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## CPMR MARITIME AGENDA

This document provides a summary of the CPMR's current and future activities in the maritime field, in line with the policy guidelines expressed in the [final declaration](#) of the General Assembly held in Umeå (24-26 September 2014). This summary is updated when necessary during the CPMR Political Bureau meetings or General Assemblies. These actions:

- All have a cross-cutting dimension and continuous coordination is thus ensured;
- Are grouped by policy area, as indicated in the table below. If required, the corresponding Working Groups have specific roadmaps;
- Integrate a dimension connected to the sea basins with the CPMR Geographical Commissions.

- **GOVERNANCE AND INVESTMENT**
  - Consolidating the IMP within European institutions
  - Platform on maritime investments
- **MARINE RESOURCES**
  - A more competitive, sustainable and social CFP
  - Blue biotechnologies
  - Marine mineral resources
- **MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF MARITIME AND COASTAL AREAS**
  - Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine environment (MSFD)
  - Coastal data
  - For an on-going development of European Maritime Safety policies - Towards an ERIKA IV Package
- **EDUCATION-TRAINING - VASCO DA GAMA - TOWARDS TEACHING AND TRAINING SYSTEMS THAT ARE MORE ATTRACTIVE, ACCESSIBLE AND EUROPEAN**
- **MARINE ENERGIES AND MARITIME INDUSTRIES**
- **FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY-BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE MARITIME TRANSPORT**
- **SEIZING EUROPEAN OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARITIME AND COASTAL TOURISM**

## I. GOVERNANCE AND INVESTMENT

The issues mentioned below are managed in a cross-cutting way by the CPMR General Secretariat, in line with the CPMR Presidency and its Vice-President in charge of maritime affairs, as well as with the relevant Working Groups of the CPMR and its Geographical Commissions.

### I.1. CONSOLIDATING THE IMP WITHIN EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

The CPMR is taking action to support an integrated approach to maritime policies within the European institutions. In this regard, the CPMR:

- Will continue to support the IMP in conjunction with DG MARE. In parallel with its involvement in the policy areas relating to the IMP, the CPMR:
  - will contribute, based on the initial feedback received, to the debates opened by DG MARE on the issue of maritime governance;
  - together with its Geographical Commissions, will also follow the actions carried out in line with the development or implementation of sea basin strategies or the maritime dimension of macro-regional strategies. Several cooperation projects relating to the core maritime policy areas that the CPMR and the Geographical Commissions take action on are currently being prepared in the framework of Interreg programmes at sea basin level;
- Will collaborate on issues such as maritime investment with the Dutch Presidency of the European Union (January-June 2016);
- Will continue to support the [European Parliament's Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas Intergroup \(SEARICA\)](#), for which it provides the secretariat. Further to the adoption of the report on blue innovation by the European Parliament, the Intergroup will organise debates over the coming months that will particularly focus on the issues of maritime safety, fisheries, marine energies and maritime industries as well as sea basin strategies.

### I.2. PLATFORM ON MARITIME INVESTMENTS

As mentioned during the CPMR General Assembly in Umeå and then during the Political Bureau in Nantes, based on a [Technical Paper](#), the CPMR is committed to establishing an exchange platform between the maritime Regions and socio-economic actors (e.g. those involved in industry, research and innovation) on maritime investments related to regional Smart Specialisation Strategies and European funds that are likely to contribute to them (Structural and Investment Funds (ESI), Horizon 2020 and others).

