



2012-2013

# CPMR Activity Report



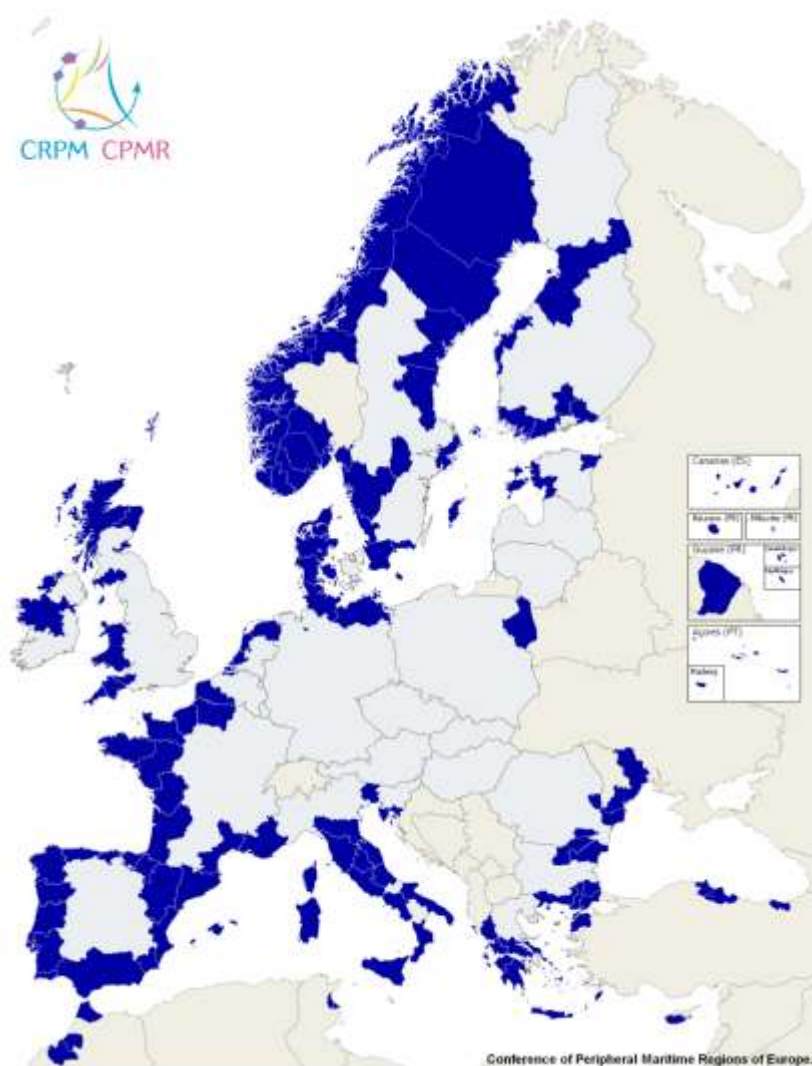
Conference of Peripheral  
Maritime Regions of Europe

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## Editorial



Jean-Yves Le Drian, President of the CPMR, French Minister of Defence, Brittany Regional Councillor

Dear Colleagues,

As the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions celebrates its 40th anniversary, my presidency is coming to an end. I am particularly proud of having been able to act as its President over the past three years and host this General Assembly in my own region, in the town of Saint-Malo.

2013 has been a particularly difficult year for all our Regions. Adversely affected by a crisis with no end in sight, they have fought for decentralisation and solidarity in Europe at a time when we are seeing a deplorable rise in individualism, nationalism and anti-European sentiments.

Last February, the Member States reached agreement on a financial framework for the next seven years. For the first time, the European Parliament then played a major role in widening the scope of the accord to take greater awareness of Europe's general interest. Parliament realised that it had new responsibilities and was being required to play an increasingly central role in European Institutions. This is wonderful news for Europe's citizens – and for its Regions.

Through the CPMR, our Regions have fought every step of the way to safeguard the structure of the post-2014 Cohesion Policy based on the same principle as the one put forward by the European Commission, while requesting and obtaining the maintenance of the policy for all Regions in Europe and the introduction of an additional category for transition Regions, which is something we have always supported.

During this period of intense negotiations, laying the foundations of EU policies until 2020, the CPMR has also stated its support for a truly European maritime policy. Thanks to our support, the concept of a Europe of the Sea made significant progress through the development of the "blue growth" approach. The maritime dimension is increasingly present in the economic, environmental and geopolitical dimensions of EU policies.

This year, the CPMR has also worked to strengthen cooperation policy by intensifying its efforts with regard to macro-regional strategies. These strategies give our organisation its "soul", built as it is on the Geographical Commissions which, with the exception of the Islands Commission, correspond to Europe's sea basins. In the eyes of the European Commission, the macro-regional and sea basin strategies are approaches designed to meet similar aspirations. We are delighted because, in our opinion, the strategies correspond to real "communities" and involve several countries and regions when it comes to major challenges and shared characteristics that require joint transnational action.

In this difficult period, our Regions are facing huge rapidly changing challenges. Our citizens want their problems to be taken into account as far as possible at local and regional levels, which are closest to the realities confronting them every day. I am sure that my successor will support this expectation, just as I have. I wish the new President every success and thank him most sincerely for his commitment to the Peripheral and Maritime Regions of Europe.

Jean-Yves Le Drian

President of the CPMR, French Minister of Defence, Brittany Region Councillor



Dear Readers,

We are living in a period that has undoubtedly been marked by the most serious global economic crisis ever and the concept of Europe itself is facing a global political crisis. The CPMR is well aware of the difficult times ahead for decision-makers and political leaders throughout Europe, and it is the democracy and decentralisation that have always been central to the concept of Europe which are most at risk. The democracies and institutions we know today are in danger and, on a European level, this casts doubt on the legitimacy of the European Union while highlighting the recurrent question of “democratic deficit”.

