



CRPM CPMR

CONFÉRENCE DES RÉGIONS PÉRIPHÉRIQUES MARITIMES D'EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE

6, rue Saint-Martin - 35700 RENNES (France)
Tél.: + 33 (0)2 99 35 40 50 - Fax: + 33 (0)2 99 35 09 19
E.mail: secretariat@crpm.org - Web: www.crpm.org

40th CPMR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4-5 October 2012

Białystok (Podlaskie, Poland)

The Peripheral Maritime Regions listed below met for their 40th CPMR Annual General Assembly in Białystok (Podlaskie, Poland) on 4 and 5 October 2012.

ABERDEEN CITY (UK), ABERDEENSHIRE (UK), AÇORES (PT), ANATOLIKI MAKEDONIA THRAKI (GR), ANDALUCIA (ES), AQUITAINE (FR), ARGYLL & BUTE (UK), ASTURIAS (ES), BALEARES (ES), BASSE-NORMANDIE (FR), BORDER, MIDLAND AND WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY (IE), BORNHOLM (DK), BRETAGNE (FR), BUSKERUD (NO), CALARASI (RO), CANTABRIA (ES), CATALUNYA (ES), COMUNITAT VALENCIANA (ES), CORNWALL (UK), DEVON& SOMERSET (UK), DYTIKI ELLADA (GR), EDIRNE (TR), CYPRUS (DISTRICT AUTHORITIES), FRIULI-VENEZIA-GIULIA (IT), GÄVLEBORG (SE), GOTLAND (SE), GOZO (MALTA), GUADELOUPE (FR), HALLAND (SE), HELSINKI-UUSIMAA (FI), HIGHLAND (UK), HORDALAND (NO), IDA-VIRUMAA & PÄRNUMAA (EE), IONIA NISIA (GR), KIRKLARELI (TR), KRITI (GR), KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE* (PL), KYMENLAAKSO (FI), LA REUNION (FR), LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON (FR), MADEIRA (PT), MAYOTTE (FR), MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN (DE), MIDTJYLLAND (DK), MONASTIR (TN), MØRE OG ROMSDAL (NO), MURCIA (ES), NAVARRA (ES), NOORD-HOLLAND (NL), NOORD-NEDERLAND (NL), NORRBOTTEN (SE), NORDJYLLAND (DK), NORDLAND (NO), NORD-PAS-DE-CALAIS (FR), NOTIO AIGAIOS (GR), ODESSA (UKRAINE), ÖREBRO (SE), OSTROBOTHNIA (FI), PÄIJÄT-HÄME (FI), PAÍS VASCO (ES), PAYS DE LA LOIRE (FR), PELOPONNISOS (GR), PODLASKIE (PL), POITOU-CHARENTES (FR), PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR (FR), ROGALAND (NO), SARDEGNA (IT), SKÅNE (SE), SICILIA (IT), SINOP (TR), SOGN OG FJORDANE (NO), SOUTH-WEST FINLAND (FI), STOCKHOLM (SE), TAMPERE* (FI), TELEMAR (NO), TOSCANA (IT), TROMS (NO), TULCEA (RO), VARNA (BG), VÄSTERBOTTEN (SE), VÄSTERNORRLAND (SE), VÄSTRA GÖTALAND (SE), VEST-AGDER (NO), VESTFOLD (NO), WALES (UK), WIELKOPOLSKA* (PL), ZUID-HOLLAND (NL).

^(*) *Observer*

On behalf of the Regions attending the General Assembly, the President of the CPMR, Jean-Yves Le Drian, wishes to warmly thank the Region of Podlaskie and its Marshal, Jarosław Dworzański, for kindly organising and hosting the event.

He extends his thanks to the national and regional authorities and EU institutions who took part in the proceedings of the Conference.

