



CPMR MARITIME AGENDA

BACKGROUND

This document introduces the future activities of the CPMR in the maritime field. These activities are organised on the policy areas below:

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1. Background

The CPMR's actions in the maritime field are guided by the [Final Declaration](#) adopted during its General Assembly in October 2017, and the Policy Position "[The Seas and Oceans: A Key Issue for the Future of the European Union](#)", adopted in February 2017.

These actions aim to increase the effectiveness of EU maritime policies in partnership with the Regions. They include a sea basin dimension, developed with the CPMR Geographical Commissions.

In the coming year, the CPMR will promote the principles linked to European strategy, governance and investments in the maritime field as part of its cross-cutting work on the future of Europe and the multi-annual financial framework.

In parallel, it will develop a range of initiatives within the maritime policy areas presented in this paper.

2. Strategy, governance and investments

2.1. EU's main maritime guidelines

At this stage, the EU's main maritime guidelines are based on the inter-ministerial declaration adopted by the EU Member States in Malta on 20 April 2017.

The CPMR will take part in the follow-up to these guidelines through its work on:

- **The future of Europe.** At this stage, messages relating to Europe of the Sea are integrated within the CPMR's work on the European Commission's White Paper on the future of Europe. These messages will be completed as the European debate develops. The next European Maritime Days scheduled for May 2018 in Burgas (Bulgaria) will, for example, be an important time for political expression on maritime issues;
- **The link between the EU and international debates on maritime issues, through:**
 - Discussions on the **UN's sustainable development goals**, including those on [Objective 14 focusing on the Oceans](#). Following the [Our Oceans conference](#) on 5 October 2017 in Malta, the CPMR will encourage the participation of all interested Regions in international conferences relating to Objective 14. The follow-up to the conclusions of Our Oceans will be the subject of a debate organised by the European Parliament's [Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas Intergroup](#) (SEArICA);
 - International processes related to climate and oceans. The CPMR will continue its collaboration with the [Ocean and Climate Platform](#) to organise debates on maritime issues in the context of COP23 and the upcoming [Climate Chance Summit](#);
- **Brexit**, which is likely to have a particularly strong impact on the European Union's maritime policies. Following an [analysis](#) of the potential impact that Brexit could have on maritime policies, carried out in February 2017, and declarations made by the [North Sea](#) and [Atlantic Arc](#) Commissions, a meeting on Brexit and maritime issues will be held in Brussels by the end of 2017.

2.2. Governance of European maritime policies

The CPMR will focus on:

- **How maritime issues are addressed within European institutions.** The CPMR will continue its cooperation with the SEArca Intergroup, for which the CPMR provides the Secretariat;
- **The support for the Geographical Commissions' initiatives on sea basin strategies and the maritime dimension of macro-regional strategies.** The work related to the CPMR's maritime agenda will support the actions of the:
 - **Baltic Sea Commission (BSC), in developing blue growth priorities in the European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.** The BSC currently collaborates with the [Smart Blue Regions](#) project, as well as with the ERDF managing authorities in the Baltic Sea. These authorities wish to use existing possibilities to fund transnational projects through the ERDF to support maritime investments. The Region of SouthWest Finland, who oversees the BSC's maritime activities, spoke on this issue on 12 October 2017 during a conference in Tallinn on the EMFF.
 - **North Sea Commission (NSC), in preparing propositions** on the possibilities for strengthening cooperation in the North Sea, following work carried out as part of the preparatory action for a North Sea Strategy;
 - **Atlantic Arc Commission (AAC) in implementing the Atlantic Strategy.** In parallel with its participation in the Atlantic Strategy Group, the AAC will be active in the follow-up to the current Atlantic Strategy consultation and will take part in a conference in Glasgow in November 2017;
 - **Balkan and Black Sea Commission (BBSC), concerning the follow-up to the Black Sea Synergy Initiative.** The BBSC will participate in the next high-level conference on the blue economy in the Black Sea;
 - **Intermediterranean Commission (IMC), 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).** These activities are also connected to the Union for the Mediterranean's action on the blue economy, with which the IMC works in partnership, 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.

2.3. Budget and maritime investments

The CPMR's work in this area will feed into its proposals that it will put forward with regard to the European Commission's publication of proposals on the post-2020 EU Multiannual Financial Framework.

An analysis of the implementation of current European programmes and their future contribution to maritime investments is being carried out by the CPMR.

