



CRPM CPMR

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35TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CPMR 17/19 October 2007 - Florence (Tuscany, Italy)

The Peripheral Maritime Regions listed below met in Florence (Tuscany, Italy) on 17/19 October 2007 for the 35th CPMR General Assembly

ABERDEENSHIRE (UK), ABERDEEN CITY (UK), ABRUZZO (IT), AÇORES (PT), ANDALUCIA (ES), AQUITAINE (FR), ARAGÓN (ES), ARGYLL & BUTE (UK), ASTURIAS (ES), ATTIKI (GR), AUVERGNE* (FR), BALEARES (ES), BASSE-NORMANDIE (FR), BLEKINGE (SE), BORDER (IE), BORNHOLM (DK), BRETAGNE (FR), CALABRIA (IT), CALARASI (RO), CAMPANIA (IT), CANARIAS (ES), ÇANAKKALE (TR), CANTABRIA (ES), CASTILLA Y LEÓN (ES), CATALUNYA (ES), CENTRO (PT), COMUNITAT VALENCIANA (ES), CORNWALL (UK), CORSE (FR), DEVON (UK), EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY (UK), EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY (UK), EAST OF SCOTLAND EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM (UK), EDIRNE (TR), EMILIA ROMAGNA (IT), FAMAGUSTA (CY), FIFE (UK), FRIULI-VENEZIA-GIULIA (IT), GALATI (RO), GALICIA (ES), GÄVLEBORG (SE), GOTLAND (SE), GUADELOUPE (FR), HALLAND (SE), HAMPSHIRE (UK), HAUTE-NORMANDIE (FR), HIGHLAND (UK), HIIUMAA (EE), HORDALAND (NO), IONIA NISIA (GR), ISLE OF MAN, ITÄ-UUSIMAA (FI), KENTRIKI MAKEDONIA (GR), KRITI (GR), KLAIPEDA (LT), KYMENLAAKSO (FI), LA REUNION (FR), LAZIO (IT), LISBOA E VALE DO TEJO (PT), MADEIRA (PT), MARCHE (IT), MIDTJYLLAND (DK), MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN (DE), MØRE OG ROMSDAL (NO), MURCIA (ES), NAVARRA (ES), NOORD-HOLLAND (NL), NORRBOTTEN (SE), NORDLAND (NO), NORDJYLLAND (DK), NORD-PAS-DE-CALAIS (FR), NORTE (PT), NOTIO AIGAIΟ (GR), ODESSA (UA), ORKNEY (UK), ØSTFOLD (NO), OSTROBOTHNIA (FI), OULU (FI), PÄIJÄT-HÄME (FI), PAÍS VASCO (ES), PÄRNUMAA (EE), PAYS DE LA LOIRE (FR), PODLASKIE (PL), POITOU-CHARENTES (FR), PUGLIA (IT), PRIMORSKO-GORANSKA (HR), PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR (FR), RIGA (LV), ROGALAND (NO), SAAREMAA (EE), SARDEGNA (IT), SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN (DE), SHETLAND (UK), SICILIA (IT), SKÅNE (SE), SOGN OG FJORDANE (NO), SOMERSET (UK), SØR-TRØNDELAG (NO), SOUSSE (TN), SOUTH-WEST FINLAND (FI), STOCKHOLM (SE), TELEMAR (NO), THESSALIA (GR), TOSCANA (IT), TROMS (NO), TUKUMS (LV), TULCEA (RO), UUSIMAA (FI), VÄSTERBOTTEN (SE), VÄSTERNORRLAND (SE), VÄSTRA-GÖTALAND (SE), VEST-AGDER (NO), VESTFOLD (NO), WALES (UK), WESTERN ISLES (UK).

(*) *Observer*

Declaration of Member Regions on the adoption of the future EU Treaty

The 159 Member Regions of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe, gathered in Florence for their annual General Assembly on Friday 19 October 2007, wish to warmly congratulate the Summit of Heads of State and Government, meeting on this same day in Lisbon, for managing to overcome all the difficulties and for leading to the adoption of the future EU Treaty.

They extend their praises in particular to the Portuguese Prime Minister, **Mr José Socrates**, President in Office of the Council, and to **Mr José Manuel Durao Barroso**, President of the European Commission.

They reiterate their willingness to participate fully in a renewed governance of the European Union.

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The Regions present at the *General Assembly* should like to thank Tuscany Region and its President, Mr Claudio Martini, President of the CPMR, for their hospitality and welcome.

President Martini thanks all the attending participants representing National Governments, Regional Authorities and European Institutions who took part in the work of the Conference. He especially wishes to thank the Portuguese Government -the six-month EU Presidency- for its attendance at the CPMR General Assembly and its contribution.

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On behalf of its 159 Member Regions, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe, meeting for its 35th Annual General Assembly in Tuscany, adopted the following Final Declaration and Resolutions:

- I -

FINAL DECLARATION

1. The CPMR's member regions are resolutely setting their sights on the year 2020 and intend to start looking to the future now, in order to make their contribution to European adventure begun 50 years ago.

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF EUROPEAN ACTION

2. They very sincerely hope that the uncertainty surrounding the legal framework during these years will be lifted as soon as possible. They congratulate the German and Portuguese EU presidencies for the work accomplished in order to adopt a Treaty that meets the 27 member states' satisfaction without undermining the substance of the European project.

3. They also thank the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions for preserving the essential elements regarding acknowledgement of the regions' existence and the need for territorial cohesion as they emerged from the work by the Convention on the Future of Europe.

4. The adoption and ratification of the Treaty are vital prerequisites for the development of credible prospects for the Union's ambitions in the 21st century world. The CPMR strongly hopes that the process will be completed in 2009 when a new European Commission is appointed and elections to the European Parliament take place. This will create the conditions in which it will then be possible to galvanise all the efforts required, and especially those of the regions, in order to meet the challenges of the 2010-2020 period.

BUILDING A NEW EUROPE

5. In today's global world, our regions' development and employment strategies no longer exist within a solely national context or that of the Single European Market. Free trade, regular and irregular immigration, climate change and the need for access to essential resources (energy, water and food) involve our territories in globalisation whether they like it or not. Regional officials and representatives have to come to terms with this world in order to participate and exploit the benefits for their citizens. They expect the Union to provide them with a framework in which they can take the best advantage of their regions' assets and contribute to the continents' overall competitiveness and efficiency. They expect the Union's institutions and those of its member states to promote the distinctive values of the European model on the global stage; they are prepared to do their share of work in order to promote globalisation with neither losers nor winners, which is a prerequisite for peace, prosperity and democracy in the 21st century.