President Le Drian would especially like to thank the Cypriot government in its capacity as EU Presidency in office for its participation in the General Assembly

On behalf of its 158 members, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, gathered for its 40th Annual General Assembly in Białystok, adopted the following Final Declaration and Resolutions:

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FINAL DECLARATION

EUROPE'S PERIPHERIES AT THE CENTRE OF A LASTING DEEP ECONOMIC CRISIS

1. As in previous years since 2008, 2012 has been an extremely tough year for the peripheral maritime Regions of Europe, especially the Mediterranean, Irish and Portuguese Regions hard-hit by the global economic recession. Alongside the massive efforts being asked of the people of Europe, in particular from the regions in greatest difficulty, the prospects for overcoming the crisis are for the moment unfortunately still slim. A huge challenge still lies ahead of the European Union, whose future and such major achievements as the Euro are being put to the test.
2. At the same time, the south and east of the Mediterranean are still experiencing continued upheavals. The stakes involved in supporting these democratic revolutions remain high for the European Union.
3. In this context, the serious difficulties faced by peripheral maritime Regions must be balanced against their economic, cultural and geopolitical assets. These advantages make them promising territories for the future in terms of generating growth throughout the European continent, as long as the EU provides itself with the means to implement ambitious policies targeted towards them. It is from this perspective - which also includes the potential they represent for the development of the European Union - that the peripheral maritime Regions gathered under the umbrella of the CPMR voice their views at the General Assembly in Białystok (Podlaskie, Poland). The messages they convey echo the CPMR's core political identity centred on cohesion, maritime dimension and accessibility.

CONFRONTING THE CRISIS BY REASSERTING THE NEED FOR EUROPE AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN TERRITORIES

4. The ongoing efforts by Member States to implement effective European economic governance in response to the crisis remain keen, crucial and encouraging. The CPMR strongly supports recent steps forward, especially with regard to the European Stability Mechanism, the agreement on the "growth package" reached in June 2012, notice of the opportunity for the ECB to buy back sovereign debts, and the initial guidelines put forward on the banking union.
5. Nonetheless, the political equilibrium between Member States remains shaky. Further to the political process initiated at the Political Bureau in June 2011 and the political seminar on solidarity held in February 2012, the CPMR Member Regions reaffirm their deep commitment to the above principles.
6. *In this context, the CPMR Member Regions, which themselves are conducting drastic budget control policies while making investments for the future and policies to support their populations, reaffirm their commitment to deepening the European Union. They urge the European institutions to continue to move towards common solutions. They also call on the EU Member States to convey loud and clear the principles of solidarity and European political unity.*

THE PERIPHERAL REGIONS EXPRESS DEEP CONCERNS ABOUT THE EUROPEAN BUDGET

7. The peripheral maritime Regions recall - as they did at their General Assembly in September 2011 in Aarhus (DK) - the need to find the right balance between budget cuts and support for investments and people. This implies, alongside efforts led by the Regions and States, empowering the EU to support the delivery of the EU2020 Strategy through a strong capacity for investment.

8. On the whole, the European Commission's initial proposals on the Multiannual Financial Framework represent an encouraging and coherent prospect. The European Parliament's evaluation of the EU budget also confirms its potential as an investment budget. At the same time, the CPMR maintains that a reform of the own resources system is necessary, as is budget flexibility between financial years, in order to avoid national interests prevailing over European interests.
9. Negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework seem however to be taking an extremely worrying turn. By restating the desire of a growing number of Member States to reduce the EU budget, and putting forward a set of inconsistent budget cutting scenarios, the informal Council of 30 August 2012 expressed guidelines that run counter to the needs of the current economic climate. If this trend continues, the EU2020 strategy, which was nevertheless adopted by these same Member States and the European Parliament, would result in a resounding failure.
10. *The CPMR is alarmed at any temptation to reduce the budget for growth and job creation that the EU budget represents, under the pretext of short term savings that would jeopardise long term investments. It asks the Member States and the European Parliament to take a forward-looking view, by supporting the European Commission's proposals on the budget for European policies after 2014, and in particular for cohesion policy, maritime policy and policies in support of accessibility, as well as all EU policies with a strong territorial impact cited in the present text.*

THOUGH AN ESSENTIAL RESULT OF GROWTH, COHESION HAS BEEN PUT ON HOLD
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- **Coherent and realistic objectives and governance for cohesion policy**

