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Dear Readers,

We are now entering critical times for the European Union. The new European Parliament and its President, David Sassoli, have just been elected. Ursula von der Leyen will hold the reins of the European Commission for the next five years. Ahead of her lies the task of electing a new college of Commissioners and a fair allocation of portfolios. Populism, Nationalism, Brexit and other complex political realities in Europe and beyond will no doubt influence the beginning of this new term for the EU, but also climate and the migration crisis will challenge the way the future of the Union is shaped.

This is a chance for the CPMR to position itself towards the new European Parliament and Commission on key issues of decisive importance for our member regions. We are confident that our work over the past years in ensuring that regions are supported and well-financed across policies will thrive, and we have been encouraged by the preliminary political guidelines from the new President of the European Commission. As the major voice for peripheral and maritime regions, the CPMR will continue to argue for an ambitious European budget for the post-2020 period that can support strong policies for a greater territorial cohesion across the continent.

The CPMR has achieved important successes on issues of crucial importance to our member regions during this past year. In the following pages you will read about the work that we have accomplished in the policy areas where regions are legitimate actors at European level – Cohesion Policy, Transport, Maritime and Fisheries, Climate and Energy, Migration – as well as our biggest achievements. For instance, our technical amendments successfully made their way into the European Parliament reports on Cohesion Policy, and the majority of our proposals for the EMFF negotiations have been taken up in the position adopted by the Council.

Our involvement in European cooperation projects, our position as Secretariat of the SEARICA Intergroup, our participation in initiatives from the Committee of the Regions, as well as our cooperation and partnerships with like-minded platforms and associations, contribute to securing the central role of peripheral and maritime regions in the European arena.

Happy reading!

Vasco Cordeiro, President

Eleni Marianou, Secretary General
Over the 2018-2019 period, the CPMR has accumulated a great number of achievements in its position as a key interest group at European level and within its policy areas and working groups. Actively involved in 5 policy issues and 6 geographical areas, the CPMR has successfully made the voice of regions heard in EU policies, initiated key initiatives and participated in high-level events.

**THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK**

- **284** amendments on Cohesion Policy inspired by CPMR messages submitted by 96 MEPs

- CPMR research used as a centrepiece in UK Shared Prosperity Fund discussions

- Launch of an Islands Structured Dialogue

- Participation at the G7 Environment Ministers’ Meeting on plastic pollution in the oceans

- Participation at the Informal Meeting of Ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy

- Set-up of an interactive map on regional competences in the field of migration and asylum

- COP 25 Obtention of an Observer Status

- European Ocean Alliance

  - Searica permitted the funding of a pilot project to set up an European Ocean Alliance

  #EU4Oceans
Cohesion Policy is at the core of CPMR members’ interest as the main EU investment policy which aims to reinforce economic, social and territorial cohesion

The CPMR dedicated much of its attention last year to weigh in on the Cohesion Policy legislative package 2021-2027 negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. As part of our advocacy work, a series of meetings with key EU actors and actions have taken place in order to promote our messages. During autumn 2018, the CPMR worked together with its members to draft 69 amendments to the proposals presented by the European Commission in May 2018.

The CPMR General Secretariat is also monitoring the discussions on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and has continued to promote an ambitious EU budget. It has also conducted extensive work to provide statistical analysis to its members in relation to theoretical regional allocations and eligibility of funds under Cohesion Policy for the post-2020 period.

Engagement with EU institutions | Our messages have been widely shared among Members of the European Parliament, Member States representatives and European Commission officials. The CPMR was the sole organisation to participate in the Informal Meeting of Ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy (April 2019).

The CPMR is also involved with the Presidency of the Council of the EU and other key EU stakeholders on the works to renew the Territorial Agenda of the EU 2020, to which it provided several contributions and has been invited to technical meetings hosted by the Presidency.

We focused strongly on disseminating our messages on European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) due to the high relevance for all CPMR members. The CPMR organised an exchange of views in February 2019 with about ten representatives of Member States to raise awareness of CPMR positions on ETC, following on from extensive engagement with Pascal Arimont MEP throughout 2018.

The CPMR also looked closely to the implementation of the funds at regional level and the link with the European Semester. A dedicated Core Group meeting was held in April 2019 on this subject, featuring expert feedback from CPMR regions and the presentation of a CPMR study to the Head of Unit for the European Semester at the European Commission (Miguel Gil Tertre).