6. The CPMR has given thought to this challenge in the paper "The European Regions in the Single Market" (February 2007). It intends to put 2008 and 2009 to good use and will continue to produce analysis and proposals on a European project for the next decade. The CPMR's general assemblies in Bayonne and Gothenburg, under the French and Swedish presidencies, will focus on developing this project.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF FUTURE REGIONAL STRATEGIES

7. The CPMR is thoroughly convinced that the extent of the challenges facing the Union, and its member regions in particular, means a considerable effort is needed in order to adapt and even invent new public European, national and regional policy solutions. Four requirements must structure this debate in order to create the foundations of the European model:

- Competitive capacity, without which there will be no production of wealth;
- The imperative of sustainable development;
- The essential need for territorial solidarity to avoid the emergence of a multi-speed continent;
- Governance that fully involves all democratic tiers of government in the identification and delivery of common goals.

These foundations must serve as a starting point for discussions on the 2008/2009 Budget Review. Scrutiny of the level and structure of the budget will only make sense when these foundations have been fully considered and recommendations adopted.

8. A number of fundamental themes, which were included in the CPMR's medium-term development plan as early as 2004 and have since been introduced, will help underpin this approach.

Innovation to promote competitiveness

9. It was necessary to wait five years after the launch of the Lisbon strategy until the Spring Council of Heads of State and Government took note, in March 2005, at the suggestion of the European Commission, of the absence of progress owing to the lack of involvement of all the stakeholders concerned, notably regional stakeholders. This is a decisive battle that has to be won if the Union is to participate in the world as it is developing today. The regions must also make all possible efforts, notably by supporting innovation in their small and medium-sized enterprises.

The European institutions have created many legal and financial instruments in order to achieve this, and regional policy has been comprehensively refocused. A major issue concerns the governance of innovation policies, notably concerning the regions' ability to coordinate efforts and the measures taken by them. This issue is being given close attention by our geographical commissions, as well as a pilot group coordinated by Stockholm Region, in order to identify the difficulties encountered and promote replicable practices. Its work will lead to the organisation of a seminar for all of our regions as well as national and European officials in the second half of 2008.

Maritime assets

10. The expected launch of a European maritime policy is a big issue for our member regions. They have devoted considerable energy to supporting the European Commission's initiative during both the drafting of the Green Paper and the preparation of the Blue Paper.

They would firstly like to express their gratitude to Manuel Durao Barroso, President of the European Commission, Joe Borg, the Maritime Affairs Commissioner, and John Richardson, Head of the Maritime Policy Task Force, for the quality of the partnership they have established and for the thoroughness of the consultation process they set up. Thanks are also due to the European Parliament's rapporteur, Willi Piecyk, the German EU Presidency of the Council, and João Mira Gomes, the Portuguese Maritime Affairs Minister. With its final contribution to the European Commission's Green Paper on EU maritime policy, adopted by the Political Bureau in June 2007, the CPMR has greatly contributed to opening up new prospects. The good practices appended to this paper also strongly emphasised:

- the regions' ability to be act as one of the key levels of maritime policy coordination;
- the need to consider sea basins as another vital level.

The Parliament was happy to acknowledge the legitimacy of these proposals as well as those aimed at acknowledging the specific nature of islands issues, as suggested by our Islands Commission.

CPMR should examine with the successive six-monthly EU Presidencies (Portugal, Slovenia, and France) the entire hypotheses which could contribute to amplify the European Commission's proposals.

11. All hopes are now naturally stored in the Portuguese Presidency. Our member regions urge the 27 Heads of State and Government to give a firm commitment to EU maritime policy at their summit in December 2007. They see it as a manifestation of a Europe of projects for which President Barroso has repeatedly called. They give Claudio Martini, their President, and Jean-Yves Le Drian, President of Brittany Region, a mandate to take responsibility for maritime affairs within the Political Bureau, and ask the General Secretariat to continue taking all necessary measures over the next two months in order to ensure a satisfactory conclusion to this matter.

12. The CPMR particularly welcomes the joint organisation, with the Committee of the Regions and its President, Michel Delebarre, of the Blue Planet Forum on 27 and 28 November 2007, just a few days before the crucial summit. In the meantime, the member regions will also do everything they can to make their views known to their national governments.

13. After this critical phase, the CPMR intends to continue its efforts in 2008, notably by creating a network of regional centres of maritime excellence. It hopes to be able to develop this with the European Commission, and is at its entire disposal for the implementation of policies adopted at December 2007 Summit.

Maritime transport

14. The CPMR applauds the European Commission's appointment of a coordinator for motorways of the sea, at the suggestion of the Transport Commissioner, Jacques Barrot. It wishes Luis Valente Oliveira, who is also President of its Scientific Council, great success and is at his entire disposal to help him accomplish his task. It also emphasises its satisfaction in having persuaded the European Parliament and Council to give the motorways of the sea priority status in the new financial regulation for the Trans-European Transport Network. It would particularly like to thank Paolo Costa, Chairman of the European Parliament's Transport Committee.

15. It stresses its disappointment about the lack of maritime transport projects selected in 2006 under the Marco Polo Programme.

16. It thanks Commissioner Jacques Barrot for having accepted to organise a meeting with all of the member regions on the future of ports and maritime transport on 19 November in Gijón, which will be hosted by Mr Areces, President of Asturias.

Maritime safety

17. The General Assembly adopts the Declaration on Maritime Safety drawn up at the seminar held by Cantabria Region in Santander in April 2007, which has been approved by its Political Bureau. It urges the European Parliament and Council to adopt the Third Maritime Safety Package as rapidly as possible.

Promoting human capital

18. The CPMR congratulates its working group on the development and promotion of the role of regions in the coordination of employment and training policies, which is run by Stockholm and Asturias Regions. Aside from this preliminary work, it urges the European Commission's Employment and Education and Culture DGs to take action to develop a wide partnership with its member regions in order to promote the knowledge economy, which is a key aspect of the Lisbon Strategy. For 2008, it encourages its members to continue exchanging and transferring good practice on four issues:

- lifelong learning;
- the social inclusion of migrants ;
- governance of training policies;
- active employment policies.

Energy

19. The CPMR welcomes the new partnership created by the Energy Commissioner, Andris Piebalgs, and his staff on the basis of the work carried out under the aegis of Navarra Region. For 2008, it gives its working group a mandate to focus its analysis on the following issues:

- How to promote a sustainable energy policy at regional level?
- How to reconcile the fight against climate with the objective of territorial cohesion?

It thanks Primorsko-Goranska Region, a new member region from Croatia, for its commitment to developing the regions' role in this area by organising the forthcoming seminar on 8 and 9 November 2007.

Sustainable development

20. At its meeting in February 2007, the Political Bureau noted that the Gothenburg Strategy has been relegated behind other EU action priorities. The General Assembly agrees that this is regrettable and unsatisfactory. It supports the CPMR's strategy on sustainable development and integrated coastal zone management, as adopted by its Bureau.