11. The CPMR welcomes the European Commission proposals for a Cohesion Policy package post-2013 and expresses its satisfaction with the good number of CPMR proposal included in the package, such as the emphasis on partnership, simplification and involvement of Regions in the Partnership Contract.
12. The CPMR also welcomes the general support alluded to the need to coordinate European funding instruments further through the Common Strategic Framework (CSF), and asks for a balanced legislative framework to be agreed to make it possible to simplify the coordination of EU funds whilst providing room for flexibility at the level of the territory.
13. However, the CPMR laments the strong prominence of macroeconomic conditionality in the proposals and would like to recall the potential risks for Regions if provisions for macroeconomic conditionality were adopted in their current form (cf. past positions of the CPMR on the subject). In addition, the CSF should not be the vehicle for an additional mechanism of compliance with the reinforced EU economic governance, with its annual cycles of multilateral surveillance and country specific recommendations. Such an approach would run counter to multi-level governance, threaten multi-annual programming, create instability for Managing Authorities and add extra bureaucratic burden. Cohesion Policy is a long term investment policy aiming to trigger economic recovery at regional level.
14. The CPMR welcomes the recognition of the European Social Fund as a structural fund integrated under the umbrella of Cohesion Policy and recalls the central role of regions in ensuring the ESF delivers real added value at regional level.
15. Moreover, progress on Cohesion Policy negotiations are too slow, which poses a problem for Regions and their managing authorities who need to prepare operational programmes ahead of the start of the programming period. The dual nature of the negotiating process (budget issues vs. sectoral issues) and the potential impact of a reduced budget on the architecture of the policy, create a climate of instability for managing authorities, not to mention the risks associated with a late agreement on the MFF which would inevitably delay the start of the operational programmes.

- **Goals jeopardised by budget negotiations**

16. The revised version of the Multiannual Financial Framework and its 'technical' adjustments are unacceptable as they penalise Cohesion Policy disproportionately. Although the MFF represents a rise in the overall size of the EU budget, this increase does not fully compensate for the accession of Croatia in 2013. Without the accession of Croatia however, the revised proposal would represent a cut of €5.5 billion to the Cohesion Policy envelope. The method used by the Commission to calculate Member States' allocation under Cohesion Policy is largely based on economic growth forecasts. The CPMR believes that this method is in direct contradiction with both the objectives of Cohesion Policy and the commitment made at the last European Council on 30 June to utilise Cohesion Policy to achieve sustainable economic growth.

- **Ensuring consistent and fair treatment for all European territories**

17. The CPMR welcomes the recognition of islands in the additional allocation as expressed in the MFF negotiating document, and urges Member States to support this key proposal, underlining that this cannot be detrimental to the specific allocation to the outermost and sparsely populated regions, which should be maintained at the same level as the one of the 2007-2013 programming period. The CPMR also welcomes the amendment adopted by the European Parliament REGI Committee which proposes that the breakdown of Structural Fund moneys by Member State should be based upon "eligible population, regional prosperity taking into account where appropriate, the specific situation of regions with severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps, national prosperity, ageing of the population and unemployment rate for less developed regions and transition regions". The CPMR urges the Member States to support this proposal, which would ensure proper recognition of the objectives of Article 174 of the Treaty.
18. Secondly, the CPMR once again regrets to note that the MFF fails to give proper differentiated treatment to the Outermost Regions regarding access to Funds, as stipulated in Articles 355 and 349 of the TFEU. In this respect, the CPMR recalls point 4.1) of its Final Declaration approved in Aarhus on 30 September 2011. The CPMR acknowledges as positive and welcomes the amendment adopted by the REGI Committee of the European Parliament, which proposes that the OMR should receive an allocation under the Funds equal to at least four-fifths of their allocations during the 2007-2013 period. Furthermore, it asks the Council and Parliament to ensure that the OMR's right to differentiated treatment under cohesion policy is properly respected.
19. However, while Regions coming under the categories of less developed Regions should obviously be given priority support under Cohesion Policy, transition Regions and even those classed - sometimes questionably - as the "more developed" regions should not be deprived of necessary support. These Regions have historically delivered solutions and been an engine for European growth. Cuts in the EU financial assistance would therefore jeopardise their contribution to sustainable growth and job creation. The budget cutting scenarios being examined by the Council would strongly penalise the Regions concerned, especially the so-called more developed regions, the transition regions and those benefiting from the 'safety net'. The impact of these cuts would be highly disproportionate and would result in undermining the principle of European solidarity to which the CPMR is firmly attached.
20. *Therefore, the CPMR believes that Cohesion Policy is a key investment and development policy shaped to deliver Europe 2020 strategy objectives at territorial level, thus helping to lay the foundations that can ensure prosperity for Europe's citizens. Furthermore, it provides a significant and complementary added value to national investment strategies through its partnership and shared management arrangements. Cohesion Policy should therefore be maintained with the same architecture proposed by the Cohesion package and at the same budget level as the June 2011 proposal.*

