THE IMPACT OF THE CPMR

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Founded in 1973, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, more widely known in Brussels as the CPMR, brings together more than 150 regional authorities from 24 countries across Europe and beyond.

More than the voice of peripheral and maritime regions, the CPMR is the most influential organisation of Regions in Brussels. Its General Secretariat is well connected to decision-making and has direct access to European officials, which rely on CPMR’s highly competent team as a source of expertise and information. The CPMR General Secretariat produces highly valued papers and analysis on current European policy issues and priority areas for its member regions. European institutions, think tanks and other stakeholders, praise, use and share CPMR’s papers as sources and basis for policy discussions, and the CPMR is regularly invited to participate in major policy debates via its Members.

The CPMR is an organisation like no other. It has a track record in influencing European policy developments at the highest possible level. Ten years ago, the CPMR carried extensive work within the Convention on the Future of Europe (2001-2003), submitting ambitious proposals founded on a renewed territorial governance in Europe, with regions at the heart of the European Project. The efforts resulted in the inclusion of the Territorial Cohesion principle in the Lisbon Treaty. Today, the CPMR represents 200 million citizens and keeps striving for an accessible, sustainable, and balanced European territory.

The prospective approach and quick reactivity of the General Secretariat allows the CPMR to be positioned as the first and major stakeholder representing Regions to produce analyses on topics that are of key importance for the territorial dimension of the EU. The CPMR Member Regions, organised in geographical commissions, actively contribute to the work of the CPMR and its core policy positions, bringing knowledge, competencies and grassroots experience. The geographical structure of the CPMR is a precursor to macro-regional and sea basin strategies adopted later by the European Union. By working within the CPMR and its geographical commissions, Regions are heard with a stronger voice, and are firmly represented in the European arena.

The CPMR currently focuses its work around five policy areas of major interest to its membership: Cohesion Policy, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Transport and Accessibility, Climate and Energy, and Migration. The CPMR represents its Member regions in these policy areas from a territorial perspective. The nature of the work and actions carried in each policy area is different, and so are its impacts. This publication showcases the most important successes and achievements of the CPMR, its impact on European legislation as well as the more intangible impacts that all together place the CPMR as a recognised and reputable stakeholder for European policies with a regional relevance. As we start preparing the ground for the next programming period (2028-2032), the content of this publication illustrates how the work carried by the CPMR from 2014 to 2020 has influenced the current period (2021-2027).
Thanks to the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions:

1. Major cuts to the cohesion policy budget were avoided under the 2021-2027 EU Budget.

2. Peripheries are better covered by the nine Core Network Corridors under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) 2021-2027.

3. Cohesion policy covers all regions in the European Union.

4. A greater flexibility in the use of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund emergency measures for the aquaculture and fisheries sector was achieved.

5. The 2021 EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy mentions specifically peripheral and maritime regions and acknowledges its needs and specificities.

6. The partnership and multilevel governance principles have been safeguarded in the cohesion policy package 2021-2027, reinforcing the role of regions regarding cohesion policy management and delivery.

7. Regional authorities can apply for direct access to funding under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the European Commission.

8. A share of the EU recovery plan will be delivered via Cohesion policy.

9. The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) 2021-2027 includes an additional objective and award criteria on territorial accessibility and connectivity, and a higher share of the transport envelope is allocated to the Comprehensive Network.

10. Maritime cross-border cooperation programmes are a reality in the 2021 – 2027 period.
Influencing the course of EU policies of relevance to CPMR Member Regions is a long-term process which can be divided in two phases.

The first phase starts at the beginning of a programming period: the CPMR General Secretariat gathers information from its Members which forms the basis of policy positions adopted ahead of the publication of European Commission proposals on key EU policy areas.

The second phase kick starts once the proposals are out: the work of the CPMR then revolves around analysing the proposals and drafting policy responses to be adopted by CPMR Members. The CPMR then focuses on the organisation of political actions and campaigns to influence the negotiations of the proposals by the European Parliament and the Council until an agreement is reached.

