



CPMR MARITIME AGENDA

CONTEXT

This paper provides a summary of the CPMR's activities in the maritime field.

These activities include a dimension connected to the sea basins with the CPMR Geographical Commissions. They are grouped by policy area, as indicated below.

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The year ahead will see important debates starting on the future of EU policies. These debates will concern, in particular, the review of the Multiannual Financial Framework and the potentially significant consequences of Brexit for maritime policies.

The CPMR will need to develop an overall policy position on Europe of the Sea, ahead of its Political Bureau meeting in March 2017. This position will be connected to a specific policy position on the CFP and the EMFF. The CPMR will draw on the expertise gained from its work in all the policy areas which make up its maritime agenda and on the activities of the Geographical Commissions.

This policy position will guide the CPMR's participation in:

- The work of Malta's presidency with a view to a ministerial declaration on the future of maritime policies;
- The initiatives undertaken by the European Parliament's Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas Intergroup (SEARICA), for which CPMR provides the Secretariat;
- The European Commission's consultations on:
 - The Multiannual Financial Framework, due to take place during 2017;
 - The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, also due to take place during 2017.

This paper outlines in detail the initiatives that will be taken within each of the policy areas in which the CPMR is active.

1. Governance and investment

Governance and investment are two cross-cutting topics in the activities of the CPMR and its Geographical Commissions.

1.1. Governance of the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)

The CPMR will focus its efforts on:

- **International maritime governance.** The CPMR will react to the European Commission's communication, due to be published before the end of 2016, and will explain how it could become involved in the proposed initiatives. Today, the CPMR has a role at international level through its collaboration with the [Ocean and Climate Platform](#), which is active in international climate negotiations, and through its observer status with the [International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds](#) (IOPCF).
- **Support for the initiatives undertaken by its Geographical Commissions in relation to the sea basin strategies and the maritime dimension of macro-regional strategies.** Work related to the CPMR maritime agenda will support the actions of:
 - **The Baltic Sea Commission, in developing blue growth priorities in the European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.** The Baltic Sea Commission is currently developing expertise on blue economy value chains in the Baltic Sea, as well as proposals on the organisation of cooperation involving the regions. This expertise is being developed through a project funded by the Swedish Institute, which also involved Technopolis Belgium. The conclusions of this project will be discussed at the [7th Strategy Forum](#) of this strategy, to be held in November 2017. The Baltic Sea Commission will also use this

expertise to contribute to discussions on the establishment of a network of ERDF managing authorities in the Baltic Sea. The aim of this network is to support the priorities of the Baltic Sea Strategy via the ERDF, especially in the field of blue growth;

- **The North Sea Commission, in developing the preparatory action for a North Sea Strategy.** DG MARE will report to the European Parliament in spring 2017, and the North Sea Commission will be involved in the preparations;
- **The Atlantic Arc Commission, in implementing the Atlantic Strategy.** The Atlantic Arc Commission, via its participation in the Atlantic Strategy Group, will be actively involved in the evaluation of the Atlantic Strategy and the review of the Atlantic Action Plan, due to take place during 2017;
- **The Balkan and Black Sea Commission, concerning the follow-up to the Black Sea Synergy initiative.** The BBSC will organise a conference on entrepreneurship in the Black Sea, in early 2017, in Thessalonica. This conference will aim to mobilise stakeholder support for the initiatives the European Commission will take in 2017 to develop a European strategy for the Black Sea Region. The BBSC will become involved in these initiatives;
- **The Intermediterranean Commission, in relation to the development of a strategy in the Western Mediterranean and the implementation of the macro-regional strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region (EUSAIR), which it supports.** These activities are also connected to the Union for the Mediterranean's action on the blue economy in which the IMC is directly involved, as well as strategy initiatives such as the BlueMed initiative on research and innovation or the Bologna Charter concerning the protection and sustainable development of coasts.

1.2. Maritime investments

The CPMR is working on an analysis of the use of European funds to support the maritime sector. This is a key question in the debate on the future of maritime policies.

Following its analysis and mapping of maritime priorities in Smart Specialisation Strategies, the CPMR's activities will focus on:

- **An analysis of the implementation of the ESI funds' Operational Programmes in the maritime field** under the 2013-2020 programming period. Between now and June 2017, the CPMR will carry out a study of:
 - the measures related to fisheries and aquaculture via the EMFF, and support for the maritime economy via the ERDF;
 - the use of financial instruments in the maritime field, which will complement the CPMR's cross-cutting study on financial instruments;
 - the implementation of the IMP via the EMFF. On this point, the CPMR will take account of the report due to be published by the Commission in July 2017.