Populist, extremist and xenophobic political parties are gaining ground throughout the EU, taking advantage of the increasing distance between the political systems and their citizens. We are also witnessing an attempt to minimise the added value of decentralisation and the role of the Regions in the creation of sustainable economic development. Despite decades of successful decentralisation throughout Europe, the economic and financial crisis has brought with it a significant decrease in budget transfers to subnational authorities. Decentralisation has its faults and its weaknesses but denying its very essence and its value is simplistic and unacceptable. Europe must avoid false ideas.

2013 is, then, a crucial year for the future of the EU and its Regions. A credible long-term strategy to bring about an economic upturn and integrate the renewed ambitions that are essential for the European concept must actively involve local and regional authorities, socio-economic partners and citizens. To avoid the errors of the past and ensure success for the 2014-2020 programming period and the EU 2020 Strategy, vertical coordination between the various levels of government and horizontal integration between thematic policies must be recognised – and applied.

This annual business report coincides with the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions. Forty years of activity as a think tank and effective lobby group have won the CPMR the highest level of esteem from European Institutions and Regions. Now, on the eve of a new European Parliament and a new European Commission in 2014, our annual report gives an overview of all that has been done over the last twelve months by the CPMR, based on its main priorities and its hopes for the future:

- Balanced territorial cohesion as the focus of the European concept.
- Polycentric development policy based on macro-regional frameworks, including sea basin strategies.
- A comprehensive integrated transport policy to create appropriate accessibility for all territories.
- Blue growth and an integrated maritime policy to ensure the prosperity of Europe’s peripheral maritime regions.
- The need to redefine the position of democracy and solidarity (two elements that are so important for the concept of Europe) as the central plank of a social pact.

Let us hope that these actions will inspire policy frameworks which meet the needs of Europeans and lead Europe to the very core of the solution to the current crisis, with healthy economic governance, prosperity and jobs for all.

I hope you enjoy the following articles.

Eleni Marianou  
CPMR General Secretary

# 1. The EU budget and Cohesion Policy

## 1.1 Background

After the various failures of Member States to reach agreement on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the negotiations on the EU's budget for 2014 - 2020 and the future of Cohesion Policy took a decisive step forward on 8 February 2013 when the Member States agreed on the overall financial ceilings for EU policies and approved a set of strategic questions linked to Cohesion Policy. This agreement was confirmed by the European Parliament in a policy resolution during its plenary sitting in July 2013 and it will be given formal approval in the autumn.



The Member States agreed to a reduced EU budget of 960 billion Euros for the 2014-2020 period, a decrease of 3.39% compared to the current MFF and 73 billion Euros less than the Commission's proposal published in July 2012 (equal to a 7% reduction). The budget for Cohesion Policy is one of the most severely slashed, with final agreement on a 339 billion euro reduction, taking it down to 325 billion Euros.

## 1.2 CPMR action

Since the beginning of the negotiations between the Council and the European Parliament on the financial framework and the legislative package for Cohesion Policy for 2014 - 2020, the CPMR's action has focused on the drafting of concrete proposals based on its policy position with regard to the cohesion package adopted in February 2012 at the Political Bureau in Brussels<sup>1</sup>. The CORE Group, which specialises in regional policy and the financial framework, showed both rigour and leadership in the CPMR's action on these issues.

### 1.2.1 Estimating Structural Fund allocations

The CPMR is the only association in Europe to have developed a statistical model based on the data available in the draft regulations to calculate the theoretical allocations for structural funds during the next programming period at regional level. The approach was greatly appreciated by its members because it allowed CPMR Regions to understand the impact of the cuts to the Cohesion Policy budget discussed within the Council.

The estimates provided by the CPMR over the course of 2013 also allowed a certain number of Member Regions to exert some pressure on their respective national governments and secure a better deal in the Council. The CPMR's proposals therefore strengthened its Regions' positions when defending their own interests in real time, while European and national negotiations were underway. One notable success was the €100 million special allocation secured by the Border Midland and Western Region (Ireland), largely thanks to assistance from the CPMR. Regions in Greece, Italy, France and the UK were able to use the statistics provided by the CPMR to actively engage with their national governments. Individual analyses of structural fund allocations at regional level were also produced on demand from CPMR Regions, such as French Regions in the Transition Regions category.

The CPMR will use its statistical model to develop proposals for a revised structural fund allocation method for the post-2020 period, working jointly with its Member Regions.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.crpm.org/fr/index.php?act=6,1,2,254>

### 1.2.2 A fairer architecture for Cohesion Policy

In March 2013, at its Political Bureau in Alexandroupolis<sup>2</sup> (GR), the CPMR's General Secretariat presented a technical paper on the "Negotiations on the Cohesion Policy package<sup>3</sup>". In this document, the CPMR examined the scope of the agreement reached at the European Summit Meeting of 7 and 8 February 2012<sup>4</sup> with regard to the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and analysed the various aspects of the agreement compared to the CPMR Regions' expectations of Cohesion Policy.

The agreement confirmed the policy's structure, using the same basis as the one put forward by the European Commission in October 2011, with the addition of a "Transition Regions" category. The CPMR was the only association in Europe to express itself openly and precisely on the introduction of a **Transition Regions category** with a view to safeguarding the actions of Cohesion Policy in the long term and on the inclusion of a **review clause** relating to structural fund allocations. Such a review would be conducted at the same time as the review of the EU budget for 2014–2020. These two key demands from the CPMR were also supported by the European Parliament.