2015 | EVALUATION
The CPMR launches several studies and conducts questionnaires with its Member regions to evaluate key aspects of EU policies of regional relevance

2016 | REFLECTION
The CPMR organises several initiatives to prepare for the post-2020 period, from reflection seminars to the elaboration of principles for the future of EU policies

2017 | ANTICIPATION
The CPMR adopts detailed proposals ahead of the European Commission proposal on the future of the EU Budget and core EU policies

2018 | REACTION
The CPMR provides a detailed analysis to lay the ground for a political reaction on EU legislation of regional relevance

2019 | DIFFUSION
Much of 2019 is spent influencing the European Parliament and Council as negotiations on key EU policies were taking place

2020 | CONSOLIDATION
The CPMR devotes a significant amount of energy to consolidate its proposals until the final hours of the negotiations over the post-2020 period, whilst taking action on new proposals to address the COVID-19 pandemic
The CPMR has a strong track record when it comes to changing the course of EU policies, from promoting a stronger role for local and regional authorities to reinforcing their territorial dimension. Although it is difficult to evaluate the impact of informal networking and sharing of ideas with EU decision-makers, its added value should not be underestimated.

Informal engagement often lays the ground for direct actions with EU institutions, such as the preparation of amendments on European Parliament reports or high-level meetings between CPMR regional Presidents and EU figureheads.

This section gathers key case studies showcasing the legislative impact of the CPMR in European policies of interest to its membership.

## THE CONNECTING EUROPE FACILITY (CEF) 2021-2027

### TIMEFRAME OF CPMR ACTION

- Lobbying starts in 2014, when the first calls for CEF 2014-2020 are published

- In preparation of the publication by the European Commission of a proposal for the Connecting Europe facility 2021-2027, the CPMR meets the relevant Units of DG MOVE, write letters to the EU Commissioner in charge of Transport and the Director General of DG MOVE

- In March 2017, the Political Bureau of the CPMR adopts a Policy Position stating its key expectations and advocating for the incorporation of principles defended by the CPMR into the future Regulation

- As a result of this advocacy work the June 2018 European Commission proposal already takes on board several amendments proposing new sections to the Core Network Corridors

- The first European Parliament draft report of CEF 2021-2027 is published in July 2018

- The CPMR prepares 16 amendments. 22 MEPs table a total of 69 amendments inspired by CPMR proposals, resulting on 12 key modifications of the texts and 13 additions to the Core Network Corridor Maps

- The European Parliament adopts the CEF regulation in April 2019 and the Council adopts the Connecting Europe Facility 2.0 in June 2021

### KEY EXAMPLE

- Despite the advocacy efforts, no mention to territorial accessibility was included in the European Commission proposal

- The CPMR amendments aimed at adding Accessibility as an objective and Accessibility as an award criterion of CEF

- Lobbying efforts resulted in two amendments included in the final version of the Programme:

  ✪ “The Programme should contribute to increase territorial, social and economic cohesion” is one of the objectives (Objective 1)

  ✪ “Network integration and territorial accessibility, including for outermost regions and islands” is one of the award criteria (Award criteria C)
MARITIME CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

TIMEFRAME OF CPMR ACTION

- The European Commission publishes a proposal on 2021-2027 European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) in May 2018

- The legislative proposal shifts maritime cooperation from the cross-border to the transnational component. This would have resulted in a sharp decrease of funds and a diluted territorial focus for maritime programmes, with some being discontinued altogether

- The CPMR carries out a members survey aimed at collecting feedback of CPMR members on their experience regarding INTERREG 2014-2020 ahead of the European Commission proposal (Spring 2018)

- In April 2018, President of the CPMR sends a letter to the European Commission stressing the achievements and added value of cross-border cooperation programmes

- The CPMR publishes a technical note in June 2018 with an initial reaction to the European Commission’s proposal