Satisfactory achievement of our messages | The CPMR had mixed feelings on the post-2020 Cohesion Policy legislative package proposal and developed technical amendments to focus on the following messages:

- Cohesion Policy should be resourced adequately
- Strong partnership and multi-level governance
- Safeguard measures towards specific territories
- Maritime cross-border cooperation programmes should be maintained within the cross-border cooperation
- Guarantee a positive link with the European Semester

Many of these amendments successfully made their way into the European Parliament reports on Cohesion Policy legislation (284 amendments submitted by 96 MEPs were inspired by CPMR messages). The highlight of the CPMR lobbying efforts on Cohesion Policy is the co-legislators’ agreement to bring back maritime cross-border cooperation within cross-border cooperation as it was in the 2014-2020 ETC architecture.
The thorough monitoring of the co-legislators’ actions has allowed us to act when needed in order to have a timely impact: a series of open letters and statements were drafted showing our concerns regarding specific topics including ETC, partnership and multi-level governance, and the alignment of transnational cooperation programmes with the priorities of macro-regional and sea basin strategies.

CPMR research at the centre of UK Shared Prosperity Fund discussions | The CPMR analysis on theoretical UK Cohesion Policy funding if it remained in the EU published in February 2019 has been the centrepiece of discussions on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), the fund that will replace the EU’s structural funds after Brexit, and was quoted in the UK Parliament and mainstream media. UK regions and Members of the UK Parliament have extensively referred to CPMR analysis in their discussions with the UK Government.

The CPMR will continue actively working to ensure that Cohesion Policy Regulations and the MFF match the needs of Peripheral Maritime Regions, and will be paying greater attention to the implementation phase of Cohesion Policy. The EU institutional turnover will be a great opportunity for the CPMR to engage with key MEPs from the REGI Committee at the European Parliament as well as with the new Commissioner for Regional Policy.

“I remember the constructive dialogue that we had with the CPMR at the time I was Commissioner in charge of Cohesion Policy, a time when Cohesion Policy was questioned. Thanks to those debates, we saved, and changed, regional policy”

Michel Barnier, EU Chief Brexit Negotiator @ 8th European Summit of Regions and Cities, Bucharest, March 2019

#CohesionAlliance
The CPMR joined forces with other leading European associations of cities and regions and the European Committee of the Regions to create the #CohesionAlliance. Cohesion Policy is at the core of CPMR’s activities to ensure economic, social and territorial cohesion. We therefore believe that a strong EU Cohesion Policy after 2020 must continue to reduce regional inequalities and support regions in facing pressing challenges such as climate change. It must remain a key pillar of the EU budget after 2020 and be strong, effective, visible and available for all our member regions so that it can bring Europe closer to its citizens.
For 2018-2019, CPMR’ work on transport and territorial accessibility mainly focused on the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)

The review of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) is of considerable importance for CPMR’s members given that it establishes the eligibility criteria and co-financing rates for EU transport projects. The CPMR has been preparing its contribution to the CEF review since 2017. As part of the 2021-2027 Programming Period, the proposal for CEF 2.0 was presented in Spring 2019. The CPMR shared its mixed feelings about this first version that took on board some of its messages but left aside key issues such as territorial accessibility and maritime transport. As soon as DG MOVE presented its proposal, the General Secretariat turned to the European Parliament and the Member States to improve the Regulation and match the need of Peripheral Maritime Regions.

The other major piece of legislation the CPMR focused on is the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) Regulation. The key milestone in 2019 was the public consultation that closed on 17 July. The CPMR aims to better integrate territorial accessibility matters in the Regulation, which should ensure a better coordination between the core and the comprehensive networks avoiding a two-speed Europe.

Influencing CEF 2.0 | The CPMR started developing proposals for amendments to the Regulation in early summer 2018, based on previous policy positions. The proposals for amendments were shared and discussed with the members of the Transport Intercommission Working Group in September 2018 and disseminated to the Members of the European Parliament right after the meeting and with Permanent Representations during autumn 2018. The European institutions reached a partial agreement on the CEF for 2021-2027 at the final trilogue in March 2019.

In short, the CPMR welcomes the initial steps taken by the European legislators to acknowledge territorial cohesion as an objective of CEF after 2020. However, the CPMR is concerned that the three co-legislators have failed to fully recognise the importance of maritime transport in the CEF. The European Parliament position to increase the intensity of EU aid for maritime projects has been rejected.

Negotiations are now over for most of the Regulation. However, major uncertainties remain on the budget of the Programme. Negotiations in that regard will start with the 2019-2024 European Parliament in the autumn. The CPMR will closely monitor progress on the trilogue negotiations.