It will focus in particular on the:

- Follow-up of the Operational Programmes of the ESI funds in the maritime field as part of the 2013-2020 programming and the:
 - Implementation of the ERDF and the IMP part of the EMFF in support of maritime investments and their synergies with European collaborative programmes such as Horizon 2020. These factors will complement the [analysis](#) of the maritime dimension of smart specialisation strategies;
 - Implementation of the EMFF in support of fisheries, in terms of the impact of the measures and types of EMFF instruments on the competitiveness of sectors, and simplification. On the basis of the note “European Maritime and Fisheries Fund post-2020: information on the on-going European debate”, the CPMR communicated messages on this subject at the Tallinn conference on the future of the EMFF in October 2017, through Brittany Region and the other CPMR Member Regions that participated in the conference;
- Development of proposals by the European Commission for a specific financial instrument to support blue growth. This led to a [working meeting](#) organised by the CPMR and the European Commission on 11 July 2017. It was also discussed at the Tallinn conference on the future of the EMFF in October 2017.

3. Marine living resources

3.1. Fisheries and aquaculture

The CPMR’s action in this policy area is based on the work of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Group, led by Brittany Region (FR), 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.

In parallel with the work on the EMFF’s support for fisheries and aquaculture and the preparation of the Tallinn conference on the future of the EMFF, the CPMR's priorities relate to the:

- Implementation of the ban on discards and the landing obligation. On this issue, the CPMR is preparing messages for the conference that will be organised by the European Commission on 15 November in Brussels. The CPMR's messages will be based on the conclusions of the [seminar](#) held in Vigo that was organised by the Atlantic Arc Commission and the declaration adopted by the North Sea Commission;
- Sustainable exploitation of resources through co-management between fishermen and the managers of marine protected areas. These issues will be specifically addressed through 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 horizontal Advisory Council on Aquaculture and Markets. The CPMR will work more closely with these Councils to facilitate their interactions with the Regions;
- 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.

3.2. 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, EMBRC and EMBRIC, a network of large-scale European biological research stations and clusters of enterprises specialising in marine biotechnologies. The link with the Commissions on this topic is ensured by the Atlantic Arc Commission's working group on innovation.

The next steps in this work will build on the results of the Horizon 2020 [EMBRC PP2](#) project. As part of this project, the CPMR produced an analysis of funding opportunities for blue biotechnology through Smart Specialisation Strategies and the ERDF. The results of this work will lead to the organisation of 2 events in early 2018, a debate organised with the SEArca Intergroup, and a working meeting on societal challenges to be met by EU support for blue biotechnologies, and on financing needs in this area.

4. Management and protection of maritime and coastal areas

4.1. Maritime spatial planning and marine environment

The CPMR's action in this area is 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's work focuses on two main issues:

- **Protection of the marine environment** and implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Within this very broad subject, Member Regions have expressed their interest in working to reduce marine litter and plastic pollution. Proposals for concrete actions are currently being drawn up. They could, for example, include a partnership with other organisations that pilots initiatives to raise the public's awareness of these issues.

In this policy area, the CPMR also builds on the CLEAN-AT project 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.

A debate and a working meeting with the Regions on these issues will be organised early in 2018 in partnership with the European Parliament's SEArca Intergroup;

- **Management of maritime and coastal areas** through the implementation of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directives. The CPMR participates in the European Commission's Expert Group on MSP.

Implementation of the MSP Directive is still in its early stages. At this stage, the CPMR has focused on the development of specific collaborations with the Member States to facilitate the involvement of the Regions as well as the consideration of land-sea links in the implementation of this Directive.

These collaborations are based on the following projects:

- [NORTHSEE](#) and SEANSE on Maritime Spatial Planning in the North Sea. Noord-Holland Region participates in the NorthSEE project with the Dutch national authorities and other national authorities. The CPMR North Sea Commission is an observer in this project. SEANSE is a project funded by the EMFF and led by the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment. SEANSE will be developed with the involvement of the North Sea Commission in order to work on the implementation of the MSP Directive in the North Sea;

- SIMNORAT and SIMWESTMED, these projects are 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. It involves work on the implementation of the MSP Directive in the Atlantic and the Western Mediterranean.

A working meeting involving interested Regions is currently being organised, with the aim of discussing a political summary of the evidence gathered through these projects.

4.2. 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 next steps of the CPMR's work in this area will be based on the results of the [Coastal Mapping](#) project, which involved the hydrographic services of 12 Member States. This work resulted in a proposal for a European strategy for bathymetric data.

In the wake of [Copernicus Marine Week](#), the CPMR is now developing a partnership with Copernicus, a European service for the provision of marine data. The objective of this partnership is to arrange for the regions to be more directly considered in possible improvements to this service.

4.3. 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.

Following the AGIA ZONI II accident in Greece, the CPMR will continue its efforts to:

- **Continue** its work with the IOPC Funds, in which it has observer status. The CPMR participated in discussions on environmental damage being taken into account by the IOPC Funds. In this respect, it proposed the establishment of a voluntary fund within the framework of the IOPC Funds. It will continue to promote this idea, as well as an alternative involving the direct management of damage to the environment by EU regulations. In this context, the region of Brittany has developed a legal analysis of the growing recognition of ecological damage in the EU Member States. This expertise will be used in the framework of discussions with the IOPC Funds and the European Commission;
- **Facilitate** the possibility for regions affected by pollution to seek technical advice on management from Regions that have concrete experience. To achieve this, the CPMR will rely on the network developed via the Arcopol platform project in the Atlantic.

