



45th CPMR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19-20 October 2017, Helsinki (Helsinki-Uusimaa, Finland)

The Peripheral Maritime Regions listed below met for the 45th CPMR Annual General Assembly in Helsinki (Helsinki-Uusimaa, Finland) on 19-20 October 2017:

ABERDEEN CITY (UK), ABERDEENSHIRE (UK), AÇORES (PT), ANDALUCÍA (ES), ATTIKI (GR), AUST AGDER (NO), BORNHOLM (DK), BREMEN (DE), BRETAGNE (FR), CALABRIA (IT), CALARASI (RO), CANARIAS (ES), CANTABRIA (ES), CATALUNYA (ES), CORNWALL (UK), CORSE (FR), DYTIKI ELLADA (GR), EMILIA ROMAGNA (IT), EPIRUS (GR), ESTONIA (EE), FLEVOLAND (NL), GALICIA (ES), GÄVLEBORG (SE), GENERALITAT VALENCIANA (ES), GOTLAND (SE), HALLAND (SE), HELSINKI-UUSIMAA (FI), HORDALAND (NO), IONIA NISIA (GR), KENTRIKI MAKEDONIA (GR), KRITI (GR), KYMENLAAKSO (FI), MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN (DE), MIDTJYLLAND (DK), MOLISE (IT), MØRE OG ROMSDAL (NO), MURCIA (ES), NAVARRA (ES), NOORD-NEDERLAND (NL), NOORD-HOLLAND (NL), NORDJYLLAND (DK), NORRBOTTEN (SE), NORTHERN & WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY (IE), NOUVELLE AQUITAINE (FR), OCCITANIE (FR), ORKNEY (UK), OSTROBOTHNIA (FI), OULU (FI), PÄIJÄT-HÄME (FI), PAÍS VASCO (ES), PAYS DE LA LOIRE (FR), PELOPONNISOS (GR), PODLASKIE (PL), POLYNÉSIE FRANÇAISE (FR), PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR (FR), ROGALAND (NO), SATAKUNTA* (FI), SKÅNE (SE), SOGN OG FJORDANE (NO), SOUTH KARELIA* (FI), SOUTH-WEST FINLAND (FI), STOCKHOLM (SE), SYDDANMARK (NL), TELEMARK (NO), TOSCANA (IT), TULCEA (RO), VÄSTERBOTTEN (SE), VÄSTRA GÖTALAND (SE), VEST-AGDER (NO), VESTFOLD (NO), VOREIO AIGAIO (GR), WALES (UK), ZUID-HOLLAND (NL)

* OBSERVER

The Regions attending the General Assembly warmly thank Mr Ossi Savolainen, Regional Mayor of Helsinki-Uusimaa Region, for kindly hosting the event.

The CPMR President, Vasco Cordeiro, President of the Autonomous Government of the Azores, extends his thanks to the regional authorities and honoured guests from the EU institutions and Member States who took part in the proceedings of the Conference, and in particular to Mr Kimmo Tiilikainen, Finnish Minister for Housing, Energy and Environment, Mr Marko Mihkelson, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Estonian Parliament, MEPs Ms Merja Kyllönen and Ms Isabelle Thomas, and Mr Markku Markkula, 1st Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions.

2017 and 2018 are two decisive years for the future of the European Union. The General Assembly has confirmed that CPMR and its Regions are fully engaged with the debates about the European project and the budgets and policies through which it will be implemented. The place of territorial cohesion, the response to maritime and climate challenges and solidarity are core priorities.

Concerning the future of Europe, the CPMR:

1. **Welcomes** the reflection on the future of Europe, and underlines its firm support for the European Union and the ideals and values that it represents, and its commitment to maintaining the integrity of the EU and avoiding fragmentation within Europe at a moment in history when strong co-operation is needed more than ever to address the challenges we face “united in diversity”.
2. **Sets out** a clear vision for the future which places regions at the core of Europe, in recognition of their essential role in giving democratic legitimacy to the EU, and as essential to European solutions to current and new challenges facing the EU, especially nowadays when democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Europe are threatened by the rising forces of extremism.
3. **Calls for** territorial, social and economic cohesion, and the sustainable development goals, to be recognised as fundamental pillars of any future scenario for Europe, focused on tackling growing territorial inequalities and disparities, and unlocking the potential of regions as agents of sustainable economic growth in driving forward innovation and investment to stimulate new jobs and economic activities. The Regions are crucial to strengthening democracy and social justice and cohesion.
4. **Is very concerned** about the absence of a territorial dimension and Cohesion Policy in the European Commission’s White Paper.
5. **Notes the strong level of support for a** new European Strategy – Europe 2030 – to provide a strategic framework focused on providing solutions to the challenges and opportunities facing Europe over the next decade.
6. **Emphasises** that cooperation and partnership is the very essence of the EU, and that regions are key drivers and animators of cooperation activities. Furthermore, **underlines** the role of the European Commission in supporting coherence, coordination and regional, interregional and transnational cooperation, including through macro regions, and **calls** for a strong level of support in the future EU Budget for regional cooperation.
7. **Underlines** the important role that regions play in promoting EU values within the wider neighbourhood and through international development activities, and **underlines** the key contribution that the regional and local authorities in political fora and regional cooperation makes to political stability.
8. **Notes** the initial positions on Brexit set out in (i) the Cardiff Declaration, which will be signed at a high-level conference on Brexit in Wales on 16 November 2017, (ii) the North Sea Commission’s [evidence to the UK House of Commons Brexit Committee](#) in December 2016, and (iii) the Atlantic Arc Commission’s position adopted in Helsinki. In particular the CPMR draws attention to (i) the

territorial impact of Brexit on regions and the need for an EU-level response to this, and (ii) the importance of maintaining strong regional cooperation after Brexit.

Concerning the EU budget, the CPMR:

9. **Recalls** that the European budget exists to serve a project, and is not the result of negotiations between governments.
10. **Calls for** the budget to be adequately resourced so that EU policies and programmes can be implemented, in particular those with a direct territorial impact on regions, especially those with specific territorial handicaps.
11. **Regrets** on this subject that the Monti report and the Commission's reflection paper on the EU's finances do not include a clear vision on the revenue side and therefore **calls for** an intensification of work on reinforcing the own resources component of the budget.
12. **Notes** the delay in presenting the financial perspectives for the post-2020 period and questions whether programmes will actually be able to kick off in 2021.
13. **Considers** that the foreseeable consequences of Brexit on the EU's budget must not prevent preparation of a coherent adaptation of the major European policies and Cohesion Policy in particular.
14. **Calls for** not risking the future of the Cohesion Policy budget during the forthcoming negotiations and **invites** the Commission to take account of the impact of Brexit on regional eligibility under Cohesion Policy for the post-2020 period.
15. **Proposes** that the Commission's budget guidelines should be accompanied by an ex-ante evaluation of their impact on greenhouse gas emissions with a view to achieving a carbon-neutral EU by 2050.
16. **Invites** the EU to agree on a cross-cutting and ambitious financing capacity for the maritime economy, consistent with the regions' development strategies reflecting the realities of the maritime economy. At this stage, the CPMR **welcomes** the importance given to maritime issues in the priorities of national and regional smart specialisation strategies, and in the ERDF programming in the territories.
17. **Calls for** the EMFF to remain in place to finance the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and the Integrated Maritime Policy. The CPMR **also calls for** greater flexibility in the eligibility criteria of the measures funded and in the implementation procedures of this Fund.
18. **Stresses** that grants and EFSI-funding have very different funding mechanisms and cannot replace each other. Grants are very much needed in the future as well. For a better contribution to the Juncker Plan to boost regional development, it **invites** the Commission to define the types of projects which should continue to benefit from grants because of their nature and the territories in which they are implemented.
19. Moreover, **calls on** the Commission to make EFSI funding accessible to small projects (under EUR 25 million) and to group together projects such as territorial platforms which can include Regions. This would in particular enable greater EFSI support for maritime projects in emerging sectors such as marine energies and blue biotechnologies, in traditional and evolving sectors, and for maritime transport investment (ports and vessels).