The review clause, which was the subject of a technical paper from the CPMR<sup>5</sup> in May 2013, will not only allow for a more relevant adjustment of spending during the seven-year budgetary period, particularly within the framework of a crisis that may become less extreme; it will also allow the new Commission and new European Parliament to voice their opinions on the issue in 2015. The CPMR has also helped to obtain greater flexibility in the **applicability of the ERDF in the most developed Regions** so that the funds can be used for infrastructure projects.

The CPMR fought for an exception to be made for Regions whose eligibility for Cohesion Policy (in one of the three categories for Regions) would be modified if **more recent statistics** were used to calculate allocations of structural funds (taking the average of 2008, 2009 and 2010 instead of 2007, 2008 and 2009).

Finally, with regard to **partnerships** between Regions and Member States on operational programmes, the CPMR lobbied to ensure that the Regions were formally involved in the negotiation and drafting of partnership agreements by means of a "territorial pact" between the various levels of governance. The European Parliament and Council also reached agreement on these conditions but the CPMR is keeping a careful watch on the introduction of this partnership in the territories.

### 1.2.3 Defending the interests of specific territories

The CPMR and its Islands Commission in particular played a major role in defending the interests of specific territories, especially island regions, during the negotiations. The CPMR organised a special meeting on 23 April in the European Parliament jointly with François Alfonsi MEP, Member of the Regional Development Committee. It brought together diplomats from France, Greece, Cyprus and CPMR Member Regions to discuss how the special situation of islands needed to be taken into account in the Cohesion Policy architecture, as per the Council conclusions<sup>6</sup> adopted on 7-8 February 2013. The CPMR was visibly present and was able to influence the Conclusions of the Informal Council on Cohesion during the Cypriot presidency, through an island delegation led by Ugo Cappellacci, President of Sardinia (I), and consisting of Presidents Ioannis Machairidis from the South Aegean Region (Notio Aigaiο, Greece) and Didier Robert of the Regional Council on the Island of Réunion (France).

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.crpm.org/en/index.php?act=6,1,2,311>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/387\\_tp\\_-\\_cpmr\\_cohesion\\_-\\_march\\_2013.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/387_tp_-_cpmr_cohesion_-_march_2013.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/135324.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/135324.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/400\\_cpmr-review\\_clause-structural\\_funds.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/400_cpmr-review_clause-structural_funds.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/135324.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/135324.pdf)

## 1.3 Meetings



Jean-Yves Le Drian and Herman Van Rompuy – November 2012

Over the last year, CPMR members have been able to meet a number of leading European figures. Jean-Yves Le Drian met Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, on 28 November 2012 to warn him of the precarious situation of Cohesion Policy for 2014-2020 after the failure to reach agreement at the European Summit during the week preceding their meeting. A delay in agreement on the Multiannual Financial Framework could have mathematically reduced the Cohesion Policy budget and it would have seriously endangered the Regions' ability to develop operational programmes in time for the next programming period.

Moreover, a CPMR delegation led by Stavros Arnautakis, President of Crete Region (Greece) met the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, on 9 October 2012. At the meeting, the CPMR expressed its profound concern about a possible reduction in the Multiannual Financial Framework as it would seriously compromise the European Regions' efforts to relaunch economic growth and create sustainable jobs. President Schulz stated that he was *"on the Regions' side"* because *"the freezing of budgetary ceilings may be popular but it is highly irresponsible"*.



Eleni Marianou, Secretary General of the CPMR, Stavros Arnautakis, President of Crete Region (GR), Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament and Chris Ridgers, Cabinet Member for Cornwall Council (UK) – October 2012



10th Structured Dialogue – November 2012- Committee of the Regions

The importance of Cohesion Policy for the implementation of the 2020 Strategy and the role that this policy has to play in the introduction of the European Commission's programme were also discussed at a meeting with the Secretary General of the European Commission, Catherine Day, at the 10th Structured Dialogue with the General Secretaries of the regional associations and the Committee of the Regions on 20 November 2012.

The Presidents of the main European associations of regional and local authorities and the Committee of the Regions also met the President of the Commission, José Manuel Barroso, on 6 June 2013 to express their concern at the non-involvement of the Regions in the new economic governance of the EU. The CPMR was represented at the meeting by its President, Jean-Yves Le Drian.

Shortly afterwards, more action was taken to increase awareness of this issue. On 12 June 2013, Pavlos Damianidis, Vice-President of the CPMR and Deputy Regional Governor of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, met Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, during his visit to Greece to help local representatives and companies make better use of EU structural funds to redress the country's position. Pavlos Damianidis asked him for information on the "review clause" and he called upon Commissioner Hahn to support the CPMR's positions on Cohesion Policy, particularly with regard to the use of the most recent reference period for the allocation of structural funds based on the averages for 2008, 2009 and 2010 in place of 2007, 2008 and 2009.



During the Cypriot presidency, the CPMR also took part in the informal Council on Cohesion on 6 November 2012 in Nicosia (CY), represented by the President of the Islands Commission and Sardinia, Ugo Capellacci, and by Didier Robert, President of the Regional Council of the Island of Réunion and Ioannis Machairidis, Regional Governor of Notio Aigaio.

Then, during the Irish presidency that followed the European Summit of 7 and 8 February, the CPMR held a meeting on 15 February in partnership with the presidency. Frank Maughan, representing the Irish presidency and President of the Cohesion Policy working group in the Council (Structural Actions Working Party), attended the meeting on the impact of the Council agreement on the financial framework for the Regions and the new youth employment initiative.