It also draws the attention of the European Commission, Council and Parliament to its Political Bureau's position on the right balance that needs to be achieved between environmental objectives and other EU objectives, notably those of economic, social and territorial cohesion.

On the basis of the Resolution submitted to this General Assembly, the CPMR will pursue its efforts to persuade the European Commission, Parliament and Council to forge a policy of adaptation capable of meeting the challenge of climate change. It encourages the Commission to be bold in this area.

Agriculture

21. The CPMR's General Assembly believes that the General Secretariat's paper entitled "Europe's Peripheral Maritime Regions and Changes to the Common Agricultural Policy" gives it basic material to enable the regions to embark upon a period of analysis and preparation of more detailed proposals. It congratulates its Scientific Council on the quality of the work carried out at its seminar organised by Portugal's Centre Region on 31 May and 1 June 2007. It gives the Political Bureau and General Secretariat a mandate to establish a working group involving member regions that reflect the diverse range of European agricultural situations in order to formulate the CPMR's opinion on the future of the CAP at the 2008 General Assembly. It gives the Political Bureau and the General Secretariat a mandate to organise a seminar for all of our member regions, together with EU authorities and its six-month Presidency, during the second half of 2008. The preparatory work could have two strands:

- food safety needs;
- the maintenance of agricultural activity on our member regions' land.

The regions are facing major challenges in the years to come such as globalisation, climate change and demography. All of them are connected to the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas and the continued discussion of sustainable development. The cohesion policy 2014-2020 and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) must reflect and consider these challenges.

It is important to start open and transparent discussions about the next programme period and especially to urge the regions to take an active part in these discussions.

The future cohesion policy should stronger connect the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas focusing on economic growth, competition, innovation and sustainable development. Special attention should be given to regions with geographical and demographic constraints.

Tourism

22. The General Assembly confirms the mandate given by the Political Bureau to the regions of Sicily and Västra-Götaland with a view to establishing, with support from the General Secretariat, an exploratory working group on the development of a sustainable tourism economy. This is an important factor in our member regions' growth.

Territorial cohesion

23. The CPMR is worried about the absence of conclusions and recommendations for action from the European Commission further to the Fourth Report on Cohesion, which displays no positive shift towards greater territorial cohesion within the Union. Any abandonment of this concern would constitute a setback for future European integration. The consecutive enlargements of the Single European Market have been successful because they have been underpinned by mechanisms to support efforts to cope with the uneven impact created by unconstrained competition. These mechanisms have given regions suffering from structural difficulties an opportunity to become stakeholders in the creation of community added value. Whatever form they take, such mechanisms must continue to be a feature of the European model. The General Assembly urges the European Commission to launch a debate on this subject involving all of the stakeholders concerned.

24. For the moment, it would like to thank the German and Portuguese presidencies for their support in developing the Territorial Agenda of the EU. It is pleased that the CPMR has always been involved in this work. It informs the Portuguese EU Presidency, and notably its Spatial Planning Minister, that it is at its entire disposal to contribute to the adoption of an Action Plan at the Informal Council meeting on 23 and 24 November 2007. It strongly urges the Slovenian and French EU presidencies to maintain this effort.

25. The CPMR, which has supported these efforts since the adoption of the European Spatial Development Perspective in 1999, urges the member states to clarify uncertainties, from one six-month presidency to another, relating to the role given to organisations representing regions and cities in this exercise. Their role should be fully and properly acknowledged.

In the same vein, it is essential to link this debate to the EU's operational policy mechanisms, such as regional policy and sectoral policies; otherwise the best recommendations will just be empty promises giving satisfaction to those that make them.

Globalisation and territorial cohesion

26. The necessary and far-reaching debate in the EU on regional and territorial policies over the next decade cannot be removed from the world stage on which Europe and its regions have to compete. This dimension was broadly lacking in the foundations underpinning the launch of EU's regional policy in 1989, which accompanied the internal rationale for creating the Single European Market.

To take into account this new dimension and its implications for its member regions, the CPMR has in recent years started to develop its relations with both regional organisations from other continents as well as institutions involved in global governance. The European territorial cohesion model will not survive unless this need (and its cost) is shared between competing economic and political groupings in the EU. This is why the CPMR will continue its efforts in three areas.

27. It is important to act as a source for proposals on global, continental and national policies that give the regions an opportunity to exploit their material, human and economic potential in global markets. Furthermore, is it necessary to identify the key factors of territorial competitiveness more closely? This is the objective of the research seminar on 3 and 4 December 2007, which is being jointly organised with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the support of the European Commission, the OECD and the Portuguese EU Presidency of the EU. The seminar, entitled "Territories and Globalisation", is being held at the invitation of Mr Fonseca Ferreira, President of the Lisbon and Tagus Valley Region.

The conclusions of this seminar will provide material for the Second Convention for a Regional and Local Approach to Development, which will take place in Tangier from 12 to 14 May 2008, at the invitation of Mr Benallal, President of the Tangier-Tétouan Region and the Kingdom of Morocco. The United Nations, the OECD and the European Commission will, with the CPMR, play host to regions from other continents with a view to progressively identifying territorial instruments for equitable development.

The desire for an open approach also led to the first meeting between maritime stakeholders from the five continents in the Azores on 9 and 10 July. This was organised by the CPMR with the Portuguese EU Presidency and Commissioner Joe Borg, and hosted by Carlos César, President of the Azores Regional Government. The aim was to launch a dialogue on the role of oceans in globalisation. The CPMR urges the European Commission and Council to examine the conditions necessary for the pursuit of this global debate, which is vital for the sustainable management of oceans that belong to everybody.

It was also to this end that the CPMR will provide its technical support for the organisation of the global summit of regions on climate change, which will be organised by the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) from 28 to 31 October 2008 in Saint-Malo (France), at the invitation of Jean-Yves Le Drian, President of Brittany Region.

The range of these initiatives focused on the global dimension will contribute to the development of the post-2013 plan for Europe that is being prepared by the CPMR.

28. The CPMR will continue to support the development of regions' ability to voice their opinions so that they have an impact on the world stage.

The General Assembly takes note of the Declaration of the Regions on their Participation in the Governance of Globalisation, which was ratified by its Political Bureau and adopted at the First International Convention for a Regional and Local Approach to Development on 7 March 2007 in Marseille. This was hosted by Michel Vauzelle, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and President of the Intermediterranean Commission. It sincerely thanks Danuta Hübner, the Regional Policy Commissioner, Eneko Landaburu, Director General for External Relations at the European Commission, Bruce Jenks, Assistant Administrator of the UNDP, the OECD and the French Foreign Affairs Ministry for their support in organising this event.