20. **Considers** that reviews of sector policies such as Horizon 2020, the CEF, and the CAP should not have budget optimisation or increased consumption of envelopes as their sole objectives, but that the primary objective should be to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU.
21. **Welcomes** therefore the Commission's intention to improve the interrelationships between Cohesion Policy and the "sector" policies such as transport or research and innovation policy, as long as the principles of regional partnership and shared management are not called into question.
22. **Supports** the increase in the budgets allocated to youth policies and **underlines** the experience of regional authorities in programmes which promote the internationalisation of education.
23. **Calls for** the introduction of incentive measures to step up the implementation of macro-regional projects. If they are not allocated their own budgets, the macro-regional and sea basin strategies may run out of steam due to a limited operational capability.

To ensure a renewed and updated post-2020 Cohesion Policy, the CPMR:

24. **Recalls** that Cohesion Policy is a long-term investment policy, indispensable at both European and regional level, and is opposed to any nationalisation of this policy, which should encompass all the European regions.
25. **Considers** that Cohesion Policy should be integrated into a global and long-term European strategy for growth and employment. Cohesion Policy should intervene to directly support such a strategy.
26. **Calls for** Cohesion Policy to be updated, while respecting its fundamental principles as an investment policy under shared management.
27. **Notes** the fast development in the field of digitalisation, automation, Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence. These developments will impact central, peripheral, urban and rural regions in different ways. Therefore, **urges** the Commission to take this into account when preparing the future Cohesion Policy and European Industrial Strategy.
28. **Calls for** stimulating innovation-based economy in the regions, such as smart specialisation. Smart specialisation provides clear regional, European and global added value and plays a major role in the transformation of economies. The transnational and interregional dimension of smart specialisation should be supported by EU funding.
29. **Urges** the European Commission to strengthen the territorial dimension of Cohesion Policy mentioned under Article 174 TFEU, and pay special attention to the island regions and, in accordance with the legislation for 2014-2020 as well as the accession treaties for Sweden and Finland, the northernmost regions with very low population density. In conformity with Article 349 TFEU, specific measures should also be adopted to take account of the specific constraints of the outermost regions, in order to effectively implement a place-based approach to Cohesion Policy.
30. More generally, **will follow** carefully the issue of indicators for Cohesion Policy going beyond the GDP criterion.
31. **Recalls** the importance of the territorial cooperation strand and the need for strengthened and adequately resourced territorial cooperation programmes for the post-2020 period.

32. **Will pursue** its actions to raise awareness of the need for a strengthened Cohesion Policy for the post-2020 period, on the basis of the [policy position](#) adopted by the CPMR in June 2017.
33. **Will take account of** the conclusions of the 7th Report on economic, social and territorial cohesion, and **will draw up** proposals with a view to informing the legislative proposals due to be published by the Commission mid-2018.

To place the Seas and the Oceans at the core of the future of the EU, the CPMR:

34. **Calls on** the EU to seize the enormous opportunity for sustainable development represented by the Seas and the Oceans and to make this a key element of its project for the future.
35. **Welcomes** the ministerial declaration on maritime policies, adopted on 20 April 2017 under the Maltese presidency of the EU.
36. **Welcomes** the European Commission's initiatives on International ocean governance and the increasing recognition of maritime challenges at international level. The conclusions of the *Our Oceans* 2017 conference are encouraging in this respect.
37. **Stresses** in this regard the importance of involving maritime and coastal regions, as well as the outermost regions including Overseas Countries and Territories, in order to bring international ocean governance closer to the EU territories.
38. **Welcomes** in addition its partnership with the Union for the Mediterranean to develop the blue economy.
39. **Invites** the EU to strengthen the role played by the Integrated Maritime Policy, which should be made a cross-sector issue entrusted to a Vice-President of the European Commission, a specific European Parliament Committee and a specific configuration of the Council.
40. **Recognises** that Brexit will have a particularly strong impact on European maritime policies and maritime communities, especially in the fisheries sector. The CPMR therefore **calls on** the European Union to protect its interests and avoid the emergence of any form of social or fiscal dumping or deregulation at its borders.
41. **Calls on** the European Union to strengthen its partnership with the Regions in defining and implementing its maritime policies.
42. **Recalls** that the coastal, island and outermost regions of the EU, often interlinked with their external neighbourhoods, should play a key role in maritime governance, promoting sustainable fishing, combating illegal fishing and developing their communities through links with other economic sectors such as tourism and culture.
43. In this regard, **calls on** the EU to ensure the Regions are more directly involved in the decision-making processes and governance of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).
44. **Welcomes** the announcement by President Juncker of a new European industrial strategy. The CPMR **calls on** the EU to integrate a maritime industrial dimension, along the lines of the LeaderShip 2020 report. Such a dimension should include ambitious objectives for the development of marine energies to ensure a clean and competitive energy supply, enhancing the autonomy of the island regions which suffer from permanent constraints, diversification in traditional maritime industrial sectors, and the location of industrial employment in Europe.