## 2. Europe of the Sea

### 2.1 Integrated Maritime Policy

#### 2.1.1 Background

Europe of the Sea has made significant progress over the last few months through the development of the “blue growth” approach which was the subject of the Limassol Declaration adopted by the Member States in 2012 and the report from the European Parliament presented by Spyros Danellis and adopted in June 2013. This approach opens the door to a new stage in the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) and reflects, through various subjects, EU maritime policies and negotiations on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. The last agreement in the Council asks for a general decrease in its budget of more than 170 million from the total of 6.4 billion Euros, a very modest amount in the light of the issues at stake. Such a reduction would have a significant impact on the fishing sector in the current situation and on the IMP.

#### 2.1.2 CPMR action

The CPMR emphasised its guidelines on blue growth and the IMP based on its policy position, “Maintaining the Focus on the Sea” of October 2012. The CPMR also proposed to strengthen the maritime industrial dimension in a paper<sup>8</sup> published in March 2013. The messages contributed to the Limassol Declaration and were also taken into account in Spyros Danellis’ report.

At the same time, the CPMR supported the European Commission’s proposals on the EMFF budget for the IMP and fisheries in the European Parliament.

More widely, the CPMR maintained its support for the work of the Seas and Coastal Areas Intergroup<sup>9</sup> in the European Parliament chaired by Corinne Lepage.

Finally, particular emphasis was placed on the framework conditions for blue growth in the Mediterranean, which were presented at the political conference<sup>10</sup> held at the European Parliament in March 2013 at the invitation of Spyros Danellis. It provided an opportunity for the formal signature of the Bologna Charter<sup>11</sup>. The CPMR was also present at the European Maritime Days on 22 May 2013 in Malta where the topic was also discussed.



Signature of the Bologna Charter during the Maremed Seminar at the European Parliament (Brussels) - 21 March 2013

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/382\\_maritime\\_cpmr\\_opinion.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/382_maritime_cpmr_opinion.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/389\\_tp\\_maritime\\_industry\\_employment.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/389_tp_maritime_industry_employment.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.mersetzonescotier.es/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.crpm.org/en/index.php?act=6,1,2,336>

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/agenda/2371\\_bolognacharter\\_signed21march.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/agenda/2371_bolognacharter_signed21march.pdf)

## 2.2 Thematic maritime policies

### 2.2.1 Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (MSP/ICZM)

The questions of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) were discussed in a working group chaired by Mrs. Joanna Geldhof, Vice-Governor of Noord-Holland Region, in the North Sea and Baltic Commissions, the Inter-Mediterranean Commissions through the Maremed project, and in the Atlantic Arc Commission through the TPEA project.

Based on the opinions of its Member Regions in these Commissions and further to the Political Bureau in Malmö<sup>12</sup> (SE) in June 2013, the CPMR reacted<sup>13</sup> to the draft directive published in March 2013 by the European Commission. Without casting doubt on the potential added value of a directive, especially with regard to cross-border cooperation and cooperation with third countries, the CPMR is seeking greater subsidiarity in the contents of the MSP and ICZM programmes and strategies and in the scheduled implementation acts. The need to avoid disassociating the MSP and the ICZM on a European level, leaving Member States and Regions with responsibility for organising links between them, is also important for the CPMR.

The CPMR guidelines were the topic of regular discussions with European Institutions. In particular, the CPMR took part in the meetings of the European Commission's expert groups on the MSP and ICZM of which it is a member. Through the Region of the Azores, it also took part in the European Commission's conference on MSP and renewable marine energies in Dublin in June 2013. Discussions were also held with Gesine Meissner and Isabelle Thomas, respectively Rapporteurs of the European Parliament and its Fisheries Commission.

### 2.2.3 Marine data

Through its involvement in the Maremed project, the CPMR has continued its action in favour of greater interoperability between the national and European systems used to produce marine data and regional data, and the structuring of observations created by networks of observatories in individual basins. These topics gave rise to significant seminars in the Mediterranean in December 2012 and April 2013.



Maremed Seminar – Developing and managing coastal and maritime areas, framework conditions for blue growth in the Mediterranean – European Parliament, Brussels – 21 March 2013

### 2.2.4 Maritime safety – Erika IV

The CPMR's action in this area is based on the Erika IV initiative chaired by Pierre Karleskind, Vice-President of Brittany Region, with the aim of stimulating action on the part of the European Union and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

In September 2012, the French court's decision regarding the shipwreck of the *Erika* was an event of major European and global importance. The ruling acknowledged the ecological damage, the liability of the shipowners and the competence of a State in judging the consequences of accidents that affected its territory. The CPMR worked hard, demanding that these elements should bring about changes in international and European regulations. It was notably from this point of view that the CPMR took part in a number of meetings, including the seminar in Biarritz in November 2012 organised by the Surfrider Foundation, which provided an opportunity to discuss the issue with Matthias Ruete, Director General of DG MOVE, and several Members of the European Parliament. On the same topic, the CPMR tabled proposals<sup>14</sup> in April 2013 within the framework of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC), where the CPMR enjoys observer status.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.crpm.org/en/index.php?act=6,1,2,334>

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/399\\_tp\\_iczm\\_msp.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/399_tp_iczm_msp.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/402\\_tp\\_cpmr-erika.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/402_tp_cpmr-erika.pdf)

The “post *Erika* court case” situation was also central to a debate<sup>15</sup> organised by the CPMR at the European Parliament on 24 April 2013 within the Seas and Coastal Areas Intergroup. The Regions of Shetland, Galicia and Brittany took part and a number of MEPs made a commitment to formally table the question of changes to the European and international standards on issues relating to the *Erika* in the Commission and the Council.



Debate on “The future after the *Erika* court case” with Gesine Meissner, Corinne Lepage and Isabelle Thomas, Members of the European Parliament – Brussels, April 2013.