The General Assembly congratulates its President, Claudio Martini, on his appointment as President of the Forum of Global Associations of Regions (FOGAR) when its Executive Bureau was created at a meeting organised by Western Cape Province (South Africa) on 24 and 25 August 2007. In line with the CPMR's duty and pioneering tradition, it must lend its support to the development of an organisation involving the world's regions. This support will surely strengthen the role of the regions within the Union itself. The General Assembly warmly thanks those of its member regions that have decided to give their individual support to these initiatives. It approves the creation of a working group bringing them together.

The General Assembly calls for synergy between, and convergence of, regional efforts with those of other sub-national authorities.

29. To help regions become more involved in global exchanges, efforts to facilitate cooperation between European regions and regions from other continents must be pursued.

The CPMR thanks the European Commission for the role it has given the regions in the Regulations governing its external cooperation for the 2008-2013 period. This is a new recognition of the regions' ability to participate in the Union's policies.

30. The Intermediterranean Commission, the Baltic Sea Commission, the Balkans and Black Sea Commission and the Outermost Regions will maintain their strong commitment to the implementation of neighbourhood and wider neighbourhood policies. They repeat their total availability to play a full role.

31. The General Assembly is pleased with the first real cooperation projects launched among some of its member regions, some of the geographical commissions and other regions and organisations involving regions from other continents with support from the European Commission and UN agencies. It would particularly like to thank Kemal Dervis, Administrator of the UNDP, for the partnership developed.

32. Lastly, the General Assembly embraces the opinion of its Political Bureau on the management of irregular immigration in the EU's peripheral regions, which was issued at the initiative of the regional government of the Canary Islands. It lends its support to those of its member regions that are most closely affected by this phenomenon and asks the Commission and Council to examine these proposals carefully. It asks its working group on global issues to undertake the work referred to in this opinion in order to ensure "that the Support and Cooperation Plan for the Seas of Europe, focusing on the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, the Caribbean and Indian Oceans, is jointly drawn up with all the peripheral maritime regions."

PURSUING THE CPMR'S MEDIUM-TERM DEVELOPMENT

33. The General Assembly is pleased to welcome seven new member regions: Burgas, Varna (Bulgaria), Chiatura (Georgia), Picardie (France), Schleswig-Holstein (Germany), Monastir (Tunisia) and Syddanmark (Denmark).

In 2004, at its General Assembly in Stavanger, the CPMR agreed on its Second Medium-term Development Plan. The General Assembly notes that this needs to be adjusted to take account of changes in the European and global contexts. Drawing on the strength of its 159 member regions, it gives the Political Bureau and General Secretariat a mandate to ensure it takes on board the recommendations approved in this Final Declaration for the 2008 and 2009 period.

It also asks the Political Bureau and Secretary General to undertake the necessary analysis and debate to continue developing the CPMR as a means for achieving objectives, so that it can best support the challenges of the post-2010 period. Proposals on this matter should be debated at the General Assembly in Aberdeen.

**Adopted unanimously
(1 abstention)**

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- II -

RESOLUTIONS

II.1 - Resolution on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities

(Presented by the North Sea Commission)

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**II.2 - Resolution on Energy and Climate Change**

(Presented by the Baltic Sea Commission)

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II.3 - Declaration of support for Via Baltica through construction of the Augustów road bypass

(Presented by the Baltic Sea Commission)

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**II.4 - Resolution on the fight against marine pollution in the Mediterranean**

(Presented by the Intermediterranean Commission)

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II.5 - Resolution on the forest fires

(Presented by the Intermediterranean Commission)

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**II.6 - Resolution on adapting to Climate Change in Europe: Options for EU Action-COM(2007) 354 final**

(Presented by the Conference of the Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe)

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ILLEGAL UNREGULATED UNREPORTED FISHING ACTIVITIES

Resolution presented by the North Sea Commission

The North Sea Commission (NSC) will work together at both at Political and technical level, to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU-fishing), in cooperation with the member regions, and in accordance with national and international legislation and best practice.

Acknowledging that control of IUU-fishing is a battle for all European Maritime Regions, and each State must take preventive measures. Cooperation between port states is one of the most efficient measures to combat the problem.

The Troms County Government, on the basis of the Norwegian policies regarding IUU-fishing, is of the opinion that greater attention on IUU-fishing is needed on the European agenda. Regional authorities should strongly support national agreements to curb IUU-fishing, and actively take part in the development of new frameworks.

The NSC and CPMR is a natural forum for working towards this aim as IUU-fishing affects all European fishing/ coastal regions. National authorities can execute reporting duty on all landings of fish, but only active control mechanisms at each landing site can ensure actual implementation of the rules at all times. If the European regions can agree to a common effort on this issue, and help make the existing regulations binding, it will be a substantial leap forwards a better common future.

We urge all member states of the North Sea and CPMR to take part in an active campaign against IUU-fishing, and to actively support all international measures taken to combat the problem. With reference to the CPMR project "Europe of the Seas" and the current focus on the EU-green paper on maritime policies, we recommend all members to acknowledge a common responsibility to actively combat IUU-fishing in order to protect the marine environment and the people living by and of the sea.

Adopted unanimously

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ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Resolution presented by the Baltic Sea Commission

The CPMR wish to express its firm commitment to working for a sustainable development of our societies and combating the process of global warming and climate change. Therefore, we welcome the initiatives in the European Commission's Energy and Climate package "Energy for a Changing World", and are convinced that the ambitious targets are a step in the right direction, and that they can be reached with the appropriate measures.

The CPMR would like to underline the importance of the role of the regions as partners in the EU energy policies. The renewable energy sources in the maritime and peripheral regions amount an enormous potential in terms of producing bioenergy and bioelectricity from windpower, solar energy, wave power, hydrogen and more. Some regions also have vast areas of land that can produce energy not only from agriculture but also from forestry. The regions also have state-of-the-art research and innovations in the fields of energy and environment. Furthermore, regions used to a colder climate during a large part of the year, for instance in Scandinavia, have extensive experience of energy efficient housing and other energy efficient measures.

The CPMR underlines the need to combine renewable energy as a solution to energy needs in the future, with both demand reduction and energy efficiency as ways of working towards a low carbon future.