- The CPMR successfully tables amendments to the EP report which led to restoring maritime cooperation under the cross-border strand in the final text agreed by co-legislators

- The European Parliament and the European Council publish a report on the proposal for a regulation on specific provision for the European territorial cooperation goals (Interreg) in December 2018

KEY EXAMPLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the European Commission</th>
<th>CPMR Amendment</th>
<th>European Parliament Amendment (Amendment 5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The cross-border cooperation component should aim to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions, and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas as evidenced in the Communication of the Commission ‘Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions’23 (‘Border Regions Communication’). Consequently, the cross-border component should be limited to cooperation on land borders and cross-border cooperation on maritime borders should be integrated into the transnational component.</td>
<td>The cross-border cooperation component should aim to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions, and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas. Consequently, the cross-border component should include cooperation on both land and maritime borders. It should integrate cross-border cooperation on maritime borders as during the programming period 2014-2020, without prejudice to the new component for outermost regions cooperation.</td>
<td>The cross-border cooperation component should aim to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions, and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas as evidenced in the Communication of the Commission ‘Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions’23 (‘Border Regions Communication’). Therefore, the cross-border component should include cooperation on both land or maritime borders, without prejudice to the new component for outermost regions cooperation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TIMEFRAME OF CPMR ACTION

• In 2015, the CPMR campaigns intensively to raise awareness of the impact of the migration crisis on the frontline regions, requesting flexibility and better use of EU funds to assist public authorities on the ground and also reflecting on medium to long-term integration needs

• On 27 of February 2015 the CPMR sets a dedicated Task Force on Migration Management which starts to gather best practices and views on the needs and role of the regions

• During the month of May 2015, the CPMR launches the solidarity campaign “We are all Mediterranean” collecting 1500 signatures, mainly from EU elected representatives and civil servants and a CPMR delegation meets President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz in Strasbourg, who fully supported the campaign

• On 14 October 2015 an exchange of views is hosted at the European Parliament focusing on the role the EU regions need to play in the refugee crisis and flexibility on the use of European Structural Investment Funds for migration priorities

• In April 2016, Eleni Marianou, CPMR Secretary General and Rena Dourou, Regional Governor of Attica, meet with Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission

• Ahead of the publication of the proposal by the European Commission on 12 June 2018, the CPMR launches multiple member surveys, issues two papers addressing the internal and external dimensions of migration, including key messages for the EU institutions, and organises a high-level event in Brussels

• On 9 December 2020, the Parliament and the Council Presidency reached a political agreement on the AMF over the next seven years

• On February 2020, the CPMR launches the AMIF funded REGIN project

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The CPMR achieved to include a series of key contributions in the renewed Asylum Migration and Integration Fund, part of the MFF 2021-2027:

✦ The role for representative associations is specified in Article 4 (new) “Partnership”

✦ The new AMIF 2021-27 targets at least 5% of the Thematic Facility under direct management at local and regional authorities for the implementation of integration measures

✦ Member States will be encouraged to support the local and regional authorities in integration with a 90% co-financing rate from the Fund.

✦ A 20% minimum financing percentage for solidarity actions will be introduced and will include incentives to Member States for resettlement and relocation.

CPMR delegation meets President of the European Parliament Martin Schultz in May 2015
TIMEFRAME OF CPMR ACTION

• Lobbying starts early to request an increase of the EMFF budget and a series of other proposals. The CPMR organises several meetings with key actors involved in the EMFF starting in 2016

• In February 2017, a delegation of CPMR regions meets with the Director General of DG MARE, João Aguiar Machado

• In October 2017, Chair of the CPMR Fisheries Working Group, Pierre Karleskind takes part in the ‘Conference on the future of EMFF’ organised by the Estonian Presidency in Tallinn

• In January 2018, a delegation of CPMR regions meet with Clara Aguilera MEP, shadow-rapporteur on the EMFF