Among these issues, in-depth consideration was given to the definition and estimation of ecological damage, notably through a workshop organised by Region Blekinge and the CPMR with the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the World Maritime University (WMU) and the Surfriders Foundation as part of the European Maritime Days in Malta in May 2013.

## 2.2.5 Vasco da Gama

Over the 2012-2013 period, the CPMR further advanced its work on its Vasco da Gama initiative. Investment in jobs and training for young people is essential to boost blue growth, which is why, in Aberdeen (UK) in 2010, the CPMR launched Vasco da Gama, an umbrella initiative contributing to this objective. Generally speaking, European regions have significant powers in the fields of education and training. Vasco de Gama aims to deploy a geographically balanced network of partner regions and maritime institutes that will work to ensure the mobility of young people and the possibility of work in the maritime sector across the various maritime basins.

This year, the CPMR and its partner regions have reached a significant stage. Further to the DG MOVE call for proposals, the CPMR drafted a project entitled “Vasco da Gama: Training for Greener and Safer Maritime Transport”. Its application was favourably received and, after final negotiations with the European Commission, the CPMR will be able to launch the project, organising, coordinating and leading a complex and comprehensive series of Work Packages on maritime safety, the use of maritime simulators, the ecological aspects of maritime transport, a maritime Erasmus and activities to circulate and manage the project as a whole. Vasco Da Gama will be managed by a Core Leaders’ Group made up of representatives from the CPMR, European institutions, professional stakeholders, training institutions, maritime clusters and Regions.

## 2.2.6 Marine and maritime research

The CPMR’s work in this area is being coordinated through the working group chaired by Annika Annerby Jansson, President of the Regional Council of Skåne (SE), with the support of Schleswig Holstein (DE) for the Sea. Through the group’s action, the CPMR has been able to confirm the principle behind the horizontal strategy on marine and maritime research within Horizon 2020, notably by contact with the European Parliament during the trilogues.

At the same time, the CPMR has contributed to the final report drafted by the European Commission’s expert group on marine and maritime research facilities, of which it is a member. These facilities will now be taken into account for investments by Member States and Region, particularly through Cohesion Policy.



Annika ANNERBY JANSSON, President of the Regional Council of Skåne (SE)

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.cprm.org/en/index.php?act=6,1,2,335>

The CPMR supported the “Marine KIC” Initiative (Knowledge Innovation Community) <sup>16</sup> coordinated by KDM, which aimed to establish a maritime partnership within the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). In addition to political support, the CPMR organised discussions with its Member Regions and Geographical Commissions. This involvement did not result in the selection of a marine KIC but it has created a knowledge base for the future.

### 2.2.7 Blue biotechnologies

The CPMR set up a group of Regions under the name “Blue biotechnologies Regions of Europe”. Its aim will be mainly to assist in the drafting of a European strategy in this area over the next few months. An initial meeting<sup>17</sup> was held in April 2013 and a conference will be held in October as part of the Open Days, organised by a consortium led by Brittany Region.

### 2.2.8 Shipping and maritime industries

In this area, the CPMR’s action focused on the “Maritime Industries for Blue Growth” initiative led by Christophe Clergeau, 1st Vice-President of the Pays de la Loire Region. Its central concept is the differentiation and diversification of shipyard work, especially with a view to renewable marine energies. This is a strategic axis for the future of industrial maritime employment in Europe. On these points, the CPMR is interacting specifically with the Atlantic Arc Commission which is promoting the topic through the Atlantic Arc strategy, and with the Baltic Sea Commission which was involved in June 2013 through the International maritime seminar in Szczecin<sup>18</sup> (West Pomerania, Poland).

These issues have been central to the drafting of the European strategy in which the CPMR played a part, “LeaderSHIP 2020<sup>19</sup> » conducted by the European Commission. Proposals from the Regions were reported in an opinion<sup>20</sup> adopted in March 2013 by the CPMR’s Political Bureau.



LeaderSHIP 2020 meeting – Brussels, February 2012

The meetings organised as part of the initiative, together with the meetings of the LeaderSHIP 2020 Task Force set up by the European Commission and the Final LeaderSHIP 2020 Conference <sup>21</sup> in February 2013, provided the bases for regular discussions with representatives from European Institutions, one of whom was Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission, and members of the European Parliament, Nikos Chrysogelos, Gesine Meissner, Debora Serracchiani and Sergio Cofferati who chairs a group of MEPs on issues relating to LeaderSHIP 2020.

After this, the Pays de la Loire Region (FR) and the CPMR organised, the Seminar entitled “Maritime industries: what future strategy in Europe and in the Regions?”<sup>22</sup> in Nantes on 5 July 2013. The seminar was attended by politicians and stakeholders from several regions who discussed the follow-up to LeaderSHIP 2020.

Last but not least, the CPMR was a partner in the Euromaritime<sup>23</sup> exhibition held in February 2013. The exhibition involved hundreds of companies as well as institutional representatives including Maria Damanaki, European Commissioner in charge of Maritime Affairs, and Frédéric Cuvillier, French Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. Several CPMR member regions also took part.

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.marinekic-initiative.eu/en/home.htm>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.crpm.org/en/index.php?act=6,1,2,342>

<sup>18</sup> <http://maritimecongress.com/practical-informations/congress-venue.html>

<sup>19</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item\\_id=6452&tpa=0&tk=&lang=en](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=6452&tpa=0&tk=&lang=en)

<sup>20</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/391\\_cpmr\\_opinion\\_leadership\\_2020.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/391_cpmr_opinion_leadership_2020.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> <http://news.cpmr.org/cpmr-news/maritime-cpmr/leadership-2020-regions-have-big-plans-for-the-future-of-maritime-industries/>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.crpm.org/en/index.php?act=6,1,2,354>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.euromaritime.fr/en/>

## 2.2.9 Maritime and coastal tourism

At present, some 2.36 million people are employed in the coastal tourism sector. This represents 1.1% of total employment in the EU. The Regions are the key stakeholders, working for the enhancement of the socio-economic potential of maritime tourism.