With all of this in mind, we, the members regions of the CPMR:

- Would like to encourage the European Union to continue setting out **ambitious targets**, as we have seen that they **work as incentives** for further research and development, innovations and for motivating the industry as well as the member states to enhancing their strategies towards reaching the targets.
- Want competition, economic and social growth, climate change and sustainable development - i.e. the **Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas** - to be at **core focus** in the review of the EU budget and in the post-2013 period. This includes the CAP, Rural Development programmes, Cohesion policy, Framework programmes and other parts of the EU budget.
- Urge the European Commission take a **leading role** in the work towards a **new international protocol** in the post-Kyoto period from 2012, where the EU should set a good example in the battle against climate change.
- Recognize that maritime and peripheral regions are some of the greatest potential producers of renewable energy. However, there are major **problems in transmitting any surplus** energy to the more densely populated areas because of the **lacking infrastructures**. This paradox, that regions with a surplus of energy or a great potential production find themselves unable to distribute their products to where they are needed, must be overcome with **investments and improvements** in infrastructure.
- Believe that in order to reduce the CO₂ emissions, we need to support the use of **renewable and sustainable energy sources**, preferably locally resourced and managed, instead of fossil fuel.
- Consider that in developing renewables, especially bioenergy, the European Union needs to ensure that growth is achieved without damage to the important area of food production especially in the developing countries.
- Recognize the importance of Research and Development to the growth of renewables. Call upon the European Union to ensure that R&D Programmes like Framework 7 are easily accessible and better co-ordinated in line with the recommendations of CREST (Scientific and Technical Research Committee).
- Welcome the review of the **Emission Trading Scheme** and its future after the second period ends in 2012, and want to extend it to cover **more sectors, more gases and more countries** than those

included in the system today. A survey conducted by PriceWaterhouseCoopers¹ and published in July 2007, shows that a major increase in investments in renewable energy has taken place in 2007 compared to the previous years. Two out of three European energy companies state that the EU's Emission Trading Scheme plays a major part in this change.

- Emphasize that reducing the carbon footprint and having a secure and sustainable energy supply not only lead to a **better environment, jobs and sustainable growth**. It also holds other social dimensions that cannot be underestimated. This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Rome Treaty, and we are reminded of the initial reasons for creating what later became the European Union: **peace and solidarity**. With increasing world energy consumption, access to energy has become an even more important power tool. By cooperating in European networks and projects, we exchange ideas, experiences and knowledge among the regions, thus improving more **equal access to sustainable energy** and, in the long run, **sustainable societies**.

Adopted unanimously



¹ "Energy and Efficiency: Utilities Global Survey 2007", PriceWaterHouseCoopers
[http://www.pwc.com/extweb/pwcpublishations.nsf/docid/01834727CE72FBAD852572F8007175EC/\\$File/energy-and-efficiency_utilities_global_survey_2007.pdf](http://www.pwc.com/extweb/pwcpublishations.nsf/docid/01834727CE72FBAD852572F8007175EC/$File/energy-and-efficiency_utilities_global_survey_2007.pdf)

- II.3 -

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR VIA BALTICA THROUGH CONSTRUCTION OF THE AUGUSTOW ROAD BYPASS

Resolution presented by the Baltic Sea Commission

The VIA BALTICA² is a route of utmost importance for the European Union and the only way to reach the Baltic States and Finland by road from any point in the EU without having to leave EU territory.

This route was decided at the Summit of the European Transport Ministries in Crete (GR) in March 1994. Indeed, the EU Summit decided to name VIA BALTICA as a *Pan-European Transport Corridor*.

Unfortunately, the construction of this *Pan-European Transport Corridor* was suspended in Poland as it is in conflict with the NATURA 2000 project.

Due to these two decisions there is a conflict between NATURA 2000 and TENs policies. This conflict has caused the suspension of the road bypass construction in Augustów³ (Podlaskie - PL) that is presently the bottle neck of VIA BALTICA.

When VIABALTICA passes through Poland it becomes a narrow passage between two non-EU Member States (Russia-Kaliningrad and Byelorussia) and unfortunately there are no alternative ways through the corridor outside the NATURA 2000 area, without making the bypass significantly more expensive and without creating more pollution. Traffic on this part of the route has been rapidly increasing since the accession of Poland in the European Union (1st May 2004) creating traffic hazards. For instance, in the Region Podlaskie (PL) in 2006, 208 people died on the road and 1,438 people were injured because of 12,955 road collisions

Poland acknowledged this problem many years ago and decided to reconstruct VIA BALTICA passing through Augustów, before the Polish accession to the EU and furthermore before setting up Natura 2000 areas⁴.

This project will definitely boost the development of all Baltic and Scandinavian Regions and moreover it will increase the cohesion of Europe. Therefore, the member Regions of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission recommends the European Commission to reconsider its decision on the Augustów road bypass and readdress this issue in accordance with the principles of sustainable development and fairness among European citizens, to ensure optimal competitiveness for the region of Podlaskie and fair access of its population to services of general interest.

**Adopted by a majority vote
(4 votes against - 6 abstentions)**

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² European route E67, is a highway running from Prague in the Czech Republic to Helsinki in Finland by way of Poland, Kaunas (Lithuania), Riga (Latvia), and Tallinn (Estonia).

³ Augustów is a tourist center in North-Eastern Poland and its economic development is significantly linked to the construction of the VIA BALTICA. Other towns in the Podlaskie Region are also affected by the same issue.

⁴ Following 15 years of legal procedures, broad social consultations with various stakeholders, and numerous thorough assessments of ecological, economical and social impact of five different variants, the long-awaited construction of Augustów road bypass had finally begun last winter.

THE FIGHT AGAINST MARINE POLLUTION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Resolution presented by the Intermediterranean Commission

Meeting in Florence on 17 October 2007, the member regions of the CPMR's Intermediterranean Commission, have adopted the following declaration.

The regions consider de-pollution of the Mediterranean to be a priority issue for the future of people living around the Mediterranean Basin and are concerned that the situation is deteriorating.

The context

The high number of pollutants, principally coming from the land, and notably resulting from demographic trends, coastal activities and the expanse of the drainage basins concerned, coupled with the Mediterranean's water shortage, make it one world's most vulnerable seas with respect to pollution.

The concentration of pollutants in waters, sediment and living organisms constitutes a major social, economic and environmental risk.

In several areas (health, the tourism industry, drinking water supplies, fisheries and marine biodiversity), the effects of increased pollution will build up and become worse as a result of climate change.

Only a decrease in pollution permitting the protection of the health of ecosystems will enable them to best adapt to the effects of climate change (climate-proofing).