• In March 2018, the CPMR Political Bureau approves a Policy Position on the EMFF post-2020, calling the European Commission to consider the points proposed in its upcoming proposal

• The CPMR intensifies its actions during this period through its Fisheries and Aquaculture working group: through the organisation and participation to events and publication of technical papers

• In June 2018, the European Commission publishes its proposal for a regulation on the EMFF 2021-2027

• In April 2019, the CPMR proposals are taken up in the position adopted by the European Parliament

• In July 2019, most of the CPMR proposals are taken on board by the European Council

KEY EXAMPLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amendments proposed by the CPMR</th>
<th>Proposal of the European Parliament</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The EMFF budget should be maintained at the same level as the 2014-2020 programming period (EUR 6 400 000 000 in constant prices)</td>
<td>The financial envelope for the implementation of the EMFF for the period 2021-2027 shall be increased to EUR 6 867 000 000 in 2018 constant prices (against 6 100 000 000 proposed by the European Commission)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish the possibility, for Member States that wish to do so, of creating regional Operational Programmes</td>
<td>Each Member State shall prepare a single national programme or regional operational programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waive the obligation to use financial instruments to support aquaculture and fishery and aquaculture product processing</td>
<td>Aquaculture may be supported through grants, and, preferably, through the financial instruments and through InvestEU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support to processing of fishery and aquaculture products may be granted through grants and through the financial instruments and through InvestEU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TIMEFRAME OF CPMR ACTION

• In 2015, the CPMR launches a series of questionnaires with input from CPMR Member Regions. The questionnaires result in three studies focusing on partnership and multilevel governance, financial instruments and Cohesion Policy, and the European social Fund.

• In 2016, two ‘think tank’ seminars are held with high level officials and experts on financial instruments and the Juncker Plan, and on the ‘raison d’être’ of Cohesion policy vis à vis emerging priorities.

• In 2017, six Member-led working groups are created to develop proposals on specific aspects of the future of Cohesion Policy, leading to the adoption of a comprehensive policy position adopted in Stavanger in June 2017.

• Throughout 2017, Presidents from CPMR Member Regions are invited to the European Parliament REGI Committee and to meetings with Regional Policy Commissioner Corina Creţu and Director General Marc Lemaître.

• Five Presidents of Regions meet with Jean-Claude Juncker in December 2017 to protest against negative budgetary scenarios concerning the future of Cohesion Policy based on unique/provocative analysis from the CPMR General Secretariat.

• In 2018, the CPMR General Secretariat produces insightful analysis of the Cohesion Policy package, including on regional policy eligibility and budgetary forecasts.

• The CPMR also organises several meetings in 2018 with Members of the European Parliament, focusing in particular on European Territorial Cooperation and on the island dimension of Cohesion Policy.

• In 2019, much of the focus turns to monitoring negotiations and influencing European Parliament reports, including on the financial aspects of Cohesion Policy. The CPMR is the sole organization to be invited to take part in the informal meeting of Ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy in April 2019.

• An open letter signed by Presidents of Regions from countries known as ‘frugal’ Member States is sent in February 2020 in anticipation of the MFF negotiations in the Council. The letter defends a strong Cohesion Policy budget for all regions.

• The CPMR influences the extraordinary COVID-related measures in 2020 (including the Recovery Plan) through amendments submitted to relevant MEPs.

• In July 2020, days before the crucial European summit on the EU budget for 2021-2027, a delegation of four Presidents from CPMR Member Regions meets with EU Budget Commissioner Johannes Hahn to urge him to defend a strong Cohesion Policy budget and the new Brexit Adjustment Reserve.
**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