The analysis will include a dimension relating to the sea basin strategies or macro-regional strategies with the Geographical Commissions. For example, the Atlantic Arc Commission already has an [analysis](#) of how ERDF funding is used to support the Atlantic Strategy.

- **The organisation of policy debates on the mobilisation of EU funding for maritime investment.** The CPMR will organise a second [Blue.invest – EU support to maritime regions](#) conference in 2017.

2. Marine resources

2.1. Fisheries and aquaculture

The CPMR's action in this policy area is based on the work of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Group, led by Shetland (UK), in connection with the North Sea Commission's Marine Resources Group, the Atlantic Arc Commission's Fisheries Group, and the Intermediterranean Commission's Task Force on Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The CPMR's priorities concern the implementation of the CFP and the EMFF. In the context of preparing a policy position on these questions for the Political Bureau meeting in March 2017, the CPMR will organise a meeting, to take place at the start of 2017, between a delegation of Regions and DG MARE.

There will also be an opportunity to move forward on these issues at a discussion day, open to all the sea basins, to be organised as a preliminary event at the General Assembly of the Atlantic Arc Commission in March 2017.

The CPMR addresses the following issues specifically:

- The effectiveness of EMFF implementation, from the point of view of the impact of EMFF measures and the types of EMFF instruments on the competitiveness of the different sectors, and from the point of view of simplification;
- The implementation of new measures following the reform of the CFP, in particular the ban on discards and the landing obligation. On these specific issues, the CPMR will prepare a reaction to the report due to be published by the European Commission before the end of 2016;
- Sustainability and competitiveness of fishing practices. These questions will be addressed specifically by the PANACEA project;
- More direct involvement of the CPMR and its Geographical Commissions in the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs). These consultative bodies have a key role with regard to many elements of the CFP. At present, the North Sea Commission has observer status on the North Sea RAC, the Intermediterranean Commission has observer status on the Mediterranean RAC, and the Atlantic Arc Commission collaborates with the South-West RAC;
- The partnership with the [FARNET](#) platform, which specialises in community-led local development (CLLD) questions in relation to the Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs). The CPMR will continue to offer regular support for the organisation of FARNET meetings. It will also include the question of CLLD in its wider thinking on the EMFF;

- Support for aquaculture in the regions. On this point, the CPMR will contact the new Advisory Council for aquaculture in order to facilitate its interaction with the Regions.

2.2. Blue biotechnologies

The CPMR is working on the link between regional investment and European priorities in the field of blue biotechnologies. This takes the form of [collaboration](#) between the CPMR and the EMBRC (European Marine Biological Resources Centre) a network of large-scale European biological research stations specialising in marine biotechnologies. The link with the Commissions on this topic is ensured by the Atlantic Arc Commission's working group on innovation.

This collaboration operates in the context of the "EMBRC PP2" project, financed by Horizon 2020. In this context, the CPMR has analysed the support given to blue biotechnologies by the Regions through their Smart Specialisation Strategies and the ESI funds. In June 2016, the CPMR organised a discussion in Bilbao between a group of Regions concerned by this topic and the members of EMBRC.

Collaboration with the EMBRC is on-going, and will take the form of further exchanges of this kind. Another meeting between Regions and EMBRC members will be organised in April 2017.

3. Management and protection of coastal areas

3.1. Maritime Spatial Planning and Marine Environment

The CPMR's action in this area is coordinated by a working group led by Noord-Holland (Netherlands), and linked to the work of the IMC within the framework of the Bologna Charter, the North Sea Commission's Marine Resources Group, and the Baltic Sea Commission's Maritime Group.

The CPMR focuses on monitoring the implementation of the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Actions will include:

- **An analysis of the role of the regions and the land-sea interface, to be carried out by June 2017;**
- **The organisation of a meeting between regions from the different sea basins to discuss these issues;**
- **Collaboration with the Member States in the implementation of the MSP Directive, through:**
 - **A request from the CPMR to join the European Commission's Expert Group on MSP, and participation in the work of the coordination group on MSFD implementation, led by the European Commission, of which it is already a member;**
 - **Involvement of the CPMR and its Geographical Commissions in projects such as:**

- NorthSEE on Maritime Spatial Planning in the North Sea, in which Noord-Holland Region participates with the Dutch national authorities and other national authorities. The CPMR North Sea Commission is an observer in this project;
- SIMNORAT and SIMWESTMED, projects funded by the EMFF, and led by SHOM (Service Hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine, France). These projects directly involve the CPMR and the Atlantic Arc and Intermediterranean Geographical Commissions alongside national authorities to work on the implementation of the MSP Directive in the Atlantic and the Western Mediterranean;
- **A contribution to the debates at the Forum on Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean** at the end of November. The debates will examine in particular the role of the regions in supporting marine protected areas.