Over the coming months, the CPMR will continue its work on this theme with the aim of developing:

- An analysis of the maritime dimension of the Regions' strategies and the use of ESI funds in the maritime sector. Following the first elements conveyed during the General Assembly in Florence, the CPMR will continue this kind of analysis, in cooperation with the Regions and the European Commission. The objective of this analysis is both to have the necessary elements available to help fully assess the role of maritime issues in investment supported by ESI funds and to understand the economic reasoning and maritime value chains supported by the Regions. Subsequently, the CPMR will bring together the elements of the analysis in order to contribute to the debates on the mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework scheduled for 2016.
- Factual discussions on the use of EU funds on maritime issues involving the Regions, the European institutions and the private and public maritime stakeholders. A first Conference on this subject, entitled "[Blue.invest - EU Support to maritime regions](#)", organised by DG MARE and the CPMR was held on 22 September 2015 in Brussels. It will be followed by other initiatives with the objective of facilitating networking opportunities that are consistent with the needs of the Regions and socio-economic actors in terms of collaboration at European level. These initiatives could be based on:
  - Collaborations established with existing networks of maritime stakeholders. Some European projects that involve the CPMR (such as projects mentioned in Point II.2. on blue biotechnologies and III.2. on marine data, and other projects under development) already provide for the organisation of practical discussions with the Regions on the use of funds in the maritime sector. Other collaborations could also be set up with actors such as JPI Oceans or Ocean Energy Europe for example.
  - Ad-hoc procedures to be established on the basis of specific analyses of the maritime value chain in Europe, and opportunities to collaborate between areas that may result from this. In

this respect, the experience of the Vanguard initiative network could be a source of inspiration.

## II. MARINE RESOURCES

Corresponding Working Group: Fisheries-Aquaculture Working Group, led by the Region of Shetland (UK). The CPMR's action in this field includes the sea basin dimension with the Geographical Commissions (especially through the North Sea Commission's Marine Resources Working Group, the Atlantic Arc Commission's Working Group on Fisheries and the actions of the Intermediterranean Commission relating to MarinaMed). The CPMR's actions on blue biotechnologies and mineral resources if any are intended to be integrated within these activities.

### II.1. A MORE COMPETITIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND SOCIAL COMMON FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE POLICY

The meeting of the CPMR Fisheries Working Group held on 22 April 2015 helped to update the actions underway in connection with the priorities defined during the General Assembly in Umeå.

The CPMR will first of all carry out a specific follow-up of the implementation of the EMFF in the maritime Regions, which will be integrated in the work of the platform on maritime investments.

The CPMR will continue to follow European initiatives in favour of the local development of areas that are dependent on fisheries and aquaculture. In this regard, the CPMR is also a partner in a consortium which submitted an application in answer to DG MARE'S Call for the continuation of the FARNET platform, funded by the European Commission (DG MARE) which is in charge of ensuring technical support to FLAGs (Fisheries Local Action Groups).

The CPMR will continue to monitor the socio-economic impacts of the CFP in connection with issues such as the obligation to land all catches, the link between fisheries and environmental regulations (e.g. MSFD) and the setting up of multi-annual management plans in the various sea basins. This monitoring will be carried out through seminars and ad-hoc projects.

The CPMR will also contribute to strengthening the role of Regions in the governance of the CFP, through their role within the Regional Advisory Councils (RAC). At this stage, the North Sea Commission has Observer Status in the North Sea RAC, the Intermediterranean Commission is an observer in the Mediterranean RAC and the Atlantic Arc Commission is working with the South West RAC.

In parallel, the CPMR is developing more specific work priorities in the field of aquaculture.

### II.2. BLUE BIOTECHNOLOGIES

Since 2013, the CPMR has undertaken work to contribute to the link between the Regions' policies and European priorities regarding blue biotechnologies. A summary of the prospects for action was presented during the meeting organised by the CPMR on 22 April 2015.

A collaboration has been established between the CPMR and the EMBRC, a network of European biological stations that specialise in blue biotechnologies. The EMBRC is the only European ESFRI infrastructure in the field of blue biotechnologies and brings together research centres that are of extreme importance in Europe. This collaboration continues through the project "EMBRC PP2" supported by Horizon 2020 in the framework of which the CPMR will work on the support given to blue biotechnologies by the Regions through their Smart Specialisation Strategies and ESI Funds.

The project, which began in June 2015, will result in a seminar, organised by the CPMR, which is scheduled to be take place in June 2016.

