CPMR key priorities for the negotiations on the post-2020 EU budget and policies

Towards a balanced territorial development at the heart of European policies
The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) represents 150 regional authorities from 25 countries across Europe and beyond. Organised in geographical commissions, the CPMR works to ensure that a balanced territorial development is at the heart of the European Union and its policies.

Regions are legitimate actors at European level, with competences and expertise in the CPMR’s core areas of work: cohesion policy, transport, maritime and fisheries, climate and energy, and migration.

The CPMR produces policy positions based on input from its member regions on the areas above, as well as numerous studies, analyses and technical papers to support them.
The CPMR calls on the European Parliament and Council to agree on an ambitious post-2020 EU budget during the current Multiannual Financial Framework negotiations, supporting strong policies for the development of the European territory.
Cohesion Policy as the EU Investment Policy

- Ensure that Cohesion Policy budget is not sacrificed during the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) negotiations
- Bring back the financial resources allocated to European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) at least to the 2014-2020 level
- Ensure that funding matches regional specificities, needs, and follows the logic of a Cohesion Policy based on categories of regions
- Ensure that complementarity with Invest EU and other programmes does not endanger the objectives of Cohesion Policy and its resources
- Continue to defend the reintegration of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) under the Common Provisions Regulations

Multilevel governance and a strong partnership principle

- Continue to strengthen provisions on multilevel governance and partnership
- Guarantee a strong role for regions regarding the design and implementation of European Structural and Investment Funds programmes

Thematic concentration of priorities

- Continue to defend regional thematic concentration to preserve the regional character of Cohesion Policy
- Make sure that types of territories mentioned in the EU treaties receive adequate attention followed up by the introduction of concrete policy measures

Territorial dimension of the ESF+

- Ensure the key role of the European Social Fund + in promoting social, economic and territorial cohesion

Maritime cooperation within ETC

- Ensure that the allocation methodology reflects the reintegration of maritime cross-border programmes in the ETC architecture
- Avoid the reintroduction of the 150 km limit in the criteria defining eligibility for maritime cross-border cooperation

Cooperation with non-EU countries

- Continue to leave the door open for third countries and the UK to participate in European Territorial Cooperation
- Guarantee third-country participation for Component 5, regardless of whether it comes under ETC or European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) regulations
- Build the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) based on regional needs and maintain its current budget level (including cross-border cooperation involving neighbour countries under INTERREG)

Territorial dimension of the European Semester and the involvement of regions

- Continue to reject macroeconomic conditionality
- Ensure that the governance of the European Semester adopts the same approach as Cohesion Policy on partnership and multilevel governance
- Ask the European Commission to enhance the territorial dimension on the investment guidance for Cohesion Policy funding to ensure future EU funding matches the real needs and priorities of the regions
A strong 2021-2027 Connecting Europe Facility

- Ensure that the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) budget is sufficient to fulfil every objective of the programme
- Use the ERDF to complement resources

Local actors involved in EU Transport Policies

- Make sure that regional and local authorities are consulted when shared-management funds are transferred to the CEF
- Ensure that regional and local authorities have a say in the implementation of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)

Environmentally sustainable transport

- Make sure that the CEF and other programmes contributing to EU Transport Policy support sustainable projects
- Control that innovative and sustainable projects are favoured by the CEF
- Ensure that the EU continues its efforts to mitigate the environmental impact of the aviation sector and improve its sustainability

Territorial accessibility

- Guarantee that EU Transport Policy benefits the whole European Union, including peripheral and remote areas
- Ask the European Commission to report on the TEN-T contribution to cohesion in Europe
- Ensure that the new objective of CEF II on territorial, social and economic cohesion is reflected in the 2021-2027 calls
- Ensure that Public Service Obligations air routes remain an effective tool for regional development

Support maritime transport

- Fight for a stronger support for maritime transport
- Make Motorways of the Seas as important and visible as the 9 Corridors
- Ask the European Commission how it plans to use the results of MedAtlantic Ecobonus on incentive for maritime transport
Reflect EU strategic ambitions for seas, oceans and coastal areas