TEN-T review | At CPMR 2018 General Assembly in Madeira, the members had a first discussion with the European Commission and the European Parliament about the upcoming review of the TEN-T Regulation. Preparing CPMR’s contribution to the public consultation was the main activity during the first half of 2019. It was first debated at the Political Bureau in Brest in March; then in the framework of the Intercommission Transport Working Group in April when each Geographical Commission shared their suggestions, questions and concerns with DG MOVE. An internal consultation was circulated by the General Secretariat right after this Working Group meeting in order to build up a draft answer to the consultation. In Donegal in June, the Political Bureau had a final debate in this regard.
In its contribution to the TEN-T review, the CPMR highlights:

- The need for a transversal transport policy that is the TEN-T Regulation
- The importance of the current objectives of the regulation, especially when it comes to contributing to territorial cohesion, and the need to go further in terms of efforts for climate
- The crucial role of cross-border sections
- The improvements that could be made in terms of governance
- Key suggestions to enhance the territorial relevance of TEN-T by including new indicators for ports in addition to the freight / passenger volume
- The need for a policy objective for Motorways of the Seas

The CPMR will continue its efforts so that the Regulation better matches the needs of peripheral maritime regions. For instance, it will establish a clear list of indicators that should be taken into account when establishing ports eligibility for TEN-T.

**Engaging with 2019-2024 EU institutions**

Following the composition of the new European Parliament, the CPMR will organise a meeting between member delegations and key MEPs from the Transport and Tourism Committee late in 2019 in order to present key messages and debate around the fields of work. The CPMR will also set a meeting with the new Commissioner for Transport in 2020.

**Aviation and sustainable innovative transport**

In 2020, the CPMR will organise two events focusing on two new areas of work: a seminar on Aviation in March 2020 in Cornwall, back to back with the Political Bureau, and a workshop focusing on Sustainable and Innovative Transport showcasing best practices from regions later in 2020.
The CPMR’s strategic objective is to strengthen the involvement of the regions as partners in the European Union’s maritime policies

The CPMR supports the development at European level of an integrated political approach to maritime issues, in line with the maritime strategies carried out by many regions. The CPMR also acts within the framework of thematic policies related to investments and regulations of the European Union, mainly in the fields of fishing and living resources, maritime industries and marine energies, coastal management and environmental protection, and training.

Sustainable blue growth is at the heart of the challenges faced by regions and the European Union, due to several reasons: the sharp rise in the contribution of the maritime economy to growth and development of food sources, the centrality of the oceans and coastal territories in the fight against global warming, and the geopolitical dimension of maritime issues, particularly at the maritime borders of the European Union that are the Outermost Regions.

Successful achievements of our messages | In the area of investment, the CPMR has defended its member regions’ proposals for EMFF negotiations under the leadership of the Brittany Region. The CPMR intervened before the preparation of the position of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union to request an increase of the EMFF budget, and of the share of this budget in shared management, as well as to reduce ineligible operations, to waive the obligation to use financial instruments to support aquaculture and the processing of aquaculture and fisheries products, and increase the role of the regions in the management of the EMFF. The CPMR’s proposals have been taken up in the position adopted by the European Parliament in April 2019, and, for most of them, by the Council in July 2019.

Ahead of the EMFF trilogues, the CPMR is currently advocating to introduce the possibility of developing EMFF Operational Programmes at regional level, a proposal also supported by the European Parliament. Negotiations are now over for most of the Regulation. However, major uncertainties remain on the budget of the Programme. Negotiations in that regard will start with the 2019-2024 European Parliament in the autumn. The CPMR will closely monitor progress on the trilogue negotiations.

Protecting maritime industrial employment | The CPMR campaigns to defend and develop maritime industrial employment, under the leadership of the SouthWest Finland Region, and with the support of the CLIPPER project led by the Pays de la Loire Region.

Maritime industrial employment raises important issues concerning the future of the EU Trade Policy and EU state aid and competition rules, the control of foreign investments, and EU policies for education and training, innovation and environmental transition. It also raises the question of the partnership between the Regions and the European Union in terms of support for businesses to access capital through financial instruments. Following a working process with its member regions, stakeholder organisations and other European organisations, the CPMR adopted in February 2019 the policy position “LeaderSHIP2030 - Towards a new European Strategy for Maritime Industries”.

This policy position calls on the European Union to adopt a “LeaderSHIP2030” Strategy to define a common policy framework for the numerous European policies related to maritime industries, and to affirm ambitious objectives in terms of protecting European interests.
It paves the way for the CPMR to participate in the important debates on the EU’s industrial policy that will be opened by the European Commission in the coming months, in accordance with the European Council’s request.

**Fighting Marine Pollution** | The CPMR is also committed fighting marine pollution, including plastics. The CPMR’s action in this area is guided by its policy position from June 2018, which emphasised the role of the regions in reducing marine pollution and developing the circular economy. In line with this policy position, the CPMR and its Geographical Commissions supported awareness raising and training initiatives as well as cooperation between regions and public-private organisations, notably via several European projects.