A link with the CPMR Geographical Commissions will be established in the context of this work, particularly in the Atlantic through the Innovation Group of the Atlantic Arc Commission.

### II.3. MARINE MINERAL RESOURCES

At this stage, a Technical Paper from the CPMR has identified a lot of genuine interest for the Regions in this field. This issue is to be integrated in the CPMR activities regarding maritime spatial planning and the marine environment.

### III. MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF MARITIME AND COASTAL AREAS

The issues mentioned below correspond to several current Working Groups. It is proposed that these activities are brought together:

- Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM): group led by Noord-Holland Region (Netherlands). The CPMR's action in this respect includes a maritime basin dimension with the Geographical Commissions notably through the IMC's action relating to the Bologna Charter, the Marine Resources Group of the North Sea Commission, the Maritime Group of the Baltic Sea Commission and the follow-up to the TPEA project in which the Atlantic Arc Commission was an associate partner. It also includes a link to issues relating to the marine environment (MSFD);
- Coastal data: the CPMR's action relies on ad-hoc actions led by the Region of Provence-Alpes Côte d'Azur (France) which are based primarily on the Bologna Charter in the Mediterranean;
- Erika IV (maritime safety): led by the Region of Brittany (France).

#### III.1. MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING, INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The link between the Regions and the implementation of the MSFD and MSP Directive was addressed during a [meeting](#) organised by the CPMR on 22 April 2015, as a fringe meeting of the joint meeting of the European Commission's Expert Groups on MSP and ICZM (the CPMR is a Member of the European Commission's Expert Group on ICZM, as well as the Coordination Group of the MSFD implementation led by the European Commission).

A specific analysis of the current contribution of the Regions and the "land-sea" links in the implementation of these two Directives is currently being launched with the Region of Noord-Holland. This analysis will be based on detailed examples gathered in the Regions, and will result in a specific workshop to be held in the first six months of 2016 that will involve the Regions, following the Conference organised by DG MARE in December 2015 on the links between the MSFD and MSP Directive. This work will build on the actions undertaken at sea basin level. Several projects that address these issues are for example being developed in the Mediterranean, in line with the priorities of the Bologna Charter.

#### III.2. COASTAL DATA

The CPMR's work in this area will be carried out, in the first instance, through the "Coastal mapping" project supported by DG MARE, which involves the CPMR along with the hydrographic services of the Member States. This project, which started in June 2015, will assess the current availability of digital coastal maps in the EU, disseminate this information by EMODnet, share experiences of coastal mapping in the EU, develop standards and an algorithm for the acquisition of data, and propose how a future strategy and programme could operate. The CPMR will specifically work on the connection between these objectives and the use of EU funds at regional level.

In parallel, the CPMR will be involved in other initiatives relating to these issues at sea basin level. Several initiatives are currently being drawn up, especially through European projects, in connection with the Bologna Charter, which supports the networking of coastal observatories, or in conjunction with the Atlantic Arc Commission's Innovation group.

#### III.3. FOR AN ON-GOING DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY POLICIES - TOWARDS AN ERIKA IV PACKAGE

**The CPMR will begin by concentrating its action on the development of new international and European initiatives, if necessary through an ERIKA IV package** and will continue to collaborate with other players who have expressed the same desire, among them Surfriders Europe Association which published a "[White Paper on Maritime Safety – Towards an Erika IV Package](#)", on maritime safety in December 2013 and the ETF Union, which has expressed a wish for an Erika IV Package that includes a social dimension. The CPMR will work towards this together with the European Parliament, which, through the Ferreira report on "exploiting research and development potential in the blue economy to create jobs and growth" adopted a position that states, "*a maritime safety 'Erika IV' package should be launched to prevent further major maritime disasters; considers that this package should recognise the ecological damage to marine waters in European legislation*".

The CPMR will particularly focus its efforts on this issue of ecological damages on the basis of its [proposals](#) put forward in April 2013. On this basis, the CPMR will take part:

- At international level, in specific work on environmental damage that will be launched during the April 2016 IOPCF meetings, in which the CPMR has observer status;
- At European level, in the debates that will follow the publication by the European Commission in the autumn, of a report on the revision of the Environmental Liability Directive (ELD).