45. With regard to maritime education and training, ***calls on*** the EU to create a European frame of reference for degree courses up to Master level, to anticipate and support training and mobility needs, and to finance collaborative initiatives in this area, particularly via calls for proposals under the EMFF's Blue Careers, Erasmus + and Interreg.
46. ***Calls on*** the EU to pursue the implementation of the Strategy for the Marine Environment and Maritime Spatial Planning framework directives, paying particular attention to land-sea interactions and the coherence between these processes and territorial development.
47. ***Invites*** the European Commission to consider opening eligibility criteria to French Polynesia for the Structural Funds and Horizon 2020, the various European investment schemes, as well as EU initiatives, particularly for maritime training
48. ***Calls on*** the EU to take action to permit direct cover for environmental damage resulting from accidents at sea, through a modification of international regulations (CLC/IOPC Funds) or of the Environmental Liability Directive.
49. ***Calls for*** action to reduce marine litter; working both with mitigation and prevention. Commitment is needed from all political levels and in close cooperation with relevant environmental organisations.
50. The CPMR also ***calls on*** the EU to continue to improve access to marine data, and in particular to adopt a strategy for the development, exploitation and sharing of bathymetric data.

To reinforce the coherence and transnational impact of community policies, the CPMR:

51. ***Supports*** the development of the Macro Regional or sea basin Strategies across the whole of Europe. These strategies will shape the Europe of the future thanks to the adoption of a long-term, strategic approach across specific areas; they will strengthen stakeholders' buy-in of European policies; they will enable the establishment of alliances and partnerships in Europe which will produce concrete results in the territories under consideration.
52. ***Underlines*** the key role of the Regions in these Strategies and similar emerging initiatives, such as WestMED, the Arctic and the Pyrenees. Their participation is fundamental, both in the governance structures and in the implementation phase. In order to ensure a real multi-level governance, the Regions should not be considered as only "just another stakeholder" but an integral part of the development and implementation of solutions to the identified challenges.
53. ***Underlines*** the necessity to strengthen the action of European programmes in favour of these Strategies – whether they are under direct or shared management.
54. ***Calls for*** enhanced cooperation between regional stakeholders in different macro-regions and sea basins in order to foster effectiveness and possible spillover effects of European funding. Regions overlapping multiple strategies have to relate and integrate their regional development, as well as seizing opportunities to further develop transnational cooperation between actors, in both areas. The CPMR ***is convinced*** that there can be strong synergies between the EU macroregional strategies, sea basin strategies and emerging initiatives.
55. ***Calls on*** the European Commission to seize on the tremendous opportunity that the Overseas Countries and Territories represent to extend the influence of the European Union; therefore, ***calls on*** the European Commission to define maritime policy strategies for these sea basins.

To ensure climate change remains a central priority for the EU, the CPMR:

56. **Underlines** its commitment to ambitious targets for Climate Action for 2030 and reiterates the central contribution of local and regional authorities in delivering change on the ground, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigating climate change) and adapting to the effects of climate change.
57. **Welcomes and supports** the review of the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change and the Clean Energy Package proposals, and **notes** the policy positions agreed at Helsinki on these two major EU policy initiatives.
58. **Recalls** that coastal areas, the islands and the outermost regions, and their regional authorities are in the frontline when it comes to experiencing the effects of climate change, and bearing the costs of preventative measures as well as clean-up after floods, droughts and other major climate events.
59. **Notes** that climate changes are driving increased economic activity in the Arctic, causing a geopolitical interest to grow whilst the polar ice caps are melting. New transport routes, supplies of raw material, sensitive environments and current security policies makes the Arctic a major priority to the European Union. The complex geopolitical situation requires strategies that enable multi-level cooperation to safeguard a safe, stable, sustainable and prosperous living environment for the people in the Arctic.
60. **Recalls** the particular vulnerability to climate change in so-called "hot spots" recognised by the IPCC, and calls on the European Union, States and regional and local authorities to coordinate and pool their efforts to develop and conduct mitigation and adaptation strategies that preserve the exceptional setting and living environment of these areas.
61. **Reiterates** the enormous potential for clean and renewable energies in Europe's outermost, peripheral and maritime regions, and the importance of coordinated EU level action, including through finance, support for Macro Regions and other forms of cooperation to unlock this potential. The successful combating of climate change requires also that all fields of human life are involved, and in agriculture there is a large potential in reducing emissions but also a great need in adaptation.
62. **Underlines** that delivering this agenda will require a diversity of approaches, including investments in large, medium and small-scale projects, where regions can play a pivotal role in mobilising action on the ground.
63. **Welcomes** the focus on decentralisation and democratisation proposed as part of the energy transition agenda by the European Commission.
64. **Calls** for greater attention to be given to the regional level in the EU's policies on adaptation and mitigation, which is not sufficiently taken into consideration.
65. Therefore, **calls on** the Commission to develop the right institutional framework and tools for the involvement of regional governments in the definition and review of national mitigation and adaptation strategies, including cooperation across national boundaries, and for the inclusion of regions and local authorities within the governance frameworks for the Energy Union.
66. **Underlines** that for improving the implementation and the territorial impact of the EU directives on Energy Efficiency (2012/27/EU) and Energy Performance of Buildings (2010/31/EU) towards

a more effective long-term renovation strategy in EU buildings, it is fundamental to articulate a multilevel governance system. This would allow a real coordination between national and regional strategies, and thus better measures and investments schemes.

To ensure that EU transport policy makes a better contribution to sustainable accessibility and territorial cohesion, the CPMR:

- 67. Agrees** that the TEN-T network is an essential part of EU-wide transport policy; however, *is worried* that improving regional accessibility remains a secondary concern in European Transport Policy, despite the fact that this is an objective assigned to it by the Treaty provisions and the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). The CPMR *calls for* more involvement of regions in defining important transport corridors.
- 68. Recalls** that the implementation of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) has confirmed and amplified this trend since 2014 by concentrating funding on the nine land corridors, which are fundamental for overall connectivity. In their programming, there should be greater input from the regional authorities, who have a perfect knowledge of the needs of each region.
- 69. Calls on** the Commission and the Parliament to make an objective assessment of the territorial distribution of CEF funding without delay, and to take appropriate measures to review the criteria of the CEF calls for projects between now and 2021 in order to make them more accessible to regions, especially those lacking sustainable transport (maritime and rail), such as peripheral, island and outermost regions.
- 70. Welcomes** the recent indications by the Commission and the European Coordinator that better account will be taken of islands, outermost regions, and medium-sized ports (ports in the TEN-T comprehensive network) in the Motorways of the Sea policy, but *insists* that this be translated concretely in the updated version of the Detailed Implementation Plan due to be published end 2017.
- 71. Recalls** that the development of Short Sea Shipping represents an opportunity that the EU should explore as a priority with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and consequently mitigating the impact of intra-European transport on global warming.
- 72. Calls on** the European Commission therefore to speed up preparation of a support mechanism for maritime transport which does not generate distortions of competition, along the lines of the Ecobonus mechanism.
- 73. Recognises** however that maritime transport must also reduce its environmental impact, and encourages its member Regions to facilitate access to appropriate facilities such as the availability of Liquefied Natural Gas or electricity at berth in ports. *Calls upon* the IMO and relevant EU institutions to develop and implement a common set of regulations for the use of shoreside power supply in the cruise industry as a way of reducing emissions, and to motivate shipowners to make the necessary investments to accommodate their ships for connecting during port calls.
- 74. Proposes its availability** to carry out, in relation with the Commission and the Parliament, a preparatory action or a pilot project to test out such approaches in practice at the level of a sea basin or a portion of a seaboard.

