



CONFÉRENCE DES RÉGIONS PÉRIPHÉRIQUES MARITIMES D'EUROPE
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CPMR CALLS FOR REGIONS WHO ARE PARTNERS IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION POLICIES

Within the framework of the "Week of Innovative Regions in Europe", <http://wire.fecyt.es/publico/Inicio/index.aspx?idioma=en>, which took place in Grenada (ES) from 15th to 17th March 2010 under the Spanish Presidency, the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR) expressed its support for a political reflection on the synergies between the future cohesion policy after 2013, the 8th Framework Programme (FP8) and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP).

"It is in drawing on the support of all regions that Europe must continue to progress towards better synergies between research, territorial cohesion and growth. Beyond the principle of a strong cohesion policy, the CPMR consequently calls for the European Commission to open a new area for the regions' direct involvement, and to consider them as genuine partners in the European research area," declared **Damien Périssé**, CPMR Director in charge of Research, who today chaired the round table focusing on the coherence of governance at regional, national and European level.

In her speech, **Damien Périssé** also reacted very positively to the invitation for the CPMR to participate in the group of experts set up by the European Commission on the synergies between cohesion policy, the FP8 and the CIP. This group of experts will meet regularly and make political recommendations which will become the basis for a second European conference on innovative regions under the Hungarian Presidency. The CPMR, whose work in this area is coordinated by the Midi Pyrénées Region (FR), will represent the regions in this group. **Eleni Marianou**, Secretary general, will represent the CPMR within this group.

On these policy areas, the CPMR is in complete agreement with the approach of **Danuta Hübner**, President of the European Parliament's Committee for Regional Development, who, in the opening session, declared that *"Europe cannot afford to leave parts of its territory with a growth deficit. All regions and cities must upgrade their human capital and capitalise on their resources via knowledge and innovation"*.

Finally, the CPMR also agreed with the Commissioner for regional policy, **Johannes Hahn** who in his speech (http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/hahn/files/speech_15032010_en.pdf) stressed an innovation which *"can only take place if there is the political will and commitment of all actors working together whether it be on a local, national or European level and we need cohesion policy to embrace all European regions in a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth"*.

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