regions were invited (Azores, Schleswig Holstein and Pays de la Loire); Mrs Eleni Marianou also participated in a debate with MEPs on the cross-sectoral marine dimension of Horizon 2020 at the European Parliament on 30 May.

Research infrastructure

Seen from the perspective of negotiations on operational programmes for 2014-2020, the CPMR facilitates dialogue among Regions, the European Commission and scientists involved in European research infrastructures (ESFRI infrastructures). An initial meeting was held in March 2012 to look at EMBRC infrastructure. Other meetings may be held in coming months.

The CPMR is also a very active supporter of the idea of establishing a Marine Knowledge Innovation Community (KIC) within the European Institute of Technology as demonstrated in its political positions and initiatives among European institutions.

4.5 Naval constructions and maritime industries

The CPMR is actively involved in debates at European level related to this area. The “Industries for blue growth” initiative, led by Mr Christophe Clergeau, 1st Vice President of the Pays de la Loire Region, is structured as a CPMR working group and has facilitated the development of strong dialogue with the European institutions.

Towards a European industrial policy

At a debate organised with the Seas and Coastal Areas Intergroup on 2 February 2012, a memo was launched that expresses the main ideas of the initiative, and in particular, those related to the development of industrial policies aimed at developing maritime industries, of which shipyards constitute the base, and an approach to shipyard diversification in light of new growth markets. The CPMR is an official participant in the LeaderShip initiative with the European Commission.

The current action phase is primarily oriented towards the efforts led by LeaderShip, the final report of which shall be ready at the start of 2013, as well as strengthening the links with the European Parliament and Member States.



Seminar “Think different: new horizons for the maritime industries” chaired by Corine Lepage and with the participation of Cristophe Clergeau, 1st Vice-President of the Region Pays de la Loire (FR) 2 February 2012, EP

4.6 Vasco da Gama

The CPMR continues its activities with respect to the Vasco da Gama Initiative, a pilot project set up by a decision of the CPMR General Assembly in 2010 in Aberdeen which aims to harness regional actions to promote dialogue with youth in the maritime economic sector, in order to contribute to reducing the lack of perceived attractiveness of maritime professions in Europe.

A CPMR initiative

Led by Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Region and with the support of the CPMR Secretary General, Vasco da Gama is a transnational and cross-sectoral project that the CPMR hopes will contribute to the Integrated Maritime Policies and “blue” growth. Fifteen CPMR Regions are ready to get involved in the implementation phase as soon as European funding has been received. There has been contact with the relevant European Commission Directorate-Generals (MARE, EAC, MOVE, Enterprise), as well as with the cabinets of Commissioners Damanaki and Tajani. Applications shall be prepared under the appropriate call for proposals, such as the pilot project on maritime professions under the 2011-2013 action plan of the IMP or Leonardo.

4.7 Fisheries



Seminar on “Maritime professions and Blue growth” at the invitation of Jan Kozłowski, MEP, and with the participation of Lowri Evans Director General of DG MARE at the European Commission - 11 October 2011, European Parliament

The CPMR has been an active participant in the political debate on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. The working group dedicated to this issue, the Fisheries Inter-Commission Group headed up by Shetland Region, has responded to the Commission’s proposal for the future European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), as detailed in February 2012 in a political position. The group has also drawn up draft amendments on the Commission’s proposed European Common Fisheries Policy and common organisation of the market with the aim of defending the interests of peripheral and maritime regions during the current negotiation phase on these important issues.

MAREMED Project

The MAREMED project, for which the CPMR General Secretariat is providing significant technical assistance, has made it possible to ensure ongoing collaborative actions with the European institutions in the area of fisheries. A conference was organised on 16 and 17 January 2012 at Ajaccio to look at the future of European funding to promote Mediterranean fishing; a seminar was also held on 1 February 2012 at the European Parliament, with the collaboration of Mr Alain Cadec, MEP, on the future of the CFP; another conference was held on 3 and 4 April 2012 at Heraklion, on the question of European maritime political governance (with a session dedicated to the issue of a Mediterranean CFP); finally, a seminar was held at Ancone on 22 June 2012 on Mediterranean fishing.



The CPMR organised a seminar on "The Future of the European Fisheries Sector" at the European Parliament at the invitation of Alain Cadec, MEP and with the participation of Lowri Evans Director General of DG MARE at the European Commission - 2 February 2012, EP

The CPMR will continue to work to contribute to the future of the CFP and the EMFF during the final negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council in order to protect and promote the interests of maritime and peripheral regions.

5. Accessibility



At the invitation of Luisa Fernanda Rudi, President of the Region of Aragon, the CPMR Inter-Commission TEN-T working group met in Zaragoza to study the proposals published on 19 October 2011 by the EC on the review of the Trans-European Transport Network and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) 9 November 2011, Zaragoza, Aragon (ES)

The improvement of the accessibility of peripheral maritime regions is among the medium-term strategic priorities of the CPMR. With this in mind, a decision was made to concentrate organisational efforts on two priority issues: revision of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) as a Community instrument channelling European financing earmarked for infrastructure, and the promotion of sustainable maritime transport.

Revision of the TEN-T

The CPMR Inter-Commission working group on TEN-T led by Aragon Region, has been pursuing its mandate to prepare proposals for a revision of TEN-T directives.

Development of amendments

Having regard to possible courses of action defined at the Aarhus General Assembly in September 2011, draft amendments, published in October 2011 by the European Commission, were drawn up, examining the definition of TEN-T itself as well as the funding instrument for this purpose: the CEF (Connecting Europe Facility). These draft amendments were approved by the CPMR Political Bureau in February 2012. Since that time, they have been disseminated and promoted among the relevant institutions: the European Commission (DG MOVE), particularly during working group meetings held in November 2011 and in June 2012, at the European Parliament, and at hearings organised by the TRAN Commission and at the Committee of the Regions, during a seminar held on March 6th.

Towards improved integration of maritime transport in TEN-T

The CPMR is proposing improved integration of the issue of maritime transport, with the development of European regulation in order to encourage sustainable maritime transport services, in particular, in areas where there are strong restrictions on the sulphur content of fuels (Sulphur Directive – strict application in the “ECAs”).

The CPMR is also calling for a higher funding rate for port infrastructures from the EFC than that proposed by the Commission (40% instead of 20%), as well as the improvement of priority infrastructure maps in order to ensure that peripheral regions do not find themselves at a disadvantage. With the support of the Geographical Commissions, the Political Bureau has proposed a series of additional areas (geographic) for investment that the Commission wishes to integrate into the core network, as well as improvements to 10 priority multimodal corridors.

The CPMR takes the view that the proposed level of concentrated funding from the EFC for 10 corridors (80%) and the core network is too high. Territorial balance must be respected when allocating funding, in order to ensure that peripheral regions are not put at a disadvantage.

Towards sustainable maritime transport

The second working theme is the promotion of sustainable maritime transport. A discussion seminar on this issue was organised in May 2012 in Gothenburg, within the framework of the European Maritime Days, thus linking in with other regional discussions being held among other key actors including port authorities, freighters, environmental NGOs, and DG MOVE in order to define the “landscape” of European aid to medium-term maritime transport. The CPMR will continue to emphasise the arbitration role played by the regions in striking a balance between the requirements of competitiveness and those of sustainability.

The CPMR will be hosting a discussion aimed at proposing improvements to the tool-box published by the Commission to prepare a future directive on maritime sulphur fuels.



Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe

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