The importance of the regions’ role has led the European Commission to invite the CPMR to join the EU delegation to the G7 Ministerial Summit on Environment, held in Metz on 5 May 2019. At this meeting, the CPMR was represented by Cees Loggen, Vice-President of the CPMR, and Vice-Governor of the North-Holland Province. The conclusions of the G7 Environment were a key factor in the guidelines agreed by the G7 of the Heads of State held in Biarritz in August 2019.

In the coming months, the CPMR will continue closely monitoring the negotiations on the European Union’s programmes and in particular the EMFF for the next programming period. At the same time, we will prepare initiatives to facilitate the future implementation of all the funds that can support the regions’ maritime strategies, and to stimulate new policy initiatives in its core maritime work areas.

“**The work we accomplish within the SEARICA intergroup together with the CPMR must continue in order to ensure that all maritime aspects are a permanent topic in the working programme of the European Parliament**”

Gesine Meisner, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the SEARICA intergroup @ European Maritime Day, Lisbon, May 2019

The work we accomplish within the SEARICA intergroup together with the CPMR must continue in order to ensure that all maritime aspects are a permanent topic in the working programme of the European Parliament”

Gesine Meisner, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the SEARICA intergroup @ European Maritime Day, Lisbon, May 2019
CPMR members are already witnessing the impact of climate change, but they are also on the frontline of implementing policies to mitigate and adapt to it: fighting climate change needs a territorial approach.

The CPMR Climate Task Force – led by North-Holland, Brittany and South-Holland – has been advocating for ambitious and just climate and energy policies with a strong territorial approach.

The EU 2030 climate and energy targets, as well as carbon neutrality, can only be achieved if a multi-level governance approach is used. The CPMR works to foster a concrete involvement of regions in the policy design and implementation of the Clean Energy for all Europeans package and the EU’s long-term strategy. To this end, it has conducted an analysis of the draft Integrated National Energy Climate Plans, and organised regular exchanges between different stakeholders and its members regions.

The CPMR also advocates for ambitious EU climate and energy policies, as well as for the EU to maintain its leadership role in the international climate debate, by joining large and diverse stakeholder coalitions, such as the Coalition for Higher Ambition and the Climate Action Call, and by participating in COP 25 in Chili in December 2019.

Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) | The CPMR Climate Task Force has conducted an analysis of the draft NECPs, based on the input of its member regions and on the draft plans. The analysis focused on the involvement of the regions, the general objectives, as well as on specific policies (marine renewable energies and transport) in the draft NECPs.

The analysis shows a general lack of involvement of regional authorities in the design of the draft NECPs, which can lead to objectives and policies that are not based on the strengths of the regions. The lack of a territorial approach might lead to a difficult implementation of the NECPs. Furthermore, a general lack of concrete measures was found in the policies and measures related to marine renewable energies and transport and for territories needing targeted measures such as islands. The CPMR asks for a better involvement of regional authorities to ensure sound and place-based policies, as well as to draw inspiration on the CPMR member regions’ strategies and policies.

Climate Action Call | Ahead of the European elections, the CPMR joined the largest ever coalition of European stakeholders in the Climate Action Call. The Call asks the new European Parliament, the new European Commission and all EU Member State governments to:

- Commit to speeding-up actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reach net zero emissions as soon as possible
- Plan the end of the use of fossil fuels and provide strong support to energy efficiency, renewable energy and emission cuts outside the energy sector
- Safeguard a just and fair transition and ensure that the EU increases its support to developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Increase efforts to roll out the circular economy and increase resource efficiency
- Recognise biodiversity protection and ecosystem restoration as a crucial component of climate action
The Climate Action Call also calls for territorial specificities to be taken into account in the fight against climate change and the transition towards zero emissions. As stated in the Call, “Regions that are still highly dependent on fossil fuels, as well as regions highly affected by climate change, such as maritime regions, should be supported in this transition”. This should be done by ensuring adequate financing, social measures, and industrial and business policies so as to leave no region behind.

**Participation in COP 25 |** The CPMR has obtained the observer status to participate in the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) to be held in Chili on 2-13 December 2019. The CPMR will convey its political messages at COP25, together with other European organisations, in different areas of interest of its member regions, such as adaptation, renewable energies and oceans.

The CPMR Climate Task Force will continue to work actively to ensure that a multi-level governance approach based on territorial specificities is at the centre of the EU climate and energy policies, in particular for coastal areas and islands. The political guidelines of President-elect Ursula von der Leyen proposing a European Green Deal – comprising a new Just Transition Fund and a European Climate Pact with regions among other stakeholders – will be a great opportunity for CPMR member regions.

