



## **46<sup>TH</sup> CPMR GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Adopted on 19 October 2018 in Madeira (Portugal)**

**The Peripheral Maritime Regions listed below met for the 46<sup>th</sup> CPMR Annual General Assembly in Funchal (Madeira, Portugal) on 18-19 October 2018:**

ABERDEEN CITY (UK), ABERDEENSHIRE (UK), ABRUZZO (IT), AÇORES (PT), ALENTEJO (PT), ANDALUCÍA (ES), AUST AGDER (NO), BALEARES (ES), BORNHOLM (DK), BRETAGNE (FR), CALABRIA (IT), CALARASI (RO), CANARIAS (ES), CANTABRIA (ES), CATALUNYA (ES), CORNWALL (UK), CORSE (FR), CYRPUS/CHYPRE, DYTIKI ELLADA (GR), EMILIA ROMAGNA (IT), ESTONIA/ESTONIE, FLEVOLAND (NL), GALICIA (ES), GÄVLEBORG (SE), GENERALITAT VALENCIANA (ES), GOTLAND (SE), GOZO (MT), HALLAND (SE), HELSINKI-UUSIMAA (FI), HORDALAND (NO), IONIA NISSIA (GR), KRITI (GR), KYMENLAAKSO (FI), L'ORIENTAL (MA), LAZIO (IT), MADEIRA (PT), MARCHE (IT), MIDTJYLLAND (DK), MØRE OG ROMSDAL (NO), MURCIA (ES), NAVARRA (ES), NOORD NEDERLAND (NL), NOORD-HOLLAND (NL), NORDJYLLAND (DK), NORRBOTTEN (SE), NORTE (PT), NORTHERN & WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY (IE), NOTIO AIGAIO (GR), NOUVELLE AQUITAINE (FR), OCCITANIE (FR), ÖREBRO (SE), ORKNEY (UK), ØSTFOLD (NO), OSTROBOTHNIA (FI), OULU (FI), PÄIJÄT-HÄME (FI), PAÍS VASCO/EUSKADI (ES), PAYS DE LA LOIRE (FR)<sup>1</sup>, PELOPONNISOS (GR), PODLASKIE (PL), POLYNÉSIE FRANÇAISE (FR), RABAT-SALE-KENITRA (MA), REGION SUD-PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR, FR), ROGALAND (NO), SATAKUNTA (FI), SHKÖDER (AL), SICILIA (IT), SKÅNE (SE), SOUTH-WEST FINLAND (FI), STOCKHOLM (SE), TELEMAR (NO), TIRANA (AL), TOSCANA (IT), TRØNDELAG (NO), TULCEA (RO), VÄSTERBOTTEN (SE), VÄSTRA GÖTALAND (SE), VEST-AGDER (NO), VESTFOLD (NO), WALES (UK), WEST-FLANDERS (BE), ZUID-HOLLAND (NL)

**The Regions attending the General Assembly warmly thank Mr Miguel Albuquerque, President of the Autonomous Government of Madeira, for kindly hosting the event.**

**The CPMR President, Vasco Cordeiro, President of the Autonomous Government of the Azores, extends his thanks to the regional authorities and honoured guests from the EU institutions and Member States who took part in the proceedings of the Conference, and in particular to Pedro Marques, Portuguese Minister of Planning and Infrastructure, Robert Zischg, Ambassador of Austria in Lisbon, and MEPs Mr José Manuel Fernandes, Ms Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar and Ms Isabelle Thomas.**

<sup>1</sup> Note: Pays de la Loire Region exercised its right to opt out of the vote on points 79, 81, 82, 83 of the present Final Declaration

**On behalf of its members, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, gathering for its 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly in Madeira (Portugal), adopted the following Final Declaration**

This declaration is complemented by the final declaration from the General Assemblies of the CPMR's Geographical Commissions:

Final Declaration 2018 from Geographical Commissions of the CPMR:

- [Final Declaration 2018 of the Atlantic Arc Commission](#)
- [Final Declaration 2018 of the Baltic Sea Commission](#)
- [Final Declaration 2018 of the Intermediterranean Commission](#)
- [Final Declaration 2018 of the Islands Commission](#)
- [Final Declaration 2018 of the North Sea Commission](#)

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In 2018, the European Commission's post-2020 budget proposals for European funds were published. The outcome of the on-going negotiations and the European elections in May 2019 will determine the European Union's (EU) ability to respond effectively to the challenges it faces.