All the advocacy efforts contributed to a positive outcome of the triilogue on several regulatory elements of the European Cohesion policy legislative package, for instance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the European Commission</th>
<th>CPMR position</th>
<th>Compromise position between EU Parliament and EU council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PARTNERSHIP AND MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional authorities not specifically identified as partnership partners</td>
<td>Regional authorities as relevant actors</td>
<td>Regional authorities as actors to include in a fully-fledged effective partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No explicit reference to the partnership principle on the definition of the partnership agreement</td>
<td>Partnership Agreement to be drawn up by Member States and partners referred to in Art. 6 based on the MS institutional and legal framework</td>
<td>Partnership Agreement to be prepared in accordance with the code of conduct on partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No criteria to establish territorial dimension of the ESIF funds and the implementation of TFUE article 174 in the Partnership Agreement</td>
<td>Introduction in the Partnership Agreement the approach taken to: • fulfil TFUE Art. 174 objectives • establish an integrated approach to territorial development • implement the partnership principle</td>
<td>The Partnership Agreement should state when appropriate an integrated approach to address the demographic challenges and/or specific needs of regions and areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONSISTENCY AND THEMATIC CONCENTRATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No reference on the ESF+ role to support territorial cohesion</td>
<td>• Reinforcement ESF+’ key role in promoting social, economic and territorial cohesion in accordance with Article 174 TFUE • Regional specificities and challenges to be considered on the concentration of ESF+ economic resources</td>
<td>• Reinforcement of ESF+’ role in promoting social, economic and territorial cohesion in accordance with Article 174 TFUE • Regional specificities and challenges to be considered on the concentration of ESF+ economic resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE FOR INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTERREGIONAL INNOVATION INVESTMENTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of clarity</td>
<td>Third countries to be eligible for Component 5</td>
<td>Third countries can participate in accordance with the arrangements laid down in Article 12 of the Horizon Europe programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REGIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN REACT-EU</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No reference to the partnership principle</td>
<td>Ensuring that the involvement of regions for the delivery and implementation of the REACT-EU funding is in line with the partnership and multilevel governance principles of Cohesion Policy</td>
<td>Local and regional authorities shall be involved by Member States in the programming of funding in accordance with the partnership principle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As one of the key players in EU circles, the CPMR works together with like-minded associations and networks, both on punctual occasions and on a long-term basis. This collaboration reinforces the voice of CPMR regions in specific areas. Below are some examples of who the CPMR has joined forces within the past years to work in different areas, including European institutions, associations and industry networks.

COHESION ALLIANCE

The Cohesion Alliance is a platform of European Associations of cities and regions, and the European Committee of the Regions, that defends a stronger Cohesion policy. Within the Cohesion Alliance, the CPMR participates in high level meetings and takes part in the drafting of political statements. On 9 January 2020, the President of the CPMR Vasco Cordeiro, participated in an event with Commissioner Elisa Ferreira organised by the CoR together with high-level representatives of the #CohesionAlliance partnership. The exchange of views with the Commissioner focused on key issues concerning cohesion policy with special attention to the Just Transition Mechanism.

AVIATION ROUNDTABLE

The CPMR along with other 23 associations from the aviation ecosystem joined an Aviation Roundtable, that produced the ‘Aviation Round Table Report on the Recovery of European Aviation’ calling for a European Aviation Relief Programme and EU Pact for Sustainable Aviation. The Report was handed, in a meeting on 16 November 2020, to Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager and Commissioner Adina Vălean who welcomed it.

INTERREGIONAL INNOVATION INVESTMENT

The CPMR played an active role within a coalition to support the interregional innovation investment initiative (the proposed component 5 of the INTERREG regulation), together with European networks and smart specialisation partnerships. The main message from the CPMR was the need to strengthen the interregional nature of the instrument. As a result of the joint action, it is worth mentioning that the final regulation mentions regional authorities as actors to be considered in the composition of the group of experts that will support the European Commission. The CPMR is a member of this expert group.
In 2018, the CPMR joined the Coalition for Higher Ambition, a group of businesses, civil society, and local and regional associations, established during the Paris Summit of 2015, and which played a crucial role in shaping the Paris agreement, to push for more ambitious climate targets and a territorial approach to achieving them. So far, the CPMR has signed five statements within the Coalition for Higher Ambition, ahead of the most relevant meetings of EU leaders, College of Commissioners and the European Parliament.