#### IV. EDUCATION AND TRAINING - VASCO DA GAMA - TOWARDS TEACHING AND TRAINING SYSTEMS THAT ARE MORE ATTRACTIVE, ACCESSIBLE AND EUROPEAN

Corresponding Working Group: A group of pioneering Regions led by Mecklenburg-Vorpommern was set up in 2010 to work on an initiative of the “Maritime Erasmus” type, led by the Regions. This resulted in the launch of a project co-funded by the EU for the 2014-2015 period. The project involves some twenty partners, Regions, teaching institutions and professionals. Led by the CPMR, it is being monitored by an “Advisory Board”, consisting notably of European shipowners (ECSA) and representatives of workers employed in the shipping sector (ETF). The Member Regions of the Advisory Board are Mecklenburg Vorpommern, Brittany and Venetia.

Actions: cf. dedicated website [www.vasco-da-gama.eu](http://www.vasco-da-gama.eu).

The current European project, called “Training for Greener and Safer Maritime Transport” (TGSMT), must be considered as a first, real step towards a multi-pronged initiative that could gradually become the “training” strand of the Integrated Maritime Policy.

Organised in four “work packages”, the TGSMT project has the following aims:

- To analyse the strengths, weaknesses, and possible improvements of European maritime teaching with the backing of public policies and at the appropriate levels. The project should also make it easier for students to move from one country to another;
- To produce recommendations on teaching with the use of maritime simulators;
- To increase awareness of the environment in the curriculum;
- To bring together elements from a transnational curriculum common to several teaching institutions.

The conclusions of the project will be issued during its Final Conference, scheduled for 23 November 2015. Based on the recommendations produced by the “first circle” set up (the “Vasco Da Gama community”), the CPMR is keen to encourage initiatives particularly *at the level of the sea basins*, in support of the Geographical Commissions, and with the support of European programmes available across these basins.

Thematic discussions are also underway for the continuation of the Vasco Da Gama initiative, through new projects that could be developed at European level, particularly in the areas of fishing, marine energy and marine industries, with expected support of European schemes, including, where appropriate, DG MARE’s Blue Careers initiative.

**Any players, Regions in particular, who wish to become involved in the increasingly important Vasco Da Gama initiative are invited to show their interest by signing a [Memorandum](#).**

#### V. MARINE ENERGIES AND MARITIME INDUSTRIES

Corresponding Working Group: “Maritime Industries for Blue Growth”, led by the Region of Pays de la Loire (France). In continuation of the Declaration of Umeå, the CPMR carries out its activities on maritime industries and marine energy together, by integrating the sea basin dimension with its Geographical Commissions (including through the Atlantic Arc Commission’s Marine Energy Group, the North Sea Commission’s Energy-Climate Group, the Intermediterranean Commission’s activities relating to MarinaMed and the Maritime Group of the Baltic Sea Commission).

The [meeting](#) organised on 21 April 2015 helped to update the priorities of the CPMR and its Geographical Commissions in these policy areas.

These priorities concern the development of three sectors in particular (shipbuilding, marine energy and oil & gas - put forward by the CPMR North Sea Commission) and the important synergies that exist between these sectors (marine energies are a possible way for shipbuilding to diversify as well as the oil & gas sector). The

working priorities identified in these policy areas therefore refer to both the need to support the development of these three sectors, and to that of developing a unified European maritime industrial strategy involving current European initiatives in these areas.