“**We will support the people and regions most affected through a new Just Transition fund [...] To this end, I will propose a European Climate Pact - bringing together regions, local communities, civil society, industries and schools**”

*Ursula von der Leyen, President-elect European Commission*
The CPMR holds the view that migration is a cross-cutting and multi-level governance issue; we need to highlight the regional competences and experiences

This past year has been focused more specifically on analysing the regions’ role in the external dimension of EU migration policies and furthering work to highlight regional competences and experiences in the field of migration and asylum.

Increasing access to EU funds is a key issue, and the CPMR has been exploring the opportunities offered in the EU financial instruments post 2020, notably the new Asylum and Migration Fund (AMF), the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and the ESF+.

Promoting regional competences and experiences | In February 2019, the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission, in association with the AEBR, organised a side event on migration in Seville during the 10th Plenary Session of the Local and Regional Euro-Mediterranean Assembly (ARLEM). It addressed the role, needs and added value of local and regional authorities in dealing with the internal (reception and integration) and external (cooperation) dimensions of migration.

In April 2019, the CPMR launched the beta version of an interactive map based on the results of two surveys among its members. This user-friendly rolling tool is designed for mutual learning between regions and for promoting regional actions among external stakeholders and partner organisations for project activities, networking and identifying expertise in specific areas.

Failure to complete negotiations on the CEAS reform during the previous parliamentary term means the future of this legislation is still uncertain. The CPMR is closely monitoring developments and at the same time exploring initiatives and proposals on complementary ways to share and distribute the reception of refugees between regions, on a voluntary basis, based on specific criteria.

Consolidating a regional strategy on migration mobility and development | The CPMR developed a policy document explaining how regional knowledge and experience both in migration and international cooperation can prove to be instrumental in achieving the goals related to the external dimension of EU migration policy, as well as the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and two Global Compacts on migration and asylum.

The CPMR thus calls for regions to be recognised as relevant partners and for EU programmes and financial instruments in the post 2020 programming period to open more room for regions to reinforce their potential engagement within the external dimension of EU migration policy.

Exploring Programme and Funding Opportunities | As a result of advocacy efforts, including by the CPMR, the 2018 AMIF call included a specific line on Local and Regional Integration Networks. The CPMR took advantage of this call to submit a proposal as leader of a consortium including several of its member regions (Azores, Campania, Catalonia, Murcia, Sardinia, Skåne). The project named Regin aims to design, develop and assess an innovative toolbox for regions to facilitate, promote and strengthen migrants’ integration. The project was approved on 19 July 2019 and should kick off in February 2020. It will constitute a driver for our Migration Task Force actions in the next 2-3 years and improve the performance of our regions on the inclusion of migrants.
Regarding the post 2020 period, there are some positive signs of increased recognition of the role of the regions in the draft EC regulation for the Asylum & Migration Fund (AMF), and an MFF proposal with a greater budget, including several references to the regions’ role and participation. The Commission has also given more attention to the complementarity between the future AMF, Cohesion Policy and ESF+ and the external dimension fund (NDICI).

We have been monitoring and seeking to influence European Parliament amendments on these regulations with some progress achieved during the previous term:

• including the role for representative associations of regions (AMF)
• increasing the financing rate for local and regional authorities (AMF)
• including regions as stakeholders in defining action within the programme (NDICI)

However, there is still uncertainty about whether these regulations will go to a second reading under the new Parliament.

The CPMR will continue to work both on the internal and external dimension of migration policy and mobilise the most concerned regions with a view to consolidating a strategy, improving their reception and integration policies and implementing concrete actions on the ground. It will monitor closely the legislative proposals and develop advocacy actions towards EU institutions regarding approaches, regulations and funding instruments.

Finally, it will continue to develop and foster synergies with other organisations, institutions and external stakeholders involved in migration issues.

#Regions4integration

The European Committee of the Regions, in collaboration with the CPMR and three other European territorial associations (AER, CEMR, Eurocities), has launched an initiative called Cities and Regions for Integration. The initiative aims to provide a political platform for cities and regions to develop and put forward proposals for EU policies and funding for the integration of migrants. The #Regions4Integration Blog is also a space to share good practices and success stories in order to promote peer learning and develop a positive narrative on the benefits of welcoming and integrating newcomers into communities.
SEARICA aims to strengthen an integrated approach to EU maritime policies, which the CPMR stands for, within the European Parliament.

Via the organisation, SEARICA has organised 10 events in the past year and has strengthened the recognition, the importance and the potential for sustainable development of our seas, rivers, islands and coastal areas.