In this context, the Mediterranean regions:

- are very pleased about the increased international and European awareness regarding the extent of this problem in the Mediterranean;
- Are delighted with the Union's initiatives in this area, notably through the "Horizon 2020 initiative, the Water Framework Directive, marine strategy and environmental strategy concerning protection of the Mediterranean";
- Realise that several bodies and programmes have already been working for many years in the Mediterranean, for example the six Regional Activity Centres of the UNEP's Mediterranean Action Plan (REMPEC, Blue Plan, RAC/SPA, PAP/RAC, Info/RAC and CP/RAC) (*), and note the existence of an overall monitoring programme such as MED POL and several funding programmes supported by the EU (*);
- However, they regret that no overview of these activities has been drawn up at Mediterranean level, making it possible to learn lessons from the results obtained and analyse observed obstacles to action;
- They consider that the governance of the tools of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and of the MAP are still insufficient and unsuitable, and are convinced that only a new governance of the Mediterranean area – entailing close cooperation between international, national, regional and local levels – will help to reduce pollution in the Mediterranean;
- They consider that the tiers of government that are really operational in spatial planning and land management and have an impact on the environment are not being consulted under these schemes, with the notable exception of the Horizon 2020 initiative;
- The regions, through their partnership with local stakeholders, know about many local initiatives which are not presently being assessed in terms of their scope and impact. They believe that the regional and local levels provide the best guarantee for the lasting development of integrated and operational approaches to spatial management that are of the right and appropriate scale for citizens;
- They assert that regional government is the best level for introducing platforms for exchanging data and experience between local stakeholders and the EU and the UNEP;
- This is why they repeat their commitment to take part, through the CPMR, in the Euro-Mediterranean debate on policies on de-pollution of the Mediterranean, and particularly the Horizon 2020 initiative;
- As far as the instruments required for action are concerned, the regions are very pleased with the development of the MEDSTAT programme and the EU's desire to establish an European Atlas of the Seas, as well as the stronger partnerships between the EU and the UN in this field. However, they expect these

instruments to take better account of marine data and to ensure better dissemination of these data through regional and local institutions;

- They stress that, aside just drawing up statistics, the production of comparable data is a priority in order to provide stakeholders with decision-making tools and indicators on how the situation is evolving;
- They are prepared to contribute to these cooperation programmes on data and statistics, notably by providing their data, but they would like to be more closely involved in European strategies for producing and interpreting cartographic data. On this matter, the regions are pleased about the cooperation instigated by the European Environment Agency and would like to see it reinforced;
- They would like the European Commission to provide them with more elements of analysis to enable them adapt their own policy accordingly.

The Water Framework Directive

- The regions consider the Water Framework Directive (WFD) to be an effective and suitable instrument for tackling pollution in water masses, because it is tailored to specific local circumstances. It is, however, insufficiently adapted to coastal waters;
- They draw the Union's attention to the danger that the Water Framework Directive's impact on coastal waters will be restricted by the difficulty national and local institutions encounter in ensuring they have the appropriate powers at their disposal;
- they would like marine strategy, which will take into account the whole Mediterranean Basin, to be able to complement the Water Framework Directive for the marine environment;
- They believe it is vital to launch a strategic and technical dialogue between the coordinators of the Framework Directive and MEDPOL. They want to see the introduction of lasting mechanisms for the operational monitoring of water quality across the whole Basin, following the example of what has been achieved on an experimental basis in the MYTILOS and MYTIMED programmes to promote the monitoring and evaluation of pollution in the Mediterranean;
- They approve of the desire to focus the resources of the Horizon 2020 initiative on 'hot spots', although they stress the need to also take into account the vulnerability of the environments concerned and notably the need to protect areas that are currently little-affected but have a high level of ecologically diversity, such as protected marine areas, and they recommend the organisation of a vulnerability analysis for coastal areas.

Chemical pollution

- The regions want the issue of chemical pollution at sea to be given particular attention in the 7th R&D Framework Programme, notably regarding how chemical products and those of the human pharmacopoeia react in the sea and how they penetrate marine ecosystems;
- They are very pleased about the entry into force of the REACH Directive and want the EU to give priority attention to evaluating industrial plants using the 320 most toxic products (carcinogens, mutagens and substances toxic to reproduction – CMRs) along the shores of the Mediterranean Basin and the major rivers running into it (the Po, the Rhône, the Ebro, the Nile, etc);
- They ask the European Union to make funding available for these plants so that they can provide the training needed for correct implementation of the Directive, the drawing up of terms of reference for toxicological studies, and the sharing of results between companies;
- They regret the exclusion from this Directive of numerous chemical substances presenting a potentially major threat to marine ecosystems and fishing stocks, and notably pharmaceutical, cosmetic and plant health products;
- As far as pollution of maritime origin is concerned, they want the Union to take into consideration the proposals they sent to the Commission during the public consultation on the European Maritime Policy Green Paper.

- APPENDIX -

DECLARATION ON POLLUTION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP): www.unepmap.eu : Coordination Unit based in Athens

The aim of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) is to protect the environment and promote the development of the Mediterranean Basin. It was adopted in Barcelona, Spain, in 1975 by 16 Mediterranean countries and the EU, under the umbrella of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Its legal framework is governed by the Barcelona Convention, which was adopted in 1976 and revised in 1995, and its six Protocols addressing specific aspects of environmental conservation.

The Mediterranean Pollution (MED POL) Programme: Coordinated by the MAP (Athens)

- Activities:

In 1975, the MAP recommended the adoption of a coordinated programme for continuous monitoring and research on pollution in the Mediterranean marine environment. This led to the creation of the MED POL Programme. It constitutes the MAP's scientific component for pollution assessment.

Phase I of MED POL (1975-1980) was developed and coordinated by the UNEP with cooperation from specialised institutions such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNESCO. The general objective was to draw up an ecological assessment of the Mediterranean and to provide countries with the scientific and technical information they needed in order to negotiate and implement the Protocols.

In the **second phase** (1981-1995), MED POL committed itself to providing the Parties to the Convention with:

- information required for implementing the Convention and its Protocols;
- indicators and assessments of the effectiveness of pollution prevention measures taken in order to implement the Convention and its Protocols;
- scientific information likely to give rise to amendments to these legal instruments.

Taking into account the successes and shortfalls of the first phases, **Phase III** of the Programme made new recommendations for the 1996-2005 period. The main innovation was the refocusing of evaluation activities on the fight against pollution; the MED POL Programme is thus currently used for implementing the Protocols on pollution from "land-based sources", "dumping" and "hazardous wastes" Protocols.

Phase IV is currently being prepared.

The Regional Activity Centres (RACs):

PAP/RAC: www.pap-thecoastcentre.org : Based in Split

PAP/RAC mainly deals with integrated coastal zone management (ICZM).

ICZM is a continuous, pro-active and adaptable process for managing coastal areas in a sustainable manner. The Priority Actions Programme (PAP) has developed a methodology, guidelines, tools, techniques and numerous practical ICZM projects.

The ICZM Protocol - a new legal instrument

One of the ten major projects of PAP/RAC and the Mediterranean Action Plan is the drafting of a Protocol on ICZM. This is also a major objective of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). A working group involving experts appointed by Mediterranean governments has been created in order to work on the text of the Protocol so that it can be adopted in 2007.