### **Concerning the future of the European project, the CPMR:**

1. **Reiterates** its unconditional support for the EU project, the ideals and values it represents, and its commitment to safeguard EU unity, respecting the diversity of its peoples.
2. **Upholds** a political vision for the regions, together with territorial cohesion and the response to sustainable development, maritime, climate and solidarity issues, to be at the heart of Europe and of the strengthening of its relations with third countries and regions, particularly with those with whom it shares land or sea borders.
3. **Underlines**, in the spirit of its 2017 Cardiff Declaration on Brexit, and the June 2018 Declaration of Friendship and Solidarity, the willingness for strong friendship between the Regions of Europe and the United Kingdom, the 27 Member States of the EU and beyond. In the same spirit, the CPMR **calls** for the future Brexit agreement to enable, as far as possible, the participation of UK regions in EU cooperation programmes.

### **Concerning the EU budget for the 2021-2027 period, the CPMR:**

4. **Deplores** the lack of long-term vision and ambition for Europe in the European Commission's proposals on the post-2020 EU budget. It involves the reallocation of funds towards "new" priorities, to the detriment of "traditional" policies such as Cohesion Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy.
5. **Regrets** that for the first time in a budget proposal for the multi-annual financial framework, the amount of funds under direct management is greater than the amount of funds under shared management with the Member States and the regions. This contradicts the principles of partnership and subsidiarity and undermines the effectiveness of European action.

6. **Regrets** the lack of recognition of the own objectives of Cohesion Policy and its role as an investment policy. The European Commission's proposals see this policy as an instrumental tool for the implementation of the European Semester notably.
7. **Deplores** the decrease of around 10% in the Cohesion Policy budget proposed by the European Commission. This reduction comes at a time when regional disparities are increasing and GDP is declining in many Regions in Europe, as noted by the European Commission in its reflection paper on the social dimension of Europe.
8. **Regrets** the proposed reduction in co-financing rates. In this respect, **calls** for the introduction of the co-financing rates for the 2014-2020 programming period, i.e. 85% for the outermost regions, for islands and for the northern sparsely populated areas. The CPMR also **asks** for the establishment of 85% co-financing rates for all Interreg programmes.
9. **Calls** for the budget for European territorial cooperation to be increased to 11.5 billion Euros, or 3.5% of the total Cohesion Policy budget, compared to the 2014-2020 period. Interreg programmes have considerable European added value, implement high quality projects that meet the challenges of the regions in terms of blue economy, innovation, environment and provide significant visibility. In addition, these programmes will have to take on new objectives on cooperation for the outermost regions, and interregional investments for innovation. The CPMR welcomes these objectives.
10. **Considers** that the proposed budget for the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) is acceptable, provided that: (i) it gives sufficient support to meet the needs of the new sections of the corridors; (ii) a sufficient share of the budget is allocated to projects supporting cohesion and accessibility; (iii) the conditions for supporting maritime transport are improved; (iv) the portion of this budget dedicated to military mobility directly contributes to the completion of the corridors, some of which have been delayed, and is mobilised without discrimination against outermost, peripheral and maritime regions.
11. **Welcomes** the ambitious goal for 25% of EU budget expenditure to contribute to climate change objectives. However, the CPMR is concerned this will not be enough to stimulate the public and private investments needed to reach the carbon neutrality targets and to limit global warming to 1.5°C by 2050 and below 2°C by 2100 compared to the pre-industrial era. The CPMR therefore supports the call for a European Finance-Climate Pact and calls for greater investments at all levels.
12. **Welcomes** the continuation of the EMFF as a specific and simplified fund with a budget for blue growth that will enable cross-cutting actions to be taken and stimulate actions through other European programmes.
13. **Calls** for the EMFF budget and the current percentage of the EMFF under shared management to be returned to their existing levels in the current programming period. Fisheries and aquaculture are areas in which the EU has exclusive competences and face major challenges for the post-2020 period, as well as for the development of the blue economy, the support of ports towards environmental performance or the preservation of marine biodiversity, which must be better supported by the EMFF.
14. **Calls** for the possibility, in states that so wish, for regional operational programmes to be created under the EMFF, and for the obligation to at least adopt regional action plans within the framework of the national operational programmes.