**THE MIGRATION CRISIS**

On 25 November 2015 the CPMR together with CEMR and EUROCITIES addressed a letter to President Juncker, calling for a European solution and an inclusive approach to the migration crisis, with more cooperation with cities and regions on the ground. President Juncker replied by recognising the vital role of regional and local authorities in meeting the challenges and the promise of providing all possible support from the European Commission.

**COALITION FOR HIGHER AMBITION**

**REGIONS FOR INTEGRATION**

On 10 April 2019, the CoR, with the support of the CPMR and three other European associations of local and regional authorities, officially launched its initiative Cities and Regions for Integration. This ultimately has led to increased recognition of the regional authorities’ role in integration and inclusion, and closer collaboration and regular dialogue has been established with DG HOME and Commissioner Ylva Johansson. The CPMR will be actively involved in the newly launched partnership (March 2021) on integration to support cities and regions in the EU and will play a key role especially in the creation of a Forum of Forefront Regions.
Since its creation, the CPMR has positioned itself as the main stakeholder when it comes to addressing Regional Policy. It is credited for having created Objective 2, now known as the ‘more developed regions’ category of Cohesion Policy. As such, the CPMR is regularly invited to take part and present its policy research at high level meetings in Brussels and throughout Europe.

The CPMR is now recognised as a key stakeholder dealing with the territorial aspect of different EU policies, and invited to represent the perspective of regions and regional authorities in meetings and events relating to Maritime Affairs, Transport, Climate or Migration.

Regional representatives take part, through the political representation of the CPMR in high-level meetings and international platforms. The CPMR regularly meets European Commissioners and Members of the European Parliament, and all CPMR member regions are invited to take part ad hoc in such discussions.

This chapter gathers a small selection of high-level events that the CPMR has organised and/or attended in the past 5 years.
10 JUNE 2015

Vice President of the CPMR in charge of Cohesion Policy, Enrico Rossi, was invited to represent regional authorities in the Informal Meeting of Ministers responsible for Cohesion policy, territorial cohesion and urban matters organised under the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Commissioner for Regional Policy, Corina Crețu also participated in the Council where the debates focused on the urban agenda of the EU. The CPMR was the only association invited to take part in the ministerial meeting.

9 JUNE 2017

Vice President of the CPMR in charge of Cohesion Policy, Enrico Rossi, President of Tuscany Region, and Secretary General Eleni Marianou, were invited to take part in the Informal Meeting of Ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy, organised under the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and represent the voice of regions in front of Members States. The Commissioner for Regional Policy Corina Crețu and the chair of the Regional Development Committee of the European Parliament, Iskra Mihaylova were also present. The CPMR was the only association invited to the table. This meeting with national-level representatives gave the CPMR the opportunity to stress the importance of Cohesion policy post-2020 for achieving long-term investments in Europe.

7 DECEMBER 2017

A delegation of CPMR presidents met with the then President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker. The meeting took place in the run-up to the presentation of the proposal on the 2021-2027 EU Budget. In both formal and informal documents, the Commission had hinted at the intention of proposing major cuts to cohesion policy to the extent of threatening its existence. At the time Juncker had not released any public statement on the issue. At the end of the meeting Juncker expressed full support for cohesion policy. Ultimately, the proposal on the MFF put forward smaller cuts to cohesion policy than expected without affecting its core structure.

“Europe is taking place in the regions. I am a fan of Cohesion Policy, which must be preserved - always with the input of regions”

Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, at meeting with CPMR Presidents of Regions, 7 December 2017
5 MAY 2019

The then Vice-President for Climate and Energy, Cees Loggen, addressed world leaders at the G7 in Metz. Loggen was invited by Commissioner Karmenu Vella in charge of environment, maritime affairs and fisheries, to join the European Union delegation for this meeting. He also participated in a meeting of civil society actors chaired by Brune Poirson, French Secretary of State for ecological transition. During his interventions, Cees Loggen recalled the CPMR’s policy position supporting the European Union’s approach to circular economy and plastic pollution of the oceans and highlighted concrete examples of actions supported by CPMR regions.