As part of the European Maritime Days, the CPMR joined forces with the city of Göteborg on 22 May 2013 to run a workshop entitled "*EU Regions: pathway to boost maritime coastal tourism*"<sup>24</sup>. The event emphasised the importance of active involvement on the part of regions in the design and introduction of the EU Agenda for maritime and coastal tourism. Specific recommendations were also tabled in favour of the design and introduction, by regional governments, of macro-projects aimed at establishing synergies between the factors of competitiveness in the various maritime territories (natural resources, cultural heritage, specific geographical features etc.) and priority investments in the tourism industry.

## 2.2.10 Fisheries

Over the next decade, the EU will have to use the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to support the revival of the fishing industry based on dynamic competitive coastal communities because it is a source of direct and indirect employment for coastal areas and an instrument of cohesion for Europe.

Since the General Assembly in Bialystok (PL) the CPMR and its working group chaired by Shetland (UK) have closely monitored the negotiations on developments in the future fisheries policy. The CPMR guidelines were expressed in a policy position on the "Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy"<sup>25</sup> adopted by the Political Bureau in Alexandroupolis (GR) in March 2013 and another policy position on "A strong and effective EU Budget for the CFP and IMP"<sup>26</sup> adopted by the Political Bureau in Malmö (SW) in June 2013. In the latter document, the CPMR pleaded for European aid to assist in the modernisation and renewal of fishing fleets, the setting up in business of young fishermen and fish farmers, and the operators who are implementing more sustainable fishing.

# 3. Accessibility

## 3.1 Background

The agreement on the multiannual budget for the 2014-2020 period allocated €13.2 billion to the transport strand of the CEF (Connecting Europe Facility) and, therefore, to TEN-T. This amount corresponds to a rise of almost 40% in real terms compared to the 2007-2013 period. In addition, €10 billion from the Cohesion Fund will be allocated by the CEF to TEN-T and earmarked for projects located in the countries eligible for the Cohesion Fund (with a GDP of less than 80% of the European average). It can therefore be considered that the transport budget has not been sacrificed in the negotiations and, conversely, nor was it subject to an inflation that could have been detrimental to other policies, particularly those monitored by the CPMR such as Cohesion Policy.

Regarding maritime transport, both the European Parliament and the Council proposed strengthening support but by focusing almost exclusively on the development of the Motorways of the Sea (MoS) which represent only a minority of the intra-European maritime connections.

<sup>24</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/conference/programme\\_02\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/conference/programme_02_en.htm)

<sup>25</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/393\\_cpmr\\_opinion\\_-\\_cfp.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/393_cpmr_opinion_-_cfp.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/397\\_cpmr\\_opinion\\_emff-malmo.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/397_cpmr_opinion_emff-malmo.pdf)

## 3.2 CPMR action

The Region of Aragón, as Chair of the CPMR Intercommission Working Group on Transport, has led the CPMR's lobbying on transport and accessibility issues in the year between the 2012 and 2013 General Assemblies. The lobbying work of the CPMR has mainly focused on TEN-T and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) during the ongoing negotiations. Nord-Pas de Calais Region was given responsibility for the maritime transport strand in the working group to ensure that particular attention was paid to maritime transport issues for the relevant CPMR Regions.

The General Secretariat of the CPMR produced a technical paper entitled "Transport and the CPMR: Update on current developments and future prospects<sup>27</sup>" approved by the CPMR Political Bureau at its meeting in Alexandroupolis on 1 March 2013. It provided a progress report on the preparation of European transport policies for the 2014-2020 period while meeting the concerns of peripheral maritime regions. The technical paper examined the recent work of the CPMR on the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and the CEF and gave an update on the state of negotiations and the initial results, budgetary issues, maritime transport, the role of the Regions in governance and the TEN-T maps. The document concluded by listing the outstanding issues and potential areas of work for the CPMR.

The CPMR also prepared a specific action plan for maritime transport, through the publication of a technical paper entitled "Proposed Maritime Transport Agenda for the CPMR in 2013<sup>28</sup>" in May 2013. In the document, the CPMR defends the funding of a maritime dimension for the TEN-T and CEF and informs its members of harbour-related topics of interest in the maritime sector.

## 3.3 The Directive on the reduction of sulphur emissions

Aware of the complex technical questions and substantial economic issues raised by the Directive that was adopted in 2012 by the European Union imposing a drastic reduction in sulphur emissions from ships and requiring considerable investment from both port authorities and shipowners, the CPMR organised a seminar in Dunkirk on 22 March 2013<sup>29</sup>, at the invitation of the Region of Nord-Pas de Calais. The seminar entitled "*Reduction of sulphur emissions from ships in the Channel and North Sea: what regional, national and European solutions?*" was attended by more than 150 people and was marked by the diversity of its participants from both a geographical point of view (eight different countries represented) and the sectors represented (European institutions, shipowners, port authorities, local authorities, state representatives, associations, universities and researchers). The very high level of participation by the European Commission services, with no less than four Directorate-Generals represented (MOVE, REGIO, MARE, ENV) and the European Parliament, helped initiate a comprehensive dialogue. The seminar concluded with a speech by Frédéric Cuvillier, French Junior Minister for Transport, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, during which he expressed the French Government's concern over the direct consequences of the imminent transposition of the Directive.