The CPMR will also exploit the work carried out in the context of the following projects:

- PANACEA in the Mediterranean, in which the Intermediterranean Commission participates. PANACEA is a capitalisation project dealing with all the projects financed by the MED programme on environmental issues, in particular the marine environment. It will lead to work specifically on the protection of the marine environment, via the question of marine protected areas, the impact of fishing and of climate change, and marine pollution;
- CLEAN-AT in the Atlantic, in which the Atlantic Arc Commission participates. CLEAN-AT addresses the protection of marine ecosystems. The CPMR's role will be to ensure the link between the project activities, the MSFD process and the OSPAR Commission's regional action plan for the prevention and management of marine litter in the North-East Atlantic.

3.2. Coastal data

The CPMR's action in this area is based on the ad-hoc activities led by Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region (France) particularly in relation to the Bologna Charter for the Mediterranean.

The CPMR's activities in this area centre on the [Coastal Mapping](#) project, funded by the EMFF and involving the hydrographical offices of 12 Member States.

This work will lead to proposals on:

- **How to match EU funding with the needs of public and private stakeholders, especially the Regions**, with a view to the proposals concerning the European programmes after 2020;
- **The technical aspects of ensuring the interoperability of EU-funded data**. Coastal Mapping is developing proposals for technical standards which can be used in the context of EU-funded projects to ensure that the data they produce is interoperable.

The Coastal Mapping proposals will be finalised in December 2016. They will then be presented at a conference in Brussels in February 2017.

3.3. Maritime safety

The CPMR's action in this area is led by the Region of Brittany (France).

The CPMR is working towards the development of new initiatives at international and European level, possibly via an ERIKA IV package. The CPMR's efforts are focused on **specific initiatives for a better recognition of and compensation for ecological damage**, on the basis of the [proposals](#) it made in April 2013.

To do this, the CPMR will intervene on two levels:

- **International.** The CPMR will follow up on its proposal to set up a specific voluntary fund for environmental damage within the IOPCF. The CPMR has observer status in the IOPCF;
- **European.** The CPMR will monitor the European Commission's progress on the Environmental Liability Directive. In a report published in April 2016, the European Commission indicated that it will further examine the possibility of using non-legislative solutions to address the problem of how to apply different standards of compensation at international and European level.

4. Education and training - Vasco da Gama

The CPMR's action in this area was initially based on the Vasco da Gama pilot project [Training for Greener and Safer Maritime Transport](#).

The Vasco da Gama initiative is being pursued, with the aim of drafting proposals concerning future European policies to support education and training in the maritime field. It is intended that these proposals will be integrated into the New Skills Agenda for Europe initiative, published by the European Commission in June 2016.

In this context, the CPMR will focus on:

- **Carrying out a needs analysis, to be ready by November 2017, of the Regions' maritime training needs.** This analysis will provide an input for the proposals to be put forward in relation to the priorities of the New Skills Agenda for Europe and the next generation of Blue Careers projects. The CPMR Member Regions will be consulted, and a meeting held in April 2017;
- **Its participation in the "Blue Skills" Expert Group set up by DG MARE.** This Expert Group will be a forum for discussion on the future of specific funding such as Blue Careers. To date its activities have not yet begun;
- **Its involvement in a Blueprint initiative launched under the Erasmus+ programme.** Blueprint will bring together European networks to work with the European Commission on roadmaps for training between now and 2019. The Blueprint initiative in which the CPMR will be involved will address training in the maritime industries;
- **Project development alongside the Regions.** At European level or at the level of the sea basins, the CPMR will be involved in:
 - Blue Careers, Erasmus+ and/or Interreg projects;
 - Cooperation with other players in the training field. In the Mediterranean, training issues are addressed by the Union for the Mediterranean's working group on the blue

economy, of which the Intermediterranean Commission is a member. A partnership has also been established with the UniMed university network.