11 DECEMBER 2019

A CPMR delegation, led by Cees Loggen, then CPMR Vice-President for Climate and Energy conveyed its political messages to global actors at the COP25 in Madrid. The CPMR organised a side event on 11 December 2019 in cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). The side event focused on the need to ensure a transition to carbon neutrality that is fair for all and that is delivered in full partnership with all stakeholders. Cees Loggen underlined how maritime and peripheral regions are at the forefront of climate change and called for special attention for territories that are vulnerable to a rise in sea levels.

21 JANUARY 2020

The CPMR has been invited four times to address the Committee on Regional development of the European Parliament (REGI Committee). The last time was on 21 January 2020, when the CPMR was invited to present its positions and exchange with MEPs. Represented by Secretary-General Eleni Marianou, and Enrico Rossi, President of Tuscany and Vice-President of the CPMR for cohesion policy, they had the opportunity to highlight CPMR’s messages on the most important issues linked to cohesion policy to the REGI Committee members of the 2019-2024 European Parliament mandate.

13 JULY 2020

A delegation of presidents of regions from the CPMR met with the European Commissioner for Budget and Administration Johannes Hahn to discuss the EU Recovery Instrument and the 2021-2027 MFF. The meeting took place ahead of the historical EU summit in which Member States reached an agreement on those two files. During the exchange with the commissioner the CPMR presidents called on the Commission to facilitate a quick wrap up of negotiations and ensure a strong involvement of local and regional authorities in the future governance of the recovery instrument. They also discussed the then-new Brexit Adjustment Reserve.
3 DECEMBER 2019

The CPMR was represented through several member Regions, including Skåne, Catalonia, Murcia and the Basque Country, as well as its General Secretariat at the EU conference “Go Local: Supporting regions, cities and rural areas in migrants’ integration”, co-organised by the European Committee of the Regions and the European Commission. The event was attended by the Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, with whom Task Force Chair, Annika Annerby Jansson took part in the morning panel session.

“Let me reassure you of the importance we give to the regional dimension and migratory situation on the ground. The impacts of migration are felt first and foremost at local level, and cities and regions will be key partners for the Commission in its work to take forward the implementation and negotiation of all elements of the Pact”

Ylva Johansson, European Commissioner for Home Affairs, in response to CPMR’s policy position on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, 26 January 2021

“It is always good to have this exchange of views with the CPMR, which I remember well from my time as former Commissioner for Regional Policy, ahead of the European Council meeting later on this week”

Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, at meeting with CPMR Presidents of Regions, 13 July 2020

Annika Annerby Jansson, Chair of the CPMR Migration Task Force, between President of the Committee of the Regions Karl-Heinz Lambertz and Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson
The impact of the CPMR in the European bubble goes beyond influencing policy makers. As a recognised actor in its fields of expertise, the studies and technical papers of the CPMR – with a special interest for its budget projections and maps – are used by different stakeholders, including think tanks, associations and European institutions. Here are some examples of where the work of the CPMR has been quoted.

**EUROPEAN POLICIES RESEARCH CENTER | JANUARY 2018**

Reshaping the EU budget and Cohesion Policy: carrying on, doing less, doing more or radical redesign?

(...) Recent analysis by the CPMR has modelled the implications of some of the radical scenarios for cutting funding for Cohesion Policy, as well as the option noted above of ESF ceasing to be a Structural Fund under shared management. The paper outlines several scenarios in terms of budgetary cuts for CP. Based on DG Regio’s concept paper, the CPMR discusses in depth three potential scenarios (see Table 2).