- Ask the European Commission to develop a comprehensive European maritime strategy to revive the Integrated Maritime Policy
- Promote the involvement of the regions in EU initiatives concerning international ocean governance (in particular outermost regions)

Adequate resources via EMFF and all relevant EU funds

- Ensure that the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) budget is equivalent to its 2014 – 2020 level to support the Common Fisheries Policy as a priority, as well as sustainable blue growth.
- Maintain the share of the EMFF under shared management as a priority
- Ensure that the EMFF is implemented in full partnership with regions, in particular through regional operational programmes
- Continue to support the removal of the obligation to use financial instruments within the EMFF
- Ask the European Commission to monitor the contribution of EU funds to sustainable blue growth, particularly those involving regions and in line with their smart specialisation strategies

A new and ambitious strategy for maritime industrial employment

- Ask the European Commission to launch an EU “LeaderShip 2030” strategy for maritime industries, to protect European interests

Develop the circular economy and protect the marine environment

- Monitor the EU policy approach on the circular economy, marine litter and plastics
- Ensure direct coverage of ecological damage to marine waters either through the European Liability Directive or Civil Liability Convention/International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund international regulations

Support young people and jobseekers

- Support pilot initiatives involving regions on maritime education and training, in line with the EU skills agenda priorities
- Monitor the contribution of Erasmus+ and Blue Careers programmes to policies supporting employability of young people and jobseekers at regional level
Carbon neutrality by 2050

- Guarantee the EU commitment to be carbon neutral and limit global warming to 1.5°C by 2050
- Accelerate actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reach net zero emissions
- Support ambitious EU positions in international climate negotiations

A well-financed climate action

- Ensure that at least 25% of the EU budget contributes to climate objectives
- Beyond that, support new EU initiatives aiming at massively mobilising private and public funding for climate action

Full partnership with regions

- Promote a multi-level governance approach and draw inspiration from climate strategies at regional level
- Support the involvement of regions in the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans
- Ensure that regions that are particularly exposed to the effects of climate change receive specific attention

A just and fair energy transition

- Phase out subsidies to fossil fuels and provide strong support to energy efficiency, renewable energy and emission cuts outside the energy sector
- Increase efforts to roll out the circular economy and increase resource efficiency
- Promote new sustainable employment and business opportunities
- Recognise biodiversity protection and ecosystem restoration as a crucial component of climate action
- Ensure that the EU increases its support to developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change

Engage with citizens, businesses, local and regional authorities

- Continue to raise awareness on climate action
- Launch a European pilot initiative aiming at supporting the involvement of citizens and communities of local actors in mitigation and adaptation actions, including in schools
Migration as a global phenomenon and cross-cutting issue

- Acknowledge that regions are instrumental in migration and asylum policy, helping to implement relevant EU legislation and programmes
- Recognise that regions can help the EU overcome the cleavage between “receiving” and “accommodating” regions and move towards greater cooperation

A better consideration of regions in the Common European Asylum System

- Ask the EU and national authorities to consider involving regions on a voluntary basis for migration issues
- Help strengthen regions’ capabilities to foster migrant integration
- Measure the impact of governance instruments at regional level

More resources for EU funds linked to migration and asylum policies

- Ensure that all funds dealing with migration at territorial level involve or include opportunities for the regions, including for funds under shared management, according to the competence framework at country level (within the Asylum and Migration Fund, NDICI, ERDF and ESF+)

Better coordination across levels of government in the migration-development nexus

- Promote dialogue and knowledge-sharing among regions and ensure that the regions are heard when migration and development are addressed at global level
- Support and strengthen decentralised cooperation (including capacity building and technical assistance) to improve local and regional policies in partner and donor countries, and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals
- Help to link development strategies to voluntary return and to reintegration programmes
- Support the involvement of diasporas in countries of origin and the participation of regions in resettlement programmes on a voluntary basis