CPMR member regions participated in several SEARICA key policy debates, notably on the themes of investments, maritime transport, and the circular economy for sustainable tourism. SEARICA also involved CPMR member regions in its work on accessibility and energy on islands, and within its efforts to support the establishment of the Clean Energy for EU Islands initiative and secretariat.

SEARICA brought the Ocean Plastics Lab exhibition to the European Parliament, attracting over 8000 visitors. SEARICA also addressed the science-policy-society interface promoting ocean literacy and connecting scientists and politicians to implement a knowledge-based decision-making process.

The efforts have led to the funding of a pilot project to create a European Ocean Alliance and have shaped the development for a Mission Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters under the next Horizon Europe programme.

The CPMR Secretariat aims to renew SEARICA in the upcoming month. With the UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development coming up, SEARICA continues to stand for the sustainable development of the European maritime economy and for better protection of the marine environment by bringing together stakeholders from across sectors and across borders.

www.searica.eu
@Searica_ITG

“The SEARICA integroup has been one of our strongest allies. Whether on ocean literacy, food from the oceans and climate change, SEARICA members were always ready to speak up for a strong maritime dimension to the European Union’s work”

Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
COMMUNICATION HIGHLIGHTS

32,415 visitors on the CPMR website

More than 50 transregional events organised and attended

More than 200 press appearances in regional, local, national and European media

936 reactions on our Facebook posts

262 new followers on our LinkedIn page

Twitter
Our most successful online channel this year

4314 Followers
1806 Likes
1344 Retweets

#islands #ten #climate #belgium #maritime #brexit #regions #cohesionpolicy #interreg #eu #cpmr #cpmr2018 #msp
GEOGRAPHICAL COMMISSIONS
Contribution to the new Atlantic Action Plan | The Atlantic Arc Commission is a valued member of the Atlantic Strategy Group along with the five EU Atlantic States. Under the current revision of the Action Plan of the Atlantic Strategy our key amendments were adopted, advancing our potential to influence the Strategy. The AAC also strongly advocated for the continuation of the INTERREG Atlantic Area Programme and its closer alignment with the priorities of the Atlantic Strategy. The AAC liaised directly with Member States, influencing the Council decision in favour of 75% alignment between INTERREG programmes and Macro-Region and Sea Basin Strategies.

> We will continue to influence to ensure a place for the UK within the future INTERREG Atlantic Area

Revision of TEN-T regulation | Many of the AAC’s specific proposals for the post-2020 CEF II regulation to improve the Atlantic Corridor were taken on board by the European Institutions. However, our aim is to achieve a true Atlantic Arc of Transport. Thus, the AAC is actively contributing to the revision of the TEN-T regulation launched in May 2019, including via the CPMR’s response to the Commission’s public consultation. On 10 September, the AAC organised an extraordinary transport workshop in Bilbao with Carlo Secchi, Coordinator of the Atlantic Corridor, and Izaskun Bilbao Barandica MEP, member of the Transport Committee.

> We will continue to influence throughout the TEN-T regulation process.

BBSC General Assembly | Kindly hosted by the Tulcea County Council (RO) in the presence of the Deputy Ministers for Regional Development & Public Administration, and of Agriculture & Rural Development of Romania. It focused on Maritime and Transport affairs, and the opportunities these sectors may offer to capitalise on the untapped potential of the Balkans and the Black Sea area. It also examined innovative and competitive entrepreneurship methods that could help to alleviate common challenges such as brain drain and issues of economic development. Horia Teodorescu, President of Tulcea County Council and CPMR Vice-President responsible for Neighbourhood Policy, ascertained his administration’s interest in improving the accessibility and connectivity of the whole country at national, regional and cross-border level.

Maritime Affairs in the Black Sea | BBSC took part in two major events focused on the Black Sea, held under the Romanian Presidency of the Council, the “Sustainable Development at the Black Sea” (SUST-BLACK), and the Ministerial Conference on a Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea. The European Commission together with the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, launched the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea (SRIA) and adopted the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea. The CPMR is among the main actors mentioned in both documents and expected to be involved in the implementation of the planned actions.
“Through its everyday decisions and actions, the Regions of the Baltic Sea Commission are an active part of implementing and delivering EU policies. Through the CPMR, the Baltic Sea Commission and our different working groups, we ensure that our interests are heard and taken into account.”

Jari Nahkanen, Board Member, Council of Oulu Region
Presidency of the Baltic Sea Commission

EU policies must allow greater cohesion between territories & citizens while promoting their sustainable development. Blue Economy presents many opportunities for the regions of the Mediterranean basin, and we need to exploit them while protecting our environment.”