Its findings suggested that net contributor countries to the EU budget would significantly lose out on a reform of a Cohesion Policy resulting in the suppression of the MDR or TR categories, with Germany, Sweden and France losing most. Countries with only MDR would also be most affected if ESF ceased to be a fund under shared management, with greatest adverse budgetary impact on Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany and France. The CPMR concluded that “maintaining an ambitious budget for Cohesion Policy for all regions is crucial to ensure that the EU continues to support its goals of cohesion, solidarity and investment in all EU regions. In the worst-case scenario, a ‘hair-cut’ budgetary reduction would be the least damaging option for Cohesion Policy.” (...)

**CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES | NOVEMBER 2018**

Border regions facing the migration phenomenon

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT STUDY | OCTOBER 2020**

Cohesion Policy Measures in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic
(...) The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), representing some 160 regions from 25 states from the European Union and beyond, highlighted the need to increase the share of the budget allocated for shared management, strengthen the role of regions in the management of operational programmes, remove the obligation to use financial instruments to support aquaculture and processing of fishery products outside small-scale fisheries, and reduce the list of ineligible measures, in a publication on the proposal. The CPMR was also alarmed by the drastic cut in the budget (in 2018 prices). It welcomed the simplification, strengthening of specific measures for outermost regions, support for CLLD and sustainable blue growth. (...)

REFERENCES


The CPMR regularly appears in the EU media, as well as in national and regional media. CPMR members are called to write opinion pieces on current affairs or in specialised magazines. The CPMR is often quoted in news outlets, and a Press Review is conducted internally every other day to gather this media mentions. Below is a collection of articles and editorials published in the past few years.

**Cohesion policy must be at the heart of plans for a reformed EU**

OP-ED | 7/12/2017
Vasco Cordeiro, President of the CPMR

**Life After Brexit: sustainability and the European Regional Development Fund**

News article | 21/02/2019

**Westminster fiddles with Brexit while inequality burns**

News article | 17/02/2019

**Brexit: pas possible d’avoir une “discussion qui s’éternise” selon Le Drian**

News article | 07/03/2019

**La Bretagne et l’Europe: qui nous défend à Bruxelles ?**

Article & interview | 02/04/2019

**EU Parliament President intervenes in Italian ‘Open Arms’ migrant standoff**

News article | 28/08/2019

**Economic recovery is sustainable when based on ensuring balanced territorial development**

OP-ED | 02/04/2019
Cees Loggen, President of the CPMR

**With Covid-19, cohesion policy shows that it remains forward-thinking policy, according to CPMR**

News article | 19/03/2020
WHAT IS NEXT?

The CPMR is already working on the future of EU policies with regional relevance ahead of the future EU budget proposals which should emerge in 2025.

Over the next couple of years, it will work with its Members to collect feedback on the implementation of EU core policy areas at regional level through dedicated questionnaires and seminars. This work will be the basis for the development of CPMR policy positions which will be released well ahead of the European Commission legislative proposals, in order to maximise influence.

In addition, the CPMR ‘Territories Matter’ initiative has recently been launched to look at future EU policy developments from a more holistic perspective. It will look at higher level, more transversal issues such as the regional dimension of the EU recovery plan, the governance of EU investment policies and the role of regions in delivering EU objectives such as carbon neutrality.

2021 | EVALUATION
The CPMR has already launched several initiatives to evaluate the implementation of EU core policy areas within its membership

2022 | REFLECTION
The CPMR will build on evidence and input from its Member Regions to start reflecting on the post-2027 period. The ‘Territories Matter’ initiative will spearhead the CPMR reflection on the future of EU investment policies

2023 | CONCEPTION
The CPMR will be in a position to adopt principles for future EU policies based on the studies, input and evidence provided by its Members

2024 | ANTICIPATION
The CPMR will adopt detailed proposals ahead of the European Commission proposal on the future of the EU Budget and core EU policies

2025 | REACTION
The CPMR will analyse and react to the proposals on the post-2027 EU budget, and will initiate its lobbying to influence the future of EU policies with a regional relevance