REMPEC: www.rempec.org : Based in Malta

Aims and objectives

REMPEC's predecessor, the **Regional Oil Combating Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (ROCC)** was established in Malta on 11 December 1976, in order to assist Mediterranean coastal countries in the

implementation of the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency (the Emergency Protocol) to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (**Barcelona Convention**). It was the first such Regional Centre in the world, set up under **UNEP**'s Regional Seas Programme. Operating on the basis of the decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the Centre has been administered by the International Maritime Organisation (**IMO**), and is financed by the Mediterranean Trust Fund.

The Centre's mandate was extended in 1987 to include "hazardous substances other than oil", and in 1989 the Contracting Parties approved the new objectives and functions of the Centre and changed its name to the *Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)*.

REMPEC's objectives and functions were further modified in November 2001 in order to reflect the new role of the Centre envisaged by the adoption of the new Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (**Prevention and Emergency Protocol**).

The Centre maintains an extensive **library** and a number of **databases**, and produces various **documents**.

The Blue Plan: www.planbleu.org : Based in Sophia-Antipolis, France

Mandate:

- To provide political leaders and decision-makers with all information that will enable them to develop plans likely to ensure sustained optimal socio-economic development without degrading the environment.
- To help governments of coastal states in the Mediterranean region to increase their knowledge of the joint problems they have to face, both in the Mediterranean Sea and in their coastal areas.

RAC/SPA: Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas - www.rac-spa.org : Based in Tunis.

In compliance with the SPA/BD Protocol (on specially protected areas and biodiversity), RAC/SPA is responsible for carrying out the functions entrusted to it by the Parties, as well as the following functions:

- Helping the Parties, in cooperation with the competent international organisations, IGOs and NGOs, to set up and manage specially protected areas, to successfully complete scientific and technical research programmes and the exchange of such information between the Parties;
- Making recommendations concerning guidelines and common criteria and preparing reports and technical studies that may be necessary for implementing the SPA/BD Protocol;
- Establishing and updating databases on specially protected areas, protected species and other subjects that come under the SPA/BD Protocol;
- developing and delivering training programmes;
- Successfully carrying out the functions entrusted to it by the actions plans adopted as part of the SPA/BD Protocol.

INFO/RAC: Information and Communication Centre/Regional Activity Centre

www.inforac.org: Based in Rome

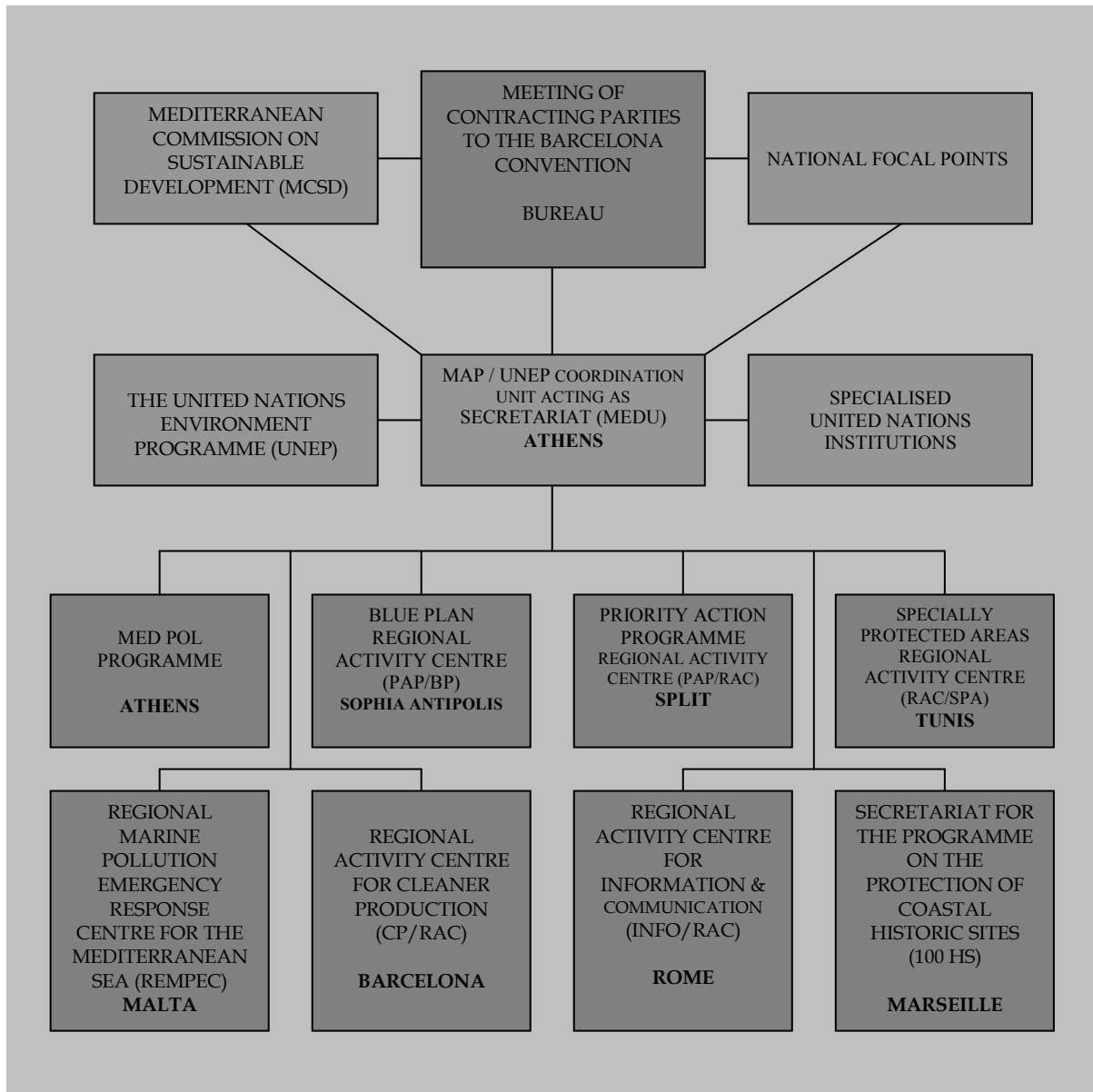
The mandate of RAC/ERS (Environmental Remote Sensing) is:

- To improve knowledge and understanding about the state of, and changes in, the environment in the Mediterranean;
- To support the process of planning and decision-making concerning sustainable development in the Mediterranean, by encouraging the use of remote sensing by satellite and its combination with other information sources.