A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION FOR MACROREGIONS

21. The CPMR confirms its support for the development of macro-regional strategies. It welcomes the achievements and prospects for progress, often at the initiative and with the support of its Geographical Commissions, especially in the Danube area, Baltic, Atlantic, North Sea and Adriatic-Ionian area. In full agreement with the European Parliament, it supports efforts being led in the Mediterranean. It also supports ongoing initiatives around the Black Sea Synergy, and calls for a strategic reflection on the Arctic area.

The CPMR believes that all macroregional and sea basin strategies need to consider the involvement of Regions in all phases of the process, writing and achieving the goals of the strategy, i.e a method governed by multi-level governance.

22. It does consider however that a conceptual body is necessary to supervise and stimulate these developments. The creation of a “Macro-regions Task Force” within the CPMR aims to contribute towards this. The proposals of the Task Force, which are being developed in close collaboration with the European Commission’s services concern:

- the functional definition of macro-regional strategies (support for cooperation between actors, pooling investments, defining strategic objectives and acting as a natural bridge between enlargement and neighbourhood processes);
- their geography;
- their common objectives (combining cohesion, targeted priorities and transnational initiatives or projects);
- conditions for drafting and implementing these strategies;
- and their funding: through additional technical assistance funds by making a reference to macro-regional strategies in the Partnership Contracts and Regional Operational Programmes, through synergies with other European funds, and by matching transnational cooperation programmes with macro-regional strategies.

23. *The CPMR invites the European institutions, first and foremost the Commission, to take into account the proposals presented at the General Assembly in Białystok when drafting a framework for action for macro-regions due out in June 2013.*

THE SEA, A KEY ASSET FOR EUROPE-WIDE GROWTH

24. More than ever, the development potential linked to the Sea represents a key prospect for development in Europe, if indeed the EU provides the means to exploit it. The General Assembly endorses the policy guidelines expressed in the policy position “Maintaining the Focus on the Sea in the Negotiations on post-2014 European Policies”.

25. Having pointed out the need for a revival of the European maritime agenda, the CPMR welcomes a series of positive trends: in addition to a generally satisfactory prominence given to maritime issues in the European Commission’s proposals on post-2014 EU policies, the processes initiated by the EC around blue growth and the assessment of the IMP, as well as the welcome aim of the Cypriot Presidency to give new impetus to maritime issues through the Informal Council and the Limassol Declaration planned on 8 October 2012, are encouraging elements. The European Parliament, with which the CPMR continues to enjoy a productive partnership through the Seas and Coastal Areas Intergroup, also plays a determining role in these issues.

• **Asserting a comprehensive EU maritime strategy**

26. Work undertaken on blue growth, the assessment of the IMP and the Limassol Declaration must go hand in hand with the adoption of own institutional and budgetary resources for the IMP. *It is therefore as much in terms of the content of the proposed actions and their budget, as the political will to support the institutionalisation of the IMP, that the CPMR calls on the European Parliament and the Member States to adopt the budget (which is a modest one amounting to 432 million over 7 years) proposed by the European Commission for the part of the EMFF relating to the IMP, whilst also maintaining the planned fisheries budget within the EMFF.*