In the coming months, the work will focus in particular on the following issues relating to the monitoring of the recommendations of the LeaderSHIP 2020 report:

- Investments supported by the Regions and the ESI funds in connection with the work of the platform on investment, through specific workshops between Regions, public actors and businesses in the field of marine energy and maritime industries;
- Training: In this policy area, collaboration will continue with Sea-Europe to establish a permanent European Skills Council on shipbuilding and maritime industries. These issues will be addressed during the Final Conference of the project co-led by Sea-Europe, which will be held in March 2016. This action is intended to contribute to further developing the follow-up to the Vasco Da Gama initiative.
- Social acceptability of marine energy and of industrial changes, through the organisation of a specific workshop to discuss practical examples of seeking consensus with the people for the development of projects in these fields, in connection with the work of the CPMR on Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management. The sea basin dimension will be taken into account in this workshop (e.g. from the perspective of the follow-up of the preparatory action for a North Sea strategy).

## VI. FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY-BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE MARITIME TRANSPORT

Corresponding Working Group: Maritime transport is dealt with within the scope of the CPMR Inter-Commission Transport Working Group, under the political leadership of the Region of Nord-Pas-de Calais, in collaboration with the respective Transport Working Group of each CPMR Geographical Commission.

### Actions:

Maritime transport contributes to achieving the decarbonisation objectives of European transport, but is not always one of the priorities of European White Papers contained in the TEN-T and CEF instruments.

Within the 2014-2020 period, the CPMR priorities with regard to this policy area focus on:

- Continued participation in the ESSF Forum, a consultative body in which the CPMR represents the Regions, with the objective that the EU offers its support to the maritime transport economy to adapt to the requirements of the Sulphur Directive of 2012, so as to avoid freight that is today transported by sea returning to the roads. In addition, at the suggestion of the CPMR, the ESSF will work on the issue of funding the modifications necessary in the maritime transport sector for the implementation of the obligations relating to the Sulphur Directive;
- The next European decisions aiming at “greening” maritime transport: SO<sub>x</sub>, particulate matter, CO<sub>2</sub>;
- Harnessing the possibilities offered by the CEF to support maritime transport;
- Support for the European Commission and the coordinator Brian Simpson, to develop a concept of Motorways of the Sea that meets the needs of operators and is concerned with territorial balance.

As described in the Technical Paper “Accessibility Campaign - Progress Report and Outlook” of October 2015, the CPMR will focus its future efforts on improving accessibility, supporting the Regions’ participation in the Corridor Forums, and, in the longer-term, preparing a revision of the 2014-2020 multi-annual financial perspectives and the TEN-T guidelines scheduled before 31 December 2023.

The CPMR also wishes to help the European Commission prepare “*a detailed implementation plan for the future motorways of the sea*”, and launched a survey among its Members in relation to this.

Finally, the CPMR will give due attention to the monitoring of the proposals that it put forward in response to the European Commission’s consultation on the White Paper on Transport. These proposals aim to overcome the lack of an EU instrument to support maritime transport since the Marco Polo programme has been abandoned and the lack of adaptation of Article 32 of the TEN-T which does not have sufficient funds allocated to it and is not easily accessible to the maritime sector.

## VII. SEIZING EUROPEAN OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARITIME AND COASTAL TOURISM

Corresponding Working Group: Tourism Working Group, led by Region Västra Götaland (Sweden). The CPMR's action in this field integrates a sea basin dimension in connection with the corresponding Working Groups of the Atlantic Arc, Intermediterranean, Balkan and Black Sea and North Sea Commissions.

### Actions:

A [summary](#) of the prospects for action was presented at the meeting of the CPMR Tourism Working Group on 22 April 2015.

The main future action concerns:

- A general monitoring of the link between the maritime Regions and the European Strategy for Coastal and Maritime Tourism, and maintaining the links with organisations that are active in this field (e.g. World Tourism Organisation, Necstour). In this respect a Memorandum of Understanding between the CPMR and Necstour is currently being drawn up;
- Establishing collaboration with the European Commission concerning cruise tourism. Following the Conference [Enhancing the Pan-European dialogue with Cruise operators](#), (5-6 March 2015, Brussels) the CPMR has been integrated as an organisation within the follow-up process set up by the European Commission;
- The development of practical exchanges and collaborative projects at European level and in the sea basins. Several new European projects are currently being drawn up in this respect across the sea basins.