Apostolos Katsifaras, Governor of Western Greece Region
Presidency of the Intermediterranean Commission

High-level discussions on the Future of EU and Transport Policy revision | In January 2019, the Future of Europe Conference was held in Lahti, Finland, bringing together more than 140 high-level politicians and representatives of the European institutions, Member States, and Regional Authorities from all over Europe. It provided a platform to deliver political messages that enforce actions supporting solidarity, partnership and strengthened territorial cohesion across the continent. In October 2019, the Baltic Sea Commission Transport Working Group organised an Expert Workshop and Open Forum on TEN-T policy revision to highlight the special features of transport development in northern Europe. A panel discussion was chaired by Catherine Trautmann, European Coordinator of the North Sea – Baltic core network corridor, and Henrik Hololei, Director General of DG MOVE gave a keynote speech. These events brought together transport policymakers at European, national and regional levels to discuss the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the TEN-T guidelines.

Voice of the Baltic Sea Region | The Baltic Sea Commission held its General Assembly in Gdansk in June 2019. During this event, 3 policy Positions were approved: Revision of the EUSBSR Action Plan; Legalising Trade in Seal Products from Controlled Hunting; The EU Post-2020 Smart Specialisation Agenda. The Baltic Sea Commission welcomes the ambition of the EC to position the post-2020 Smart Specialisation agenda at the heart of a sustainable EU innovation investment effort. This will strengthen how Baltic Sea industries (and especially SMEs) rise to the challenges they face in the global marketplace.

#MedCooperationAlliance | The #MedCooperationAlliance is a coalition that believes in multilevel governance and Mediterranean cooperation as fundamental drivers for ensuring a better future for the populations from the Mediterranean and the European Union. The Alliance was created through collaboration between the leading Mediterranean associations of Regional and Local Authorities and two Euro-Regions. This alliance, which is open to the support and participation of other key territorial actors and institutions, demands that the EU and Euro-Mediterranean Institutions after 2020 looking ahead to the two next programming periods; the African Union, the Union for the Mediterranean, the United Nations and other international organisations and institutions acting in the Mediterranean region, work harder towards the integration of emerging sea basin, macro-regional strategies and other connected initiatives and cooperation instruments, in order to build a common, more cohesive and co-owned Mediterranean macro-region.

Towards a full integration of the Mediterranean basin | The Intermediterranean Commission will keep working together for achieving an inclusive and cohesive space for peace and sustainable economic prosperity in the Mediterranean basin. The Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance represents a good incentive to strengthen collaboration between regions and multi-level stakeholders on key trending issues for the Mediterranean. These include for example, emerging sectors (blue energies), awareness raising and action for sustainable development, climate crisis mitigation, or education promoting maritime careers and supporting a shared Mediterranean identity for all.
Islands suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps. They are among those EU territories the most exposed and vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Their economies face great difficulties due to their structural overcosts. At the same time, the specific environmental and geographical conditions of islands make them strategic laboratories to support the clean energy transition, boost the shift towards the circular economy and promote blue growth and jobs.

Over the last year, the Islands Commission has worked to ensure that all EU policies include specific policy measures and financial support for “insularity”. These activities include:

**Islands Structured Dialogue |** The Islands Commission organised a seminar on 18 June 2019 in Brussels, aiming to launch an Islands Structured Dialogue to provide island governments and businesses with a platform to debate on key EU challenges and opportunities to enhance the greening development of islands.

**Meeting with Minister Gabrijela Žalac |** In view of the Croatian presidency of the Council in January 2020, a delegation from the Islands Commission held a meeting with Croatian Minister for Regional Development and EU Funds, Gabrijela Žalac, on 11 July 2019, during which the Islands Commission asked for the full application of the principles stated in Article 174 of the Treaty in all EU policies.

**Involving the youth |** A conference in Sandnes, Rogaland (NO) in March 2019 gathered 50 delegates from regional youth councils in member regions of the North Sea Commission. Participants compared how youth involvement is organised in each region and engaged in discussions on North Sea cooperation with the NSC President and Executive Secretary.

Three young representatives took part in the Annual Business Meeting and North Sea climate conference in Marstrand, Västra-Götaland (SE) in June and contributed to the discussions. The Annual Business Meeting decided to recruit a youth advisor and to urge member regions, the Executive Committee and thematic groups to involve young representatives in the regular work of the NSC.

**Developing a new strategy |** The North Sea Region lacks a macro-regional or sea-basin strategy, so the North Sea Commission has a particular reason to take the lead in defining priorities for macro-regional cooperation. In 2020 the North Sea Commission will adopt its strategy for the years 2020-2030.

Priority areas of the new strategy were adopted at the Annual Business Meeting 2019 and drafting is ongoing. The strategy will focus on four areas around a healthy North Sea, a climate-neutral North Sea Region, a connected North Sea Region and a smart North Sea Region.
Eleni Marianou, Secretary General of the CPMR participated as a keynote speaker in the Official Opening of the 4th EUSAIR Forum, held on 7-8 May in Budva (Montenegro).