- **Deepening European sectoral maritime policies**

27. The Regions of the CPMR call on the European institutions to deepen their action in partnership with them on:
- a European initiative on Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management;
 - the production and processing of marine data;
 - further developing EU action in the field of maritime safety, through the preparation of an Erika IV package where necessary;
 - helping to boost marine renewable energy in Europe;
 - marine research and the launch of an Innovation and Knowledge Community under the European Institute of Technology;
 - building a European industrial maritime agenda, starting out on the basis of work currently being led on the LeaderShip strategy;
 - integrating the maritime dimension within a strong European tourism policy;
 - strengthening European policies on education, training and mobility in sea-related activities, notably through support for the Vasco da Gama project;
 - highlighting the value of the economic and social dimensions in the context of the CFP reform and EMFF negotiations. The CPMR asks the European institutions to give greater consideration to the socio-economic impacts of the CFP in its different components: stock management, social and local community dimensions, Common Market Organisation, external dimension and relations with third countries, and local development of fisheries-dependent areas. It also requests that certain segments of the European fishing industry, including non-industrial and coastal fishing, should be better promoted, and that both the CFP and the EMFF should rely more on multi-level governance with more direct involvement from the Regions.
28. The CPMR applauds and thanks the European institutions for their commitment alongside the maritime Regions, and will continue championing a strong global maritime vision and the development of a set of maritime priorities for Europe.
29. At the same time, the CPMR once more expresses its belief that the European maritime vision has to strike the right balance between the economic (including industry), environmental (especially regarding risks related to climate change) and social dimensions, and involve Regions even more deeply in its implementation at European and macro-regional level.

IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY FOR EUROPE'S PERIPHERIES

30. Improving accessibility for peripheral maritime Regions remains a crucial factor for maintaining their economic competitiveness and aiding the mobility of their populations. The CPMR is paying close attention to the current negotiations between the Council and Parliament on the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) Review and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Regulation. It asks both these institutions to take into account the amendments proposed by the CPMR in February 2012 to strengthen the territorial balance of these two instruments and their support for maritime transport in relation to the specific contexts of each of the sea basins.
31. The CPMR requests an appropriate budget for the CEF, assuming that the governance of this instrument is satisfactory for the Regions and that its intervention criteria for funding the TEN-T meet the following objectives: priority to territorial cohesion, to improving accessibility, and to sustainable maritime transport. Furthermore, the CPMR considers that the Cohesion Fund budget proposed by the European Commission is a non-negotiable minimum, and that 50% of the Fund should effectively be dedicated to the TEN-T. In addition, given that the Commission wishes to concentrate CEF credits on 10 essentially land-based multimodal corridors, the CPMR once again alerts the Council and Parliament to the need to focus attention on the maritime sector. Finally, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, port investments need to be encouraged and European funding provided for maritime transport services and Motorways of the Sea, using a more comprehensive instrument than the current Marco Polo programme (via an "eleventh priority corridor" dedicated to maritime transport).

32. It also invites its member Regions to promote the desired adjustments to the outlined routes of the 10 priority multimodal corridors and the list of infrastructures of the TEN-T core network. Furthermore, the CPMR recalls that with regard to the trans-European networks - for transport as well as for energy and telecommunications - Article 170 of the Treaty calls for special attention to be given to the links between peripheral, island and landlocked regions and the central regions of the EU. It asks for the provisions of this article to be implemented in practice in each of the relevant policies.
33. Finally, although shipping remains the least polluting form of transport and the one that generates the least carbon emissions, the CPMR agrees that it still needs to improve its environmental footprint. It will continue to work on this issue, with the aim of ensuring that European funding for 2014-2020 can help both to develop maritime transport and improve its sustainability. With regard to the IMO sulphur regulation, and in order to ensure a level playing field within the different sea basins, the CPMR asks the European Commission to make available adequate European funds as an added resource to the proposed "toolbox".
34. *The CPMR welcomes the progress achieved so far in the negotiations within the Council and Parliament on the inclusion of maritime transport in the TEN-T and the CEF, especially with regard to ports and Motorways of the Sea. It invites the institutions to continue in this direction, since maritime transport is by far the most sustainable mode of transport. It also invites its member Regions to take the necessary steps to ensure that the future TEN-T maps, especially the one showing the priority corridors, take into account their peripheral and island characteristics.*