15. ***Calls*** for the removal of the obligation to use financial instruments within the EMFF to support aquaculture and processing of products, as well as the reduction of ineligible measures.
16. ***Welcomes*** the funding prospects for the maritime economy under the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund.
17. ***Welcomes*** the explicit reference to Seas and Oceans within the Horizon Europe pillar on global challenges. Maritime issues must however also be reflected in other pillars and priorities of the programme. In addition, the adoption of a European strategy for marine and maritime research and innovation is necessary.
18. ***Welcomes*** the introduction of the specific features for the outermost regions in the "Sharing excellence" section of the future European research programme, in particular with a view to promoting the participation of the outermost regions in the European Research Area and overcoming their competitive gap in global value chains, and calls for these to be maintained.
19. ***Welcomes*** the Commission's proposals to increase the Asylum and Migration Fund (AMF) budget, especially to assist legal migration and integration, as well as to combat irregular migration and to guarantee a return and effective readmission into the third countries. The CPMR welcomes the improvement of the AMF to support the actions carried out by regions, and to seek better complementarity with Cohesion Policy and the ESF+. It ***supports*** the proposal that integration measures implemented by regional and local authorities should be supported by the thematic mechanism in the AMF and benefit from the highest co-financing rate.
20. ***Calls*** for the European Union and Member States to introduce specific funding instruments to provide support for European returnees and their families back from third countries affected by humanitarian crises. In this respect the affected regions should play a key role in the implementation of such instruments.
21. ***Welcomes*** the proposed budget for the EU's external action, the broad thematic area covered by the new unified Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), and calls for the strengthening of the role of local and regional authorities as potential beneficiaries of EU external assistance.

### Concerning EU Cohesion Policy, the CPMR:

22. ***Calls*** for the reinforcement of the partnership with the regions and multi-level governance within the Code of Conduct on Partnership. To achieve this, it is necessary to strengthen the role of the Commission in overseeing the partnership principle. Managing Authorities, and/or intermediate bodies, whether at national or at regional level, should have more flexibility to make changes in operational programmes and reallocate resources. Regional and local authorities should systematically be involved in the decision-making process of any change to operational programmes.
23. ***Welcomes*** the Commission's proposals concerning how the specific needs of outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions can be taken into account in Cohesion Policy, in accordance with articles 349 and 174 of the Treaty, and with the accession Treaties of Sweden and Finland. The CPMR particularly welcomes the additional special allocation to offset the additional costs of the outermost regions but considers that its amount should be increased. However, the CPMR notes a different treatment of regions in the categories of more developed regions and transition regions. Furthermore, the CPMR ***regrets*** the lack of attention to specific programmes and budgets for territories covered by Article 174 of the Treaty.

24. **Calls** for the thematic concentration within the framework of the European Structural and Investment funds to be carried out at the level of the categories of regions, and not at the national level.
25. The CRPM also **asks** for outermost regions, northern sparsely populated areas and islands to benefit from the same maximum level of flexibility with regard to the thematic concentration of European Structural and Investment funds.
26. **Is concerned** that the ESF is becoming a full-fledged fund with specific objectives, notably related to the implementation of structural reforms in the Member States. This could undermine its territorial dimension.
27. To preserve the territorial dimension of the ESF+, **calls** for the European Semester's texts to be based on a territorial analysis including a regional dimension, as well as the role of regional authorities in the implementation of country-specific recommendations.
28. **Considers** that the regions should be more involved in managing the ESF+. In several countries, the ESF + is already managed at regional level, in line with the regions' specific competences.
29. **Asks** for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development to be reintegrated within the regulation laying down common provisions, given the strong territorial dimension of rural development.
30. **Is deeply concerned** at proposals to integrate cross-border cooperation on maritime borders into the enlarged 'transnational cooperation and maritime cooperation' component. The CPMR therefore supports the European Parliament's draft report to continue maritime cooperation programmes within the cross-border component of territorial cooperation, both for internal and external borders of the European Union connected by maritime, rail, air or road routes.
31. **Stresses** the importance to continue the European wide interregional cooperation. Numerous Interreg Europe projects have shown how important it is to transfer good practices in innovations and sectors of regional strengths, in other words in smart specialisation, not only between neighbouring regions but across Europe. Interreg Europe has guaranteed an equal participation for regions in interregional cooperation.
32. **Calls** for all Interreg projects to be exempted from the notification obligation under the State aid scheme
33. **Supports** new component 5 regarding interregional innovation investments but, following the European Parliament's draft report, asks that funding for this new component should not be at the expense of other components of European Territorial Cooperation.
34. **Welcomes**, in the context of Brexit, the mention of the United Kingdom as an eligible country in the Interreg programmes. The CPMR however asks for third countries to be eligible for the 5<sup>th</sup> component of territorial cooperation, which offers very interesting perspectives for interregional cooperation.
35. **Considers** that synergies should be facilitated between the Interreg programmes and the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy.
36. **Asks** for cross-border cooperation under the EU Neighbourhood Instrument to keep its separation from the Interreg programmes in the post 2020 period, even if significant synergies are to be foreseen (in the absence of a clear legal basis allowing the ENI-CBC and Interreg programmes to be merged).