In her address she stated that collaboration of all the stakeholders involved will help to establish the preconditions for an effective bottom-up approach and create a sense of ownership of the EUSAIR at local and regional level. Looking to the future, the AI-NURECC Initiative should focus its thematic scope on some EUSAIR cross-pillar topics, such as "Research and Innovation" and "Entrepreneurial and Skills Development".

The CleanAtlantic project was presented by Cees Loggen, Regional Minister of Noord-Holland Province and Vice-President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), at the G7 Environment Ministers’ meeting on plastic pollution in the oceans, on 5 May in Metz. Mr Loggen was invited by Commissioner Karmenu Vella in charge of environment, maritime affairs and fisheries, to join the European Union delegation for this meeting. In his speeches, he highlighted the CleanAtlantic project as a concrete example of actions supported by CPMR Atlantic regions to identify, monitor and remove marine litter.

CLIPPER focuses on regions’ policies in support of SMEs working in Maritime Industries. It implements new ways of supporting SMEs to improve their quality upgrading, manufacturing performance, capacity to access to capital, and leadership in new markets such as marine renewable energies.

Activities developed this year included the organisation of staff exchanges, as well as the development of policy tool boxes and action plans which will be implemented with the support of the ERDF in each participating region.

CLIPPER’s work strongly contributed to the preparation of the March 2019 CPMR policy position calling for a new European strategy for maritime industries.
A lot has been done to ensure the sustainability of the project and its extension to other territories, especially since the launch of the UfM-labelled MedCoast4BG project in January 2018. For instance, the project Co-Evolve4BG has officially started in September 2019. This project consists in extending CO-EVOLVE’s methodology in new pilot areas, including in Tunisia and the Lebanon.

Another proposal has been submitted under the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme to cover the Southern Adriatic-Ionian area. Additional Pilot Areas, which will complement the existing ones in the framework of CO-EVOLVE, have been identified in all these countries.

The project measures are promoting job creation, a contribution to local economic development, social and territorial cohesion and have significant environmental benefits reducing harmful emissions and promoting renewables and energy efficiency.

The project promotes the integration of Sustainable Mobility & Green Tourism strategies through the development of more than 80 innovative mobility measures in 7 European island-based tourist destination cities - Funchal, Madeira; Las Palmas de Gran Canaria; Valletta, Malta; the communities of Portoferraio and Rio in Elba; Rethymno, Crete; and Limassol, Cyprus - that experience significant tourist flows putting pressure on their transport systems.

The InnoBlueGrowth project led the organisation of this 5-day training in Kotor. It gathered key stakeholders related to the Blue Economy to share the experience and expertise of the Blue Growth Community with the aim of providing participants with a general overview and a better understanding of the state of play, challenges and opportunities of blue sectors.

Through specific thematic courses, workshops and working labs, this first edition of the Summer School encouraged young people to get involved in Blue Economy sectors by offering high-quality technical knowledge, fostering their entrepreneurial spirit and reinforcing the attractiveness of maritime jobs, as well as the employability of graduates.
As part of MITOMED+ capitalisation activities, new destinations will be involved to build and implement a common Maritime and Coastal Tourism Management Model to guarantee a new path to maritime and coastal tourism, more respectful of the environment and more responsible. This MED M&C Tourism Management Model is to be presented during the capitalisation conference on October in Brussels, and its replication will be ensured through the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding but also through political recommendations gathered in a policy paper.

PANACHEA acts as a Science-Policy-Interface to foster the exchange of experiences and knowledge sharing and thus, to influence a behavioural and policy change in the Mediterranean region. It builds a community of nature conservation stakeholders in the Mediterranean and acts as the Communication and Capitalisation instrument of 11 Interreg Med projects dealing with the protection of biodiversity.

PANACHEA has recently launched the “Ecosystem-based approaches for Biodiversity protection and management” Declaration to support a vision where biodiversity protection is seen as a priority in the development and implementation of regional sustainable development policies, strategies, plans, projects and activities.

The Joint Action Plan on Energy Renovation in Mediterranean Buildings (JAP ERB) draws on the results of SHERPA together with other EU, national, regional & local programmes and initiatives on ERB in the MED area. The Action Plan streamlines the policies of regions and match the needs of other stakeholders in the field of Energy Renovation and promoting investments and employment through ERB projects.

Its multilevel governance actions are based on the current level of coordination and improvements needed to implement national strategies on ERB within the framework of EU directives. The other strategic topics will be developed into operative actions through a “Market Place” and new projects.