CP/RAC: Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production: www.cprac.org : Based in Barcelona

The major objectives of the CP/RAC are to promote the prevention and reduction of pollution in industry and to provide technical support to the Contracting Parties, to organisations and institutions, and, through them, to companies wishing to promote less polluting and more ecological techniques and practices in their sector of activity.

Overview:



Adopted unanimously

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DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE FOREST FIRES
Resolution presented by the Intermediterranean Commission

CPMR is devastated by the catastrophic fires which caused deaths and destruction all over the European Continent and especially in countries of southern Europe, such as Spain, Italy and Greece.

Greece, in fact, suffered a big national tragedy, resulting in the death of more than 60 people, the loss of thousands of hectares of forests and the destruction of whole villages.

In addition, the economic and social consequences of these natural catastrophes are particularly hazardous for the economy, productive activity and tourism of the peripheral regions.

It is indubitable that a great number of fires was the result of numerous factors, among which are the global warming, the combination of natural causes and human negligence as well as human criminal activities.

Taking all the above into consideration, CPMR:

- Expresses its condolences and its undivided solidarity towards the families of those who have lost their lives and towards the residents of the territories which were struck by fires, and honours the fire fighters, the volunteers but also the simple citizens who risked their lives in order to extinguish the fires, rescue people, limit the damages and save the environment from the natural catastrophes of this summer.
- Acknowledges the solidarity shown by the members of the European Union and by other countries who offered substantial support to all those territories struck by fire.
- Considers a necessity to reforest immediately all the woodland that was burnt and strictly follow the programme of reforestation.
- Stresses the need to reinforce the prevention of forest fires with the reinforcement of the civil services dealing with them, as well as the need for all the citizens to be alert.
- Stresses the need to take strong measures for the improvement and the application of the law in the sector of the protection of the forests as well as to inflict severe punishment to all those who try to profit in any way from the territories struck by natural disasters.
- Acknowledges that many fires were due to criminal activities and considers a necessity to set even more severe punishments for the criminal acts that lead to natural disasters and, in particular, to those acts that cause fires in forests.
- Calls the governments of the countries whose peripheral regions are its members to forward the aims of the Kyoto Protocol and to deal with the matters of the protection of the environment considering them of the utmost importance for the quality of life as well as for life itself not only of this generation but also of the future generations.

Adopted unanimously



**ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN EUROPE - OPTIONS FOR EU ACTION
COM(2007) 354 FINAL**

Resolution presented by the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe

Having regard to the Green Paper on Adapting to Climate Change (COM(2007) 354 final) adopted by the European Commission on 29 June 2007;

Having regard to the positions agreed by the CPMR at the seminar on "How maritime regions can adapt to the future climate", which was held in Marseille in February 2006;

Having regard to the remarks and observations made by the CPMR's geographical commissions on the Green Paper on Adapting to Climate Change in Europe;

The CPMR's Member Regions, meeting at their General Assembly in Florence (Tuscany) on 17, 18 and 19 October 2007, passes the following resolution:

1. The CPMR is delighted with the European Commission's initiative to publish a Green Paper on adapting to climate change in Europe; this has been an issue of concern shared by all the maritime regions and they are alarmed to see their territories and economies increasingly threatened by the consequences of this change;

2. It understands the dual challenge of mitigation and adaptation, but believes it is important to stress that these two strands are overlapping and that the regions should make a contribution to both.

3. It also stresses that this Green Paper should be considered within an overall context and that the policies proposed should be notably linked to the EU's maritime dimension, marine strategy, integrated coastal zone management and the review of policies in areas such as energy and agriculture. This context should also take into account the opportunities offered by the start of a new programming period and the forthcoming discussions on the post-2013 period;

4. The CPMR agrees with the observations made in the Green Paper regarding the extent of future change for all economic sectors and territories, the urgent need to devise solutions, and the global dimension of the phenomenon; it draws the Commission's attention to the need to complete its analysis by taking into account aspects relating to the cultural heritage of maritime regions that are seriously threatened by the consequences of climate change; it also asks for equal consideration to be given to economic and social consequences alongside environmental consequences. In this context, they are particularly concerned about the consequences for human health and the need to adapt social services to new living conditions; they also want to give particular emphasis to island areas, where adaptation measures will be more difficult to implement owing to the particular circumstances of their economies;

Lastly, the CPMR stresses the interest for the Union in giving particular attention to the Outermost Regions which are subject to specific risks, such as the intensity and frequency of cyclone phenomena. Due to their geographical situation and the scientific resources available to these Regions, the OMR can be highly valuable both in the knowledge and in the prevention of the consequences of climate change

5. Bearing these observations in mind, the CPMR believes that the solutions proposed by the Green Paper fail to meet the challenges arising and rejects the idea that adaptation to climate change can mostly be achieved through the adaptation of existing sectoral policies; from this point of view it calls for a thorough overhaul of certain policies, particularly energy policy, for which there are nowadays suitable technologies to help make the transfer to a low-carbon economy, and transport policy by organising the shift of traffic flows towards maritime (short sea shipping and motorways of the sea) and rail transport. The CPMR underlines the need to combine renewable energy as a solution to energy needs in the future, with both demand reduction and energy efficiency as ways of working towards a low carbon future.

6. It asks the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council to grasp the opportunity offered by the discussion on climate change to undertake a far-reaching debate on the Union's development model, objectives, organisation and policies. It considers that such a debate would help to give European integration a new sense of purpose, galvanise both public and private efforts and initiatives, and strengthen the reputation and effectiveness of the EU's action in the world;

7. To this end, it requests the organisation of a major congress on sustainable development in Europe; this should be done as soon as possible in order to design, adopt and deliver a sustainable development model that abandons the sectoral system and adopts an integrated approach as the basis for its organisation. It notably asks that this debate should provide an opportunity to introduce specific policy coordination measures, both between EU policies and between policies at different levels of governance;

8. Among early emergency measures, the CPMR asks the Commission to make full use of existing cooperation instruments – and the transnational strand of Objective 3 in particular – by setting such instruments priorities aimed at promoting measures on adaptation to climate change;

9. The CPMR's member regions intend to contribute to the implementation of these measures and stress that they give priority to information schemes, particularly regarding the need for access to data and action plans drawn up on the basis of research results, to exchanges of experience and good practice, and the organisation of vulnerability studies on their territories and regional economies, so they can adapt their development strategies, planning documents and action priorities by involving all public and private stakeholders;

10. Lastly, the CPMR asks the Commission and the Member States to support the regions' efforts to promote their involvement in the creation of a global regional government network, notably in the framework of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD), which has made the fight against climate change one of its action priorities. They urge the Commission, the European Parliament, Member States and the Regions to participate actively in the conference to be held in Saint-Malo (Brittany) in October 2008, which, through the nrg4SD network, will bring together regional governments from across the world on the subject of climate change.

Adopted unanimously