5. Education and training - Vasco da Gama

The activities of the CPMR in this policy areas are grouped under the name “Vasco da Gama”. They aim to contribute to the strengthening of European support for education and training for the benefit of young people and jobseekers in the CPMR Member Regions.

In this regard, the CPMR contributes to the development of:

- **A maritime dimension** within the new Skills Agenda for Europe. To contribute to this, the CPMR will participate in the work:
 - of the European Commission’s Expert Group on maritime skills, of which it is a member;
 - carried out by the maritime Blueprint initiative, which develops specific expertise on the need for skills in maritime industries;
- **Partnerships involving regions to improve training and mobility, through:**
 - The Blue Careers [BBMC](#) project led by the University of la Rochelle that the Atlantic Arc Commission participates in. This project is currently developing a Masters specialising in blue biotechnologies;
 - The Vasco da Gama Summer School, which will take place in summer 2018;
 - A new initiative, called Vasco da Gama Youth Mobility, aiming to support the mobility of students and job seekers in Europe. This initiative is in addition to the opportunities already proposed by the European Union through programmes such as Erasmus.

In order to further develop all these initiatives, the CPMR is currently carrying out an analysis of regional training and mobility policies.

6. 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 its activities on the development of proposals on the European industrial strategy in the maritime field. The CPMR will work together with other maritime organisations on the follow-up to the Communication "[Investing in a smart, innovative and sustainable industry - A renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy](#)". This will focus on updating the guidelines of LeaderShip 2020.

The CPMR's proposals will be developed with the aim of contributing to the next European Industry Day and to the round table of high-level industrial experts announced by the European Commission. A debate on these issues will also be organised with the SEArca Intergroup.

The CPMR will focus on issues concerning:

● **The use of ESI fund-related investments in connection with the Regions' priorities and the needs of the industry players.** On this point, the CPMR could build on the results of several initiatives in which it participates, such as:

- A discussion day on the funding and social acceptability of offshore wind farms that will be held in November 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 (ETIP Oceans), 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;
- The INNOBLUEGROWTH project, funded by the MED Programme, in which the Intermediterranean Commission is a partner. This project organises the capitalisation and communication activities 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, through the Blueprint initiative on maritime skills within the framework of Vasco da Gama.**

7. 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 work 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:

- A follow-up of the CPMR's [proposals](#) to amend existing corridors, which were adopted in June 2017;
- A follow-up to the CPMR's [proposals](#) on the detailed implementation plan for the Motorways of the Sea;

- Preparing the Call for Projects regarding the Motorways of the Sea, to be launched in 2018. The CPMR will put forward proposals to make this Call more accessible to peripheral areas and islands;
- Continued action to develop European mechanisms to support maritime transport services. New mechanisms are needed following the termination of the Marco Polo programme in 2013, which aimed to support maritime transport services.

On the basis of the results of the MedAtlantic Ecobonus project, the aim is to put mechanisms in place to support the demand for maritime transport and thus encourage the modal shift from road to sea.

8. Maritime and coastal tourism

The CPMR's action in this area integrates a sea basin dimension through collaboration with the working groups or corresponding initiatives of the Atlantic Arc, Intermediterranean, Balkan & Black Sea, North Sea, Baltic Sea, and Islands Commissions.

2018 will be the European Year of Cultural Heritage. This will be an opportunity to launch initiatives to enhance the maritime cultural heritage of the CPMR Member Regions, as well as proposals on the future of the European Strategy for Maritime and Coastal Tourism.

A conference and a discussion with the Regions will be organised in 2018 with the European Parliament's SEArca Intergroup.

At this stage, the CPMR's thinking will be based, in particular, on European projects currently being developed, which help develop expertise on:

- The competitiveness of tourism activities, in relation to training and innovation issues. This point will be discussed with the horizontal project [BLEUTourMed](#) and its sustainable tourism community, in which the Intermediterranean Commission is an associated partner;
- The development of data and indicators on the tourism economy in order to improve local and regional political strategies and actions, in connection with the [MITOMED +](#) project;
- The sustainability of tourism activities, in connection with the [CO-EVOLVE](#) project, in which the Intermediterranean Commission is a partner, which focuses on the environmental impact of tourism. CO-EVOLVE aims to analyse and promote the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems in coastal areas popular with tourists;
- Specific issues related to islands, in particular within the framework of the [DESTINATIONS](#) project, which addresses issues relating to mobility, sustainable transport and tourism.



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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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Ref.: CRPMNTP170022