A Final Declaration<sup>30</sup>, advocating greater consideration of the sulphur challenge in EU and national measures in 2014-2020 was presented during the seminar. This Final Declaration has become the framework for the work and action undertaken by the CPMR and its Geographical Commissions on the Sulphur Directive. During the seminar, the creation of a European Sustainable Shipping Forum (ESSF) was mentioned, and the CPMR was offered the opportunity to



Frédéric Cuvillier, French Junior Minister for Transport, the Sea and Fisheries, Wulfran Despicht, Vice-President of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Region and Eleni Marianou, General Secretary of the CPMR - Dunkirk, 22 March 2013.

<sup>27</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/282\\_tp-transport and the cpmr.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/282_tp-transport%20and%20the%20cpmr.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/401\\_tp\\_maritime\\_transport\\_agenda.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/401_tp_maritime_transport_agenda.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.crpm.org/en/index.php?act=6,1,2,328>

<sup>30</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/405\\_reduction\\_of\\_emissions\\_march\\_2103.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/405_reduction_of_emissions_march_2103.pdf)

take an active part in this Forum by representing the maritime regions within it. Further to this opening, a letter from the President of the CPMR was addressed to the President of the European Commission and the relevant Commissioners, together with a copy of the final declaration, requesting the formal participation of the CPMR within the ESSF. President Barroso responded very positively to the letter, encouraging the CPMR to formally signal its interest.

Within the seminar's framework, members of the CPMR led by the Vice-President of Nord-Pas-de-Calais Region, Wulfran Despicht, and Eleni Marianou, Secretary General of the CPMR, met Jean-Eric Paquet, Director, Mobility and Transport at the European Commission, Frédéric Cuvillier, French Junior Minister for Transport, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, and Elena Visnar Malinovska, member of the cabinet of Janez Potocnik, European Commissioner for the Environment.

### 3.4 Meetings

A CPMR delegation, led by the Vice-President of Nord-Pas de Calais Region, Wulfran Despicht, is expected to meet Mr Ruete, Director General, DG MOVE, in autumn 2013 to discuss maritime transport issues following the development of the CPMR maritime transport agenda. This will fall within the preparation of the ESSF agenda and the run-up to the introduction of the CEF.

## 4. Macro-regions

### 4.1 Background

In 2009, the European Commission approved the first Macro-Regional Strategy for the Baltic Sea followed, in 2010, by the Strategy for the Danube and, in 2011, the first Sea Basin Strategy for the Atlantic Arc. Since it was set up, the CPMR has been structured in geographical commissions that correspond to Europe's sea basins, with the exception of the Islands Commission. Because of this, the CPMR strongly supports the introduction of these Strategies to provide a framework and concentrate public action at a European, national, regional and local level on a number of shared challenges within a given population catchment area. The Macro-Regional Strategies create stronger synergies between funds while encouraging integrated development of these communities, to the benefit of the population.

### 4.2 CPMR action

In June 2012, the CPMR set up a Macro-Regions "Task Force" within its General Secretariat, with links to its six Geographical Commissions. As part of the preparation for a European Commission study on the added value of Macro-Regions, the CPMR shared the expertise that it has built up over many years.

At the General Assembly in Bialystok from 5 to 10 October 2012, the CPMR adopted guidelines<sup>31</sup> for the drafting and implementation of macro-regional strategies. This technical paper proposes points for consideration when establishing a flexible, functional reference framework for current and future macro-regional initiatives. The guidelines were also used by Geographical Commissions as a framework when working on the drafting or development of Macro-Regional Strategies in their communities.

In addition to these guidelines, a new CPMR technical document<sup>32</sup> was presented at the Political Bureau in Alexandroupolis on 1 March 2013. Its aim is to support the assessment of Macro-Regional Strategies by the European Commission in 2013.

<sup>31</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/380\\_tp-macroregions\\_cpmr.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/380_tp-macroregions_cpmr.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/395\\_tp-mrs-sbs-cpmr-022013.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/395_tp-mrs-sbs-cpmr-022013.pdf)

### 4.3 Meetings

A meeting of the CPMR Macro-Regions Task Force<sup>33</sup> took place in Brussels on 14 May 2013, in the presence of the European Commission's DG REGIO, member regions of the Task Force and Executive Secretaries from the various CPMR Geographical Commissions. Participants at the meeting had an opportunity to discuss the political messages that the CPMR was to pass on to European Institutions. Following on from the meeting, the CPMR adopted a policy position<sup>34</sup> at its last Political Bureau, in Malmö.



CPMR Political Bureau in Malmö, 7 June 2013

### 4.4 The Adriatic and Ionian strategy

While the European Council asked the Commission, in December 2012, to prepare a macro-regional strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian zone, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) has already set up a Task Force to prepare an action plan for 2014 when two Adriatic and Ionian countries will hold the presidency of the EU (Italy and Greece). This decision also preceded all the initiatives taken by the European Institutions in the Adriatic and Ionian area, in particular the EP report by François Alfonsi (GREENS-FR) on "*The Development of EU Macro-Regional Strategies: current practices and future prospects, notably in the Mediterranean*", the Communication on maritime policy in the Adriatic presented in Zagreb by the Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Maria Damanaki, and the setting-up of the Adriatic-Ionian Interregional Group<sup>35</sup> within the Committee of the Regions, with Gian Mario Spacca, President of Marche Region as President of the group and Mr Katsifaras, President of Dytiki Ellada Region (GR) as 1st Vice-President, both of them members of the CPMR.

The CPMR, with its InterMediterranean Commission (IMC/CPMR), is firmly of the opinion that the fisheries and fish-farming sectors should play a very strategic role in the development of the Adriatic and Ionian macro-region. The CPMR and its InterMediterranean Commission have therefore given their full backing to the report by Guido Milana, Member of the European Parliament, inviting the European Commission to assess the geophysical conformation of the Adriatic and Ionian Basin and its specific characteristics quickly and carefully, within the near future.