5. Marine energies and maritime industries

The CPMR's action in this area is based on the work of the Maritime Industries for Blue Growth Working Group, led by Pays de la Loire Region (France) in collaboration with the Atlantic Arc Commission's Marine Energies Group, the North Sea Commission's Energy-Climate Group, and the IMC and Baltic Sea Commissions' Working Groups on Maritime Affairs.

The CPMR will focus on:

- **A reaction, in March 2017, to the European Commission's proposals, expected by the end of 2016, concerning the Union's next steps on energy.** The CPMR will pay particularly close attention to the proposals on the regulatory framework for the electricity market;
- **The mobilisation of ESI funding-related investment in relation to the priorities of the Regions and the needs of industry stakeholders.** On this point, the CPMR will be involved in organising exchanges of best practice between Regions and industry stakeholders, through:
 - A discussion day on the funding and social acceptability of offshore wind farms in 2017, at the initiative of the Atlantic Arc Commission;
 - Collaboration with Ocean Energy Europe in the context of the European Technology and Innovation Platform Oceans project, in which the CPMR is a partner. Ocean Energy Europe and ETIP Oceans bring together the main industry players in the field of ocean energy. A meeting with the CPMR Member Regions is scheduled to take place in December 2016;
 - The INNOBLUEGROWTH project, funded by the MED Programme, in which the Intermediterranean Commission is a partner. This project organises the capitalisation and communication of thematic projects funded by the MED Programme, several of which relate to marine energy;
 - The Interreg-Europe CLIPPER project, led by Pays de la Loire Region and in which the CPMR is a partner, and which focuses on marine energies and maritime industries in smart specialisation strategies.
- **Training issues, via the Blueprint initiative on maritime skills in the framework of Vasco da Gama.**

6. Maritime transport

The CPMR's action in this area is based on the work of the CPMR Transport Working Group in connection with the transport groups of each of the Geographical Commissions.

The CPMR's action will aim to promote the guidelines put forward in the policy position entitled "EU Transport Policy and the maritime peripheries: findings and short- and medium-term options", presented at the General Assembly in November 2016.

This will involve:

- **Between now and mid-2017, the drafting of proposals concerning the type of transport infrastructure instruments that we should be promoting for the post-2020 programming period;**
- **Initiatives concerning the corridors, as follows:**
 - Steps to be taken to obtain an analysis of the territories and types of projects that received support from the 2014 and 2015 CEF calls. This would enable future calls to be targeted. The CPMR will request the help of the European Parliament for this analysis;
 - Support for the participation of its Geographical Commissions in the CEF Corridor Forums;
 - Promotion of the idea of an alignment between the CEF and rail freight corridors;
- **The drafting of proposals to correct the lack of attention given in the implementation plan for the Motorways of the Sea, published in June 2016, to territorial accessibility;**
- **The drafting of proposals to develop EU aid mechanisms for maritime transport services.** New arrangements are needed following the closure of the Marco Polo programme in 2013. On this point, the CPMR will make use of the results of the MedAtlantic Ecobonus project, and is expecting progress to be made under Malta's Presidency of the EU in the first six months of 2017;
- **During 2017, the drafting of proposals concerning the extension of the TEN-T to non-EU countries.** These proposals will concern the points presented by the European Commission in its Issue Paper on "Extending cooperation with third countries" published in June 2016.

7. Coastal and maritime tourism

The CPMR's action in this area is based on the Tourism Working Group, led by the Region of Västra Götaland (Sweden). The sea basins dimension is integrated through collaboration with the working groups or corresponding initiatives of the Atlantic Arc, Intermediterranean, Balkan & Black Sea, North Sea, Baltic Sea, and Islands Commissions.

The CPMR's aim is to support the implementation of the European strategy for coastal and maritime tourism and to contribute to the debates on its future. This will involve:

- The drafting of policy proposals between now and September 2017. This will be based on an analysis of the points of view of the CPMR Member Regions, and on a partnership with Necstour;
- Support for projects in which the Geographical Commissions are involved and which will allow the CPMR to develop an expertise in the following areas:
 - Competitiveness of tourism activities, in relation with training and innovation. This point will be addressed in particular in connection to the BLUETOURED project, in which the Intermediterranean Commission is an associated partner;
 - The development of economic data relating to the tourism industry;
 - The sustainability of tourism activities, in connection with the Co-Evolve project, in which the Intermediterranean Commission is a partner, which addresses the environmental impact of tourism;
 - Questions related specifically to the islands.



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

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

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

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