- 75. Notes** the draft revision of the Eurovignette Directive, published by the Commission on 31 May 2017, which plans to favour taxation of heavy goods vehicles on a distance-travelled basis, and **will monitor developments** to ensure that the concerns of the peripheral regions are taken into account throughout the negotiations.
- 76. Will pursue** the accessibility campaign it launched in 2014 and **will add to it** the issues of connectivity by air transport and environment impact, paying special attention to island and outermost regions.
- 77. Considers** that the rapidly evolving nature of the transport and logistics sector including amongst others digitalisation and automation, be taken into account by regional authorities, **welcomes** the initiatives taken by the Commission in this field, and **is convinced** that making transport smarter is a strong means to decarbonise and make it greener.
- 78. Notes** that the Commission will publish a proposed amendment to the CEF Regulation concerning the post-2020 period during 2018 and **will prepare** a contribution on this subject on the basis of the CPMR policy positions adopted in March and June 2017.

To allow the EU and its neighbours to tackle the international challenges of development and solidarity, the CPMR:

- 79. Recognises** that security, migration, unemployment and development challenges in Europe and in its neighbouring countries call for coordinated and strengthened action by the EU.
- 80. Considers** that migration issues need to be addressed taking a long-term view taking into account the underlying causes of migratory flows and trends, through cooperation with migrants' countries of origin and transition countries, and by improving the social and economic development of these countries, as well as security issues.
- 81. Reiterates its call** to States and to the EU to implement the existing commitments on migration and to involve local and regional authorities (LRAs) to a greater extent in European discussions and decision-making on migration issues. This involvement should be adequately resourced in the framework of a multi-level governance.
- 82. Will contribute** to the drafting of proposals on the reform of the European Common Asylum System (ECAS) and more generally on the development of the European Agenda on Migration 2015, as well as on the 2018 review of the multi-annual financial framework for the EU post-2020.
- 83. Promotes** the development of practical cooperation initiatives relating to migration issues, to the reception and integration of migrants, social and economic development and the prevention of violence linked to extremism, racism and xenophobia.
- 84. Reaffirms** the need to increase the involvement of LRAs in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and the importance of associating the ENP with the promotion of emerging macro-regional or sea basin initiatives or strategies, by capitalising on the added value of decentralised and territorial cooperation and taking inspiration from the methods and partnership principles of EU Cohesion Policy.
- 85. Welcomes** the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the CPMR and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and the prospects this opens up for the Regions to participate in territorial development around the Black Sea.

86. **Invites** the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU in the first six months of 2018 to support the principle of a macro-regional strategy for the Black Sea.
87. **Welcomes** the launch on 19 April 2017 in Malta of the '*West Med for the sustainable development of the Blue Economy in the western Mediterranean initiative*', with the participation of neighbouring countries.
88. **Reminds** that decentralised cooperation has been broadly recognised by the international community as an effective modality of international development cooperation, focusing on reinforcing local and regional governments (LRGs) capacities
89. **Considers** that decentralised cooperation will be a critical tool for implementing the global 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In order to be effective, a territorial approach to sustainable development must be based on policy coherence, multi-sectoral and integrated approaches, multi-level governance, multi-stakeholder partnerships, accountability and decentralisation.
90. **Welcomes** in this regard the *New EU Consensus on Development: "Our World, our Dignity, our Future"* published on 8 June 2017, which acknowledges that "the achievement of most of the SDGs is strongly dependent on the active involvement of local and regional authorities".
91. **Calls on** the EU institutions and Member States to recognise decentralised cooperation as a regional public policy on international development cooperation and to set the right policy and financial framework – including alignment of the EU budget and MFF – to help unleash its potential.
92. **Will promote and facilitate dialogue** on the recommendations of the two studies, "*Shaping a new generation of decentralised cooperation for enhanced accountability*" and "*Public-private partnerships for decentralised cooperation*", and on the training manual "*Delivery of public services with an integrated territorial approach in the Mediterranean*", coordinated by the CPMR within the framework of PLATFORMA.

Adopted unanimously



**CPMR
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The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) brings together some 160 Regions from 25 States from the European Union and beyond.

Representing about 200 million people, the CPMR campaigns in favour of a more balanced development of the European territory.

It operates both as a think tank and as a lobby group for Regions. It focuses mainly on social, economic and territorial cohesion, maritime policies and accessibility.

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