## 5. The territorial approach in sectoral policies

### 5.1 Energy and climate change

Over the past year, the CPMR has taken part in various consultations organised by European Institutions in areas related to Energy and Climate.

At the end of 2012, in addition to the consultation launched by the European Commission on the development of oceanic sources of energy, a working meeting was held between a delegation of Member Regions from the CPMR and DG MARE (assisted by DG ENER and DG R&I). The meeting highlighted a concordance of views between the CPMR and the European Commission as regards the priority requirements for these types of energy, notably with regard to the problems of access to the network, problems of funding, environmental issues and the definition of synergy.

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.crpm.org/en/index.php?act=6,1,2,356>

<sup>34</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/398\\_opinion-macroregions\\_pb\\_cpmr-malmo.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/398_opinion-macroregions_pb_cpmr-malmo.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> <http://cor.europa.eu/en/activities/interregionalgroups/adriatic-ionician/Pages/index.aspx>



In July 2013, the CPMR was involved in the DG ENER consultation<sup>36</sup> on the Green Paper “A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies”. In the text, the CPMR expressed its amazement at the absence of any reference to the role of regional authorities in the draft Green Paper when, at the same time, in the draft Communication on the 2015 international agreement on climate change, the European Commission had emphasised the fact that, to create the political impetus required for ambitious action in the field of climate change, wide-ranging support was needed on the part of civil society, businesses and other political structures. The CPMR therefore declared itself in favour of restrictive objectives as regards energy efficiency since such measures had proved to be effective in the area of renewable energies. It nevertheless recalled that the introduction of restrictive objectives presupposed the introduction of an adequate financial support mechanism to back the action of local and regional authorities, and noted that such support might be missing because of the failure of the emissions trading scheme (ETS).

As far adaptation to climate change is concerned, the CPMR has been keeping a careful watch on the role that the Commission intends to give to insurance companies. The CPMR intervened in the Consultation on the draft “Green Paper on the insurance of natural and manmade disasters”, recalling the high level of exposure of numerous coastal and island territories to this type of risk, particularly the Outermost Regions. The CPMR asked that European legislation on insurance should take account of territorial realities and introduce the solidarity required at EU level. The CPMR also repeated this point of view before the European Parliament during the meeting organised in May 2013 by Vittorio Prodi MEP on this issue.

Finally, the CPMR expressed its satisfaction with the numerous cooperation projects in the energy and climate sectors involving its Member Regions, among them ELIH-MED, LOW CAP and ISLE-PACT and it declared its willingness to provide support in circulating their results and backing for their policy recommendations.



2nd ISLE-PACT European Conference- John Stuebler (EC), Angus Campbell, Western Isles, Jean-Didier Hache (CPMR – Islands Commission) – Brussels, 21 November 2012.

## 5.2 Research and Innovation

With the support of the Research & Innovation working group led by Region Skåne, the CPMR has continued to monitor the drafting of smart specialisation strategies through its involvement in the European Commission platform.

At the same time, the CPMR has maintained its involvement in territorial issues relating to research and innovation through territorial analysis of the results of European programmes supporting research and innovation. With this in mind, the CPMR has expressed its support for the finalisation of the AMCER project (Advanced Monitoring and Coordination of EU R&D policies at Regional level) funded by ESPON, which the CPMR set up. The final AMCER conference, held in June 2013, provided an opportunity to discuss the statistical methods developed from the data and used to create new maps and analyses, as well as joint work between research organisations and businesses generated by the programmes, at both a European and regional level. The results of the AMCER project are of significant importance for improvements to synergies between smart specialisation strategies, Horizon 2020 and COSME. The project established some very positive discussions with ESPON and DG RTD, DG Enterprise and DG REGIO of the European Commission.

<sup>36</sup> [http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/404\\_rponse\\_crpm-consultation\\_lv\\_energie-climat.pdf](http://www.crpm.org/pub/docs/404_rponse_crpm-consultation_lv_energie-climat.pdf)

## 6. Neighbourhood

Peripheral maritime regions have natural links with their EU neighbours, which explains the CPMR's long-term involvement in this policy. The CPMR's Regions and Geographical Commissions have been involved for many years in projects and partnerships with their counterparts in the Southern Mediterranean, Eastern Black Sea and Russia.

After manifesting its contribution to EU Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and its new European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) on several occasions, the CPMR and its Geographical Commissions followed up on their active involvement in the work of the agencies set up by the Committee of the Regions to work on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (ARLEM) and the Eastern partnership (CORLEAP). While doing so, it emphasised the contribution and key role of the regional authorities within the framework of the ENP, stronger cooperative relations, the various strands of territorial and maritime development and support for decentralisation, the "more for more" principle, and a true "convergence policy in border regions" within the EU.

With this in mind, the CPMR has continued its internal action, notably through ARLEM and its Inter-Mediterranean Commission (IMC). The Region of Catalonia in particular, as President of the IMC, has been asked by ARLEM to draft a report for the ECOTER Commission on a potential future "cohesion strategy for the Mediterranean". The purpose of the report is to give renewed impetus to cooperation within the basin, provide ways of potentially applying the approach and methodologies of EU Cohesion Policy to the ENP, and look at the possibility of making macroregional strategies part of the Euromed partnership.

At the same time, in 2013, the CPMR actively monitored the ongoing capitalisation and redefinition of the cross-border cooperation programmes "in individual sea basins" within the ENP. It also began to suggest to the managing authorities and the European Commission possible ways of improving their implementation and links in relation to the potential support for the start-up of future macroregional strategies.



IMC Political Bureau, Florence, 15 March 2013