37. **Strongly disagrees** with the proposed calculation of grants based on population within 25 km from the border, as this disadvantages sparsely populated regions and regions with significant maritime borders with few people living directly on the border.
38. **Welcomes** the Commission's proposals on simplification of administrative procedures and urges the European institutions to continue with this ambition.
39. **Welcomes** the Commission's proposal which put emphasis on the strong role of smart specialisation as a concept and tool for innovation-based regional development.

### Concerning macro-regional and sea basin strategies, the CPMR:

40. **Supports** the development of these strategies in all European sea basins, as well as their ambition to become macroregional strategies, to help define an approach that corresponds to the characteristics of each area covered, and to encourage political dialogue and of partnerships between public and private players in EU countries and third countries.
41. **Calls** for the strengthening of the capacity of these strategies to promote ambitious projects in line with their political objectives, through all the relevant European programmes. At the same time, the current support given by many projects to the objectives of the macro-regional and maritime basin strategies must be made more visible.
42. **Welcomes** the European Commission's objective to strengthen the alignment of the priorities of territorial cooperation programmes and macro-regional and sea basin strategies, and hopes that the planned increase in funds under the EU's neighbourhood policy will make it possible to earmark an envelope to support pilot projects between European Regions and the third countries covered by these strategies.
43. **Calls** for successful transnational Interreg programmes that are not aligned with macroregional or sea basin strategies to be maintained.
44. **Calls** however for the relevant actors, including the authorities in charge of territorial cooperation and regional and national authorities, to be more involved in decision-making on the priorities of territorial cooperation programmes.
45. **Calls** for the strengthening of the regions' participation in the governance bodies of macro-regional or sea-basin strategies.

### Concerning EU Maritime Policies, the CPMR:

46. **Calls** on the EU to step up its action, at European and international level, to implement a model for the sustainable exploitation of marine resources and areas. The CPMR therefore welcomes the increasing political attention to maritime issues at international level, including through the G7, the G20, the Our Oceans Conference processes, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
47. **Calls** on the EU to develop a maritime strategy that is managed at the highest level within its institutions. This strategy should be entrusted to a European Parliament Committee, a European Commission Vice-President, and a Council configuration that focuses specifically on maritime issues.
48. **Reiterates** its concerns about the potentially very significant impact of Brexit on European maritime policies and communities, particularly on the fisheries sector.

49. **Welcomes** the introduction of a blue economy platform to increase access to corporate financing. The establishment of synergies with the regions is a prerequisite for this initiative's success.
50. **Shares** the objectives to progressively reduce bycatch targeted by the landing obligation. However, the CPMR draws attention to the technical impossibility for the fishing sector to implement these measures in the short term, especially in the context of Brexit that threatens the sector. Therefore, it proposes to concentrate efforts on the selectivity of fishing gear.
51. **Calls** on the EU to develop a new strategy for European maritime industries. This must incorporate the European objectives for the development of marine energies to ensure clean and competitive energy. The CPMR supports the digitalisation of the industry, strengthening the autonomy and connectivity of insular territories, the diversification of the traditional industrial maritime sectors, and the location of industrial employment. Such an EU strategy should help maritime regions undergoing industrial change to get support to fulfil their energy transition in an organised and progressive way.
52. **Supports** the European Commission's proposal to link vocational education and training systems and smart specialisation strategies at regional level through the Erasmus+ programme. The CPMR also welcomes the continuation of the Blue Careers scheme, which helps to adapt training policies to regional economic realities.
53. **Reaffirms** the need to strengthen the potential of the maritime heritage and its legacy, as well as the opportunity to capitalise on the celebration of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage.
54. **Supports** the Commission's proposals for a European strategy on plastics in a circular economy. Ambitious measures are needed at all levels to eliminate pollution from plastic waste on shores and in marine waters. These should be consolidated by increased efforts from Member States in the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. It is worrying that the Commission considers that it is unlikely that the objective of a good environmental status of marine waters by 2020 will be achieved.
55. **Calls** on the EU to further strengthen the conditions for access to marine data, including bathymetric data, and to continue the implementation of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive. Special attention should be paid to land-sea interactions and consistency with territorial development strategies.
56. **Calls** on the EU and its Member States to take the initiative in proposing direct coverage of environmental damage to marine waters through the Environmental Liability Directive or via CLC / IOPC international regulations
57. **Invites** the EU Institutions to maintain all legislative and funding opportunities to capitalise on good practices and to create specific initiatives supporting sustainable tourism, notably towards the achievement of climate goals. The CPMR promotes sustainable tourism as a means to guarantee the safeguard of biodiversity and natural environments, in particular in the framework of integrated territorial development strategies.