<p>IMPROVING SYNERGIES BETWEEN POLICIES WITH A HIGH TERRITORIAL IMPACT, TERRITORIAL COHESION AND THE REGIONS</p>

35. Aside from cohesion policy, maritime policy and policies in support of accessibility, it is necessary to reassert the regional and territorial advantage within a series of European policies with a strong territorial impact.
- **Improving synergies between support for research and innovation and the territorial dimension**
36. Regional policy will remain a major source of EU investment in research and innovation, especially through the definition of smart specialisation strategies in which the Regions should be key actors. At the same time, the CPMR considers that the territorial dimension needs to be more prominent in EU policies in support of research and innovation. It therefore expresses its keen interest in the letter sent by the Ministers of 12 States, in which - without calling into question the principle of excellence - they ask to extend the scope of participation in the Horizon 2020 programme. In the interest of the European territory as a whole, this programme should not weigh disproportionately in favour of researchers and businesses in the most economically developed States. This calls for a broad reflection on the excellence approach that has been adopted for Horizon 2020. The CPMR also asks for the "Regions of Knowledge" programme to be maintained within Horizon 2020. This is indeed relevant in view of the standard of evaluations of this programme and its advantage of directly involving the Regions in projects selected on the basis of excellence and which generate synergies between the Regions, Horizon 2020 and EU Regional Policy. More broadly, the Regions should be involved in initiatives to coordinate research programmes.
- **Balancing energy efficiency and territorial equity**
37. Current negotiations on the draft European directive on energy efficiency lead CPMR to recall that, aside from the Structural Funds, it will be necessary to mobilise other sources of funding, such as those financed by the EU ETS (Emissions Trading Scheme). The CPMR is also very concerned that the obligations imposed on energy distributors and sales companies should be implemented with a maximum degree of transparency and territorial equity.

- **For a Common Agricultural Policy more open to the territories**

38. The CPMR is attached to the CAP playing its full part in delivering territorial cohesion and ensuring that the policy is fit for purpose, to address specific territorial challenges and help avert future crises in the food sector. CPMR regions cover a wide variety of different geographical situations and climates, which means that the CAP cannot be about “one size fits all” and therefore needs to be flexible enough to respond to the needs of territories.
39. Rural development policy and the EAFRD must continue to deliver territorial added value through appropriate financing, particularly with regard to the LEADER approach which has proved to be a model for strengthening the integration of local development actions at regional level. The CPMR also welcomes the inclusion of the EAFRD in the Common Strategic Framework with regions playing a full part in the strategic coordination of European funds.

- **Involving the Regions in EU action at its borders and around the world**

40. The CPMR expresses its support for the new neighbourhood policy for 2014-2020 proposed by the European Commission, with funding for the European Neighbourhood Instrument. Nevertheless, it draws the attention of Parliament and the Council to the need to strengthen the provisions in the draft Regulation for this instrument allowing the regional and local authorities to become true partners in neighbourhood cross-border cooperation programmes. It asks to take forward neighbourhood programmes based around the sea basins, which must be conducted in synergy with the Integrated Maritime Policy and Regional Policy. It states once more its support for the European Commission proposals regarding the amounts of funding allocated to dedicated programmes under development aid policy targeted at civil society and RLA (regional and local authorities) and its agreement with the principle of support granted to RLA associations in partner countries.
41. Finally, the CPMR supports the participation of the Regions in the debates held at global level. Regional action under the umbrella of the different networks (Regions United-FOGAR and nrg4SD), and work on development aid within Platforma, are an important element that accompany CPMR’s action at European level.
42. The CPMR’s member Regions agree to meet again in 2013 for their 41st General Assembly in Saint-Malo (Brittany, France) **marking the 40th Anniversary of the CPMR!**

Adopted by a majority vote
(1 vote against - Cornwall)



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RÉSOLUTIONS

RÉSOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CPMR GENERAL ASSEMBLY GATHERED IN BIAŁYSTOK ON
4 AND 5 OCTOBER 2012

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RESOLUTION ON "THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN FISHERIES TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (EFTC)"

Presented by the CPMR North Sea Commission Marine Resources Group

BACKGROUND:

In Hirtshals (Denmark), in March 2012 close to 40 persons representing research institutions from all Europe, including Turkey and Norway, participated in a workshop to prepare the launch of the European Fisheries Technology Centre (EFTC) in late June 2012.