## Concerning climate change challenges, the CPMR:

- 58. *Is alarmed*** by the increasing impact of climate change in maritime regions, which exacerbates phenomena such as the proliferation of invasive marine species, and hurricanes, storms, floods and fires that hit several CPMR Member regions.
- 59. *Calls*** on the EU and its Member States to take the lead at international level in the run-up to COP 24 and in the implementation of the UN Climate Pact and Sustainable Development Goals.
- 60. *Calls*** on the EU to reaffirm the objectives of carbon neutrality and limiting global warming to 1.5°C in the forthcoming strategy for reducing emissions. This strategy should include proposals on the role of European legislation and funds, as well as on the role of the different levels of governance. The CPMR urges for continued levels of flexibility in European Structural and Investment Funds to implement the most efficient actions for limiting global warming.
- 61. *Welcomes*** the adoption, via the Renewable Energy Directive of the Climate-Energy Package, of the objective to increase the share of renewable energies in the European energy mix to 33% by 2030. This objective should lead to greater public investment in clean technologies, including marine energies.
- 62. *Highlights*** that stakeholders need to: (i) implement reindustrialisation policies to help support Regions that are undergoing industrial change inherent to energy transition; and (ii) obtain support to anchor new MRE industrial sectors in a balanced way relying on the traditional industrial base existing in the CPMR Regions.
- 63. *Welcomes*** the launch of the Clean Energy for EU Islands initiative and the establishment of the Clean Energy for EU Islands Secretariat and the European Commission's strategic guidelines recognising the pioneering role of the outermost regions, which are set to play a leading role in the clean energy initiative for the European islands. The CPMR however considers that its Islands Commission and island regions should be strongly involved in its implementation.
- 64. *Invites*** the European institutions to initiate a dialogue for the creation of a new mechanism to involve citizens and communities of local actors in mitigation and adaptation actions.
- 65. *Calls*** on the EU to highlight and further stimulate climate change mitigation through a combination of circular economy, circular bio-economy, and flexible integrated renewable energy systems.
- 66. *Reaffirms*** that climate change is driving increased economic activity in the Arctic, causing a geopolitical interest to grow, whilst the polar ice caps are melting. New transport routes, supplies of raw material, sensitive environments and current security policies make the Arctic a major priority for the European Union. The complex geopolitical situation requires strategies that enable multi-level cooperation to safeguard a safe, stable, sustainable and prosperous living environment for the people in the Arctic.

## Concerning European Transport Policy, the CPMR:

- 67. *Welcomes*** the progress made by the proposed regulation on the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) in terms of taking into account the TEN-T comprehensive network. The CPMR is also pleased with the high ambitions for greening of transport in the proposed regulation.
- 68. *Regrets*** however that this proposal does not include territorial cohesion as one of the principles of the CEF implementation, which contradicts the TEN-T objectives. It is necessary to improve the accessibility of all territories in the draft CEF regulation, including via the definition of priority corridors.

- 69. *Recalls*** that ports are cross-border infrastructures. It is therefore necessary to include a mechanism in the CEF Regulation that enables port investments to be considered as cross-border projects. This provision would increase the aid intensity of co-financing rates under the CEF from 30% to 50%. The CPMR regrets that neither the list of pre-identified sections of the core network, nor those of the comprehensive network includes a maritime section.
- 70. *Opposes*** the excessive centralisation of the CEF implementation as proposed by the Commission. It is not acceptable for infrastructure projects co-financed by both the CEF and the ERDF to be managed according to only the CEF rules, as these rules do not enable partnership with the Regions. The CPMR however welcomes the deletion of provisions which currently allow a State to block the participation of a partner from its territory in a project submitted in the framework of a CEF call.
- 71. *Calls*** for the development of a European support mechanism for shipping lines in situations where the market alone does not make them profitable. The CPMR regrets the MedAtlantic Ecobonus project's delay in producing concrete proposals concerning the modal shift to the sea.
- 72. *Takes note*** of the alignments of the Corridors described in the annex of the CEF proposal. The CPMR **welcomes** the inclusion of crucial amendments that it has supported on the basis of proposals from its geographical commissions. On the other hand, the CPMR **regrets** that other important alignments have not been taken into account in the European Commission's proposal and calls on the European Parliament and the Council to adopt the alignments the CPMR has supported when making the final decision on the CEF in the context of the MFF.
- 73. *Notes*** that the work carried out by experts prior to the 2023 TEN-T revision could start as early as 2019. The CPMR **calls** for detailed criteria to be defined to ensure a better geographical coverage of the network. It also calls for representatives of the maritime regions to be involved in expert groups of the Commission taking into account the concerns for territorial cohesion and accessibility.
- 74. *Welcomes*** the Commission's initiative to propose new alignments on the North Sea/Mediterranean Corridor by adding new maritime links to ensure good connections with Ireland when the UK leaves the European Union. However, the unique situation caused by Brexit paired with the Atlantic Strategy creates a great opportunity to take a strong symbolic step towards an Atlantic connection. The CPMR thus asks the European Commission to: (i) connect Ireland to the Atlantic Corridor; and (ii) reinforce all existing maritime links with Ireland, including with ports of the comprehensive network. To sustain these links, connections between those ports and their hinterland should be improved. Both requests would respond to the increased need for maritime connections between Ireland and the EU's mainland ports.
- 75. *Underlines*** its intention to take part in the debates on the forthcoming review of legislation on State aid to airlines and airports, and on Public Service Obligation mechanisms.
- 76. *Emphasises*** the need to radically reduce the carbon footprint of transport. The CPMR **calls** on the EU institutions and Member States to provide sufficient support for research and development of alternative fuels technologies and infrastructure – both for road and maritime transport. It underlines the importance of making full use of relevant tools, such as transport and spatial planning, "green" public procurement, incentive schemes and congestion charging, in support of a transition to low-carbon transport.

## Concerning international development and solidarity issues, the CPMR:<sup>1</sup>

- 77. Supports** the potential of a more innovative decentralised cooperation, prioritising the specialisation and expertise of each territory and fostering strategic alliances to address common challenges, and calls upon the need to continue defending the voice of the regions in the International Cooperation Fora.
- 78. Reaffirms** that migration issues need to be addressed in the long-term by taking into account the underlying causes of migratory flows and trends through cooperation with countries of origin and by improving the socio-economic development of these countries. The CPMR reaffirms the need to involve migrants' transit countries in these reflections. It also **underlines** the need for greater involvement of the European Union in the resolution of armed conflicts, and in the application of agreements and treaties on arms trade with the countries involved in these conflicts.
- 79. Calls** on the EU Member States and third countries to be more efficient and co-ordinated in dealing with migration and asylum issues and to agree on a fair and sustainable distribution of asylum arrivals between EU Member States and involved third countries. In this framework, it also recalls the United Nations Human Rights Protection System and calls on the states to respect maritime law when shipwrecks occur.
- 80. Underlines** the extremely strategic and urgent character, especially in its human dimension, of the migration challenges for the Mediterranean area.
- 81. Stresses** the specific responsibilities of the initial arrival and final destination regions for the reception and integration of migrants.
- 82. Emphasises** the solidarity with migrants expressed by the regions and recalls that several CPMR member regions have, among other things, proposed to host asylum seekers rescued in the Mediterranean. The CPMR highlights the possibility to explore complementary ways for reception of refugees between regions, on a voluntary basis, according to the principles of co-responsibility and solidarity
- 83. Wishes** to improve inter-administrative cooperation to facilitate the action of regions according to their competences on reception and integration measures.
- 84. Reaffirms** the need to 'territorialise' the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and to increase the involvement of local and regional authorities. The CPMR also reaffirms the importance of involving the ENP in promoting emerging macro-regional and maritime initiatives or strategies by building on the added value of decentralised and territorial cooperation. Furthermore, and in the framework of the ENP (and the future NDICI) the CPMR underlines the need to increase the support to infancy policies in third countries, to prevent the emigration of minors.
- 85. Supports** the ambition of the European Commission to develop a new alliance for sustainable investment and jobs between the EU and Africa.

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**CPMR  
CRPM**

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

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

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

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