A vital issue in this respect is the design of new fishing gear that makes discards unnecessary. Therefore, intensification of research and innovation on fishing gear is most timely.

The main objective for EFTC will be to contribute to more sustainable development of the European fisheries and well managed harvesting of fish stocks Strategic research and innovation and education, training and other services will be important agendas for the activities of EFTC. EFTC will also play a role as a network between research institutions/members.

The European fisheries technology scientific community is limited. The R&D activities focusing upon fishing technology have decreased in many European countries.

Therefore, by coordinating and integrating the R&D activities, building complementary knowledge and infrastructure, and training new people, EFTC can develop the scientific excellence needed for keeping technology as a competitive advantage to European fishing industry.

The Strategic research and innovation agenda is based on the industrial requirements for development of sustainable fisheries in Europe like; Fishing vessel technology, Fishing gear technology, Safety for fishermen, Catch handling technology and Management/ environmental analysis and economic impact of sustainable fisheries.

Education, training and other services will include: Courses for fishermen, for control authorities, bureaucrats and politicians, for supplier companies and students. Certification and benchmarking and cooperation between training institutes across Europe.

The EU-2020 priorities are growth and jobs. The marine sector can contribute, this require sustainable fishing and better utilization of the marine resources. A technology strategy is a key factor for implementing "The Reform of Common Fisheries Policy" (CFP) in Europe.

CONCLUSIONS:

CPMR supports the establishment of the European Fisheries Technology Centre (EFTC).

- In order for the Centre to achieve its goals, the CPMR recommends DG MARE to contribute to the funding of a secretary function for EFTC for a 3 year period, to contribute for the Centre to be operative as soon as possible.
- CPMR looks forward to further cooperation between the EFTC and the CPMR Fisheries Working Group.
- Coordination and cooperation through this new European Fisheries Technology Centre may be the start of a new impetus in research and innovation on selective fishing gear and other technology based solutions contributing to sustainable fisheries and growth in coastal societies across Europe.
- Cooperation between EFTC and other marine training institutes, to ensure standardised high level training of European Mariners.

Adopted unanimously

RESOLUTION "THE CPMR IS CALLING FOR THE RAPID LAUNCH OF THE ADRIATIC-IONIAN MACROREGION"

Presented by the CPMR Balkan and Black Sea Regional Commission and the Inter-Mediterranean Commission

The CPMR supports the emergence of "macroregions", transnational areas that provide an ideal way of ensuring the consistency of public policies applied on a supranational scale. At a time when a macroregional approach to regional policies is gradually being implemented (including maritime basins) and the contents and constraints of territorial cooperation programmes are being prepared for the next period, the CPMR invites the European institutions to set up an Adriatic-Ionian macroregion as quickly as possible.

The CPMR is ready to provide assistance in this matter by involving its Member Regions and proposing a strategy and an action plan for the future macroregion.

An area unanimously recognised as relevant

As shown in the report submitted to the European Parliament by Mr. Alfonsi and given greater force by the opinion of Mr. Salavrakos, a Greek M.E.P., the Mediterranean area provides a relevant response to a number of major issues but its various sub-areas must also be taken into consideration. The Adriatic-Ionian area is one such sub-area.

In fact, it is recognised as a territory for macroregional action by the eight States in the AII (Adriatic Ionian Initiative), by the Committee of the Regions (Spacca Report) and by the Council of Europe ("Adriatic Euroregio").

A macroregion backed by the territorial cooperation policy and the integrated maritime policy - a macroregion that is consistent with an overall Euromediterranean view

The CPMR considers that the future macroregion must be supported by two priority policies:

- The European territorial cooperation policy: in this respect, it is asking for the Adriatic-Ionian area to become one of the perimeters in the Community's transnational cooperation programme for 2014-2020.
- The Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP): the CPMR is delighted at the efforts made by the European Commission in this maritime basin and is calling for their continuation - pre-2014 with financial support from the current Action Plan for the IMP and post-2014 with the support of the future European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

However, the approach should not be limited to these two "pillars"; policies on topics such as the management of fish stocks, transport networks and energy should also be included in the macroregional consideration.

Its geography makes the Adriatic-Ionian area an integral part of a large Euromediterranean maritime and coastal system. Consistency should be ensured between the strategies and programmes conducted on these two levels.

The CPMR proposes a concerted action plan and a timetable for the Adriatic-Ionian macroregion.

With the support of the Member Regions from this area that are members of its Inter-Mediterranean and Balkans Black Sea Commissions, the CPMR proposes to prepare an overall strategy and a Business Plan for the future macroregion. To do so, it will work closely with the relevant institutions and in partnership with the Directorates General Regio and Mare at the European Commission.

This initiative will be monitored by a working group involving the Regions concerned, these belonging mainly to the Balkan & Black Sea and Inter-Mediterranean Commissions, and led in the initial stage by the CPMR General Secretariat.

It is setting the following timetable, which is subject to change to bring it into line with the Community timetable on this matter:

- Early 2013: seminar to launch the preparation of the strategy and Business Plan;
- June 2013: Intermediate report submitted to the CPMR Political Bureau;
- Second semester 2013: finalisation of the documents required to ensure that the macroregion is included in Community programming for 2014-2020.

In conclusion, all the macroregional strategies in the Mediterranean area need to be compatible politically and technically, with an integrated Mediterranean policy and the perspective of a Mediterranean macroregion.

Adopted unanimously

- II.3 -

RESOLUTION ON "A PLATFORM ON TOURISM"

Presented by the CPMR North Sea Commission

The North Sea Commission (NSC) of the CPMR is very concerned about the future of the tourism industry in Europe. Indeed tourism plays a strategic role for maritime Regions by ensuring a high level of employment, economic growth and social inclusion. For these reason the NSC believes that the tourism sector needs to be supported by a strong industrial policy which should maximise efforts delivered at European, National and Regional level. However the NSC also stresses that to better shape such a policy, both the European and Regional level need to draw on and learn from initiatives aimed at measuring the reality of the tourism industry as well as its performances registered at territorial level.

In such a context, the NSC supports the proposal made by the CPMR Intercommission Working Group on sustainable tourism, NECSTouR and INRouTe to launch a platform on Tourism. This platform should mainly aim to gather data, produce meta-data and deliver best practices on maritime and coastal tourism. This should therefore provide the technical and political conditions to feed into the dialogue between maritime Regions, the European Commission and the European Parliament.

As a consequence, the NSC asks for the European Commission and the EU Parliament to support the activities that will be developed in the framework of the CPMR Platform on Tourism by ensuring both a technical and financial assistance.

Adopted unanimously

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- II.4 -

RESOLUTION "TOWARDS A EUROPEAN POLICY FOR MARITIME AND COASTAL TOURISM"

Presented by the CPMR Inter-Mediterranean Commission and supported by the CPMR Balkan and Black Sea Regional Commission

In 2011, the CPMR Inter-Mediterranean Commission (IMC) set up a working group on "Culture and Sustainable Tourism" to promote culture and heritage as assets for the development of tourism.

The work led by this group is part of and complements the CPMR's initiative to highlight the importance in future EU policies and their financial instruments of the role played by the tourist industry, as a strategic catalyst for the economic growth of territories, a source of non-outsourcable jobs and an indisputable pillar of social inclusion.

In this context and in light of the Lisbon Treaty - which recognises the importance of tourism within the new provisions establishing EU-specific competences in this area designed to complement the actions of Member States and Regions - the CPMR Inter-Mediterranean Commission:

- welcomes the European Commission's initiative (DG MARE) to introduce a strategy for maritime and coastal tourism, since in order to deal with the crisis that is seriously hitting the Mediterranean Member States and their regions, the IMC believes that it necessary to continue establishing a favourable regulatory and economic environment for "blue growth", in which maritime and coastal tourism is one of the key factors;
- supports the proposal for a Regulation of the European Commission (DG ENTERPRISE) establishing a programme for the competitiveness of enterprises and SMEs (COSME) for the 2014 - 2020 period

The Mediterranean Regions emphasise the importance that this proposal affords to small and medium enterprises within the tourist industry and ask the Council and the European Parliament to approve the COSME programme, maintaining the special attention given to the tourism industry.

Adopted unanimously