

EDITORIAL

TENOR: NEW LOOK, MORE CONTENT



After 14 monthly issues we can say that we are really pleased with our small communications instrument designed to bring our regions closer to Europe and spread European values in our territories.

In order to further accommodate our growing number of subscribers, we have redesigned THE TENOR in an attempt to make it easier to read while providing additional content.

We do hope you will like the new look and we are interested in what you think of the changes and ideas for improving it.

Xavier Gizard (xavier.gizard@crpm.org)

REGIONS ABOVE THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

Peripheral regions are not only in Europe. Due to the **Forum of Networks of World Regions** created in Marseille in March 2007, the CPMR is already sharing experiences with other sub-national entities in different parts of the globe such as the **Northern Forum**, an international association composed of sub-national governments from different Arctic Circle countries, such as the United States, Russia, Iceland, Japan, Canada or Finland.



*“Northern regions share characteristics that set them apart from other areas of the world”. Said Priscilla Post Wohl, the Executive Director and President of an association similar to the CPMR from the extreme North, based in Alaska (US). Indeed, their economies are only based upon the extraction of natural resources, infrastructure development is very limited, climate is harsh, ecosystems very vulnerable and in addition the sparse population has a strong indigenous culture. Such complex factors create unique challenges for regional Governors. Therefore the Northern Forum brings these leaders together from throughout the North to address common political, environmental and economic issues.*

*Ms Wohl, when talking about development why is it that we just mention Africa or South America, not considering other areas such as those you represent in your North Pole association?*

During the *“First International Convention for a Territorial Approach to Development”* held in Marseille on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2007, organised by the CPMR and UNDP (United Nations Development Program) and attended by representatives from many different regions all over the world, I came to the conclusion that the North is a forgotten area. I was asked many times: Do I live in an Igloo? Are there Eskimos near me? I am afraid there is very little understanding of the Arctic Circle. It is a part of the globe where few people live and huge geographic areas are hosting regions. *Khanty Mansiysk* in Russia, our chairing region, is the same size as France, *Sakha Republic* in Russia is the same size as the bulk of Western Europe. There are very huge land areas with a small population; therefore we do not have the ability to communicate strongly with the rest of the country. For instance, in my country, Alaska has only one representative in Congress, where other states have many; with just one voice in Washington it is very difficult to make our voice heard... Many other regions in Russia are long distances from Moscow. From the Region of *Chukotka* in Russia you can see Alaska and yet it takes them eight hours to fly to Moscow! We have a huge land, a small population, with abundant natural resources that are harvested by international corporations with little concern for the residents who live there.

*What are you expecting from this new world organisation of regions created in Marseille?*

We are hoping from the Northern Forum’s perspective to share some issues that we have learned in working together as Regional Governments. Regional Governments that have 8 different languages, and many different government structures from Communist China to Russia, United States... We have learned ways of collaboration

that perhaps other regions could learn from. In addition, there is a lot of knowledge in other associations like the CPMR that has been existing for some 30 years; we would like to learn how they have enhanced their cooperation, how they have accomplished measurable results, how they have, through their actions, improved the quality of lives of those who live in their regions. I do think it is a two way sharing. Lastly, one of the most important things is that this global Regional association will be the voice of Regional Governments. Often, national governments are either not speaking to each other, or they are interested in global issues and they do not understand the true impact of these issues at the regional level. All of the nations of the world talk about climate change, for instance: people who live in Northern Pole experience climate exchange every day. Seriously, we live climate change every day! This global association will give us an opportunity to communicate what we see and what we live every day...

**Priscilla Post Wohl** was interviewed by **Enrico Mayrhofer** (enrico.mayrhofer@crpm.org)

## ARTICLES

### THE ISLANDS AND THE FUTURE EU MARITIME POLICY

The 27th annual conference of the CPMR Islands Commission which was recently held in the Isle of Man enabled the island regions to continue the work which began during their 2006 conference in Crete on the problem of the Islands and the future EU maritime policy. Meanwhile, two seminars took place: one in the Canaries, focusing on the problems linked to illegal immigration; the second in the Balearic Islands, on the issue of sustainable tourism.

The Isle of Man Conference followed a special format since the Conference of the Islands Commission itself took place over only one day, with the second day being devoted to a working seminar organised by the Maritime Task Force of the European Commission in cooperation with the CPMR.

A panel of five EU officials from the Maritime Task Force, DG REGIO (whose unit is responsible for the outermost regions (OMR)), DG TREN and Eurostat listened attentively to speeches and presentations of numerous Island representatives. In addition to representatives from the Regional Authorities, the Islands Chambers of Commerce and Industry (with the network INSULEUR) and the ESIN (European Small Islands Network), which gathers together small offshore islands were also represented.



The European Parliament was also represented by Mr Musotto, author of a recently adopted report on the Islands. Lastly, national civil servants explained how in Ireland and Finland, particular attention was paid to the Islands situation.

The subjects addressed were many and varied, from the Islands maritime *feeder* potential to the problems posed by public service obligation legislation, and even aid for the Island fishing sector, maritime environmental degradation in the Baltic Sea...to quote but a few examples.

Coming back to conclusions unanimously adopted the previous day during the Islands Commission annual conference, the participants were very keen to stress three points.

First of all, the fact that it was necessary to substantially improve knowledge of Island realities by setting up a database on a European level, compiling economic, social and environmental indicators for these territories. This database should not only be designed to be permanent (rather than occasional studies) but should also include original indicators to help better comprehend the situation of these territories, understand their development, appreciate the impact of national and EU policies and even consider new instruments or better tailored policies.

Next, the necessity to adopt a cross-sector approach to the Islands situation, through an ad-hoc structure within the European Commission. Responsibility for this could be given to either a specially created department within a European Commission Directorate in charge of EU maritime policy (in the desirable event of such a Directorate being set up); or if not, an inter-services group within the European Commission.

Finally, it was stressed that the European Institutions were to show flexibility when designing and applying EU policies, at least when they were likely to have a major impact on the socioeconomic development of the islands, especially in the field of environment policy and competition policy.

The proposals which will be submitted by the Maritime Task Force to the meeting of Commissioners, then to the European Council next autumn, to see if the recommendations of the Islands have been accepted.

**Jean-Didier Hache** (jdh@crpm.org)

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### CPMR PART OF THE EUROPEAN OPEN DAY

The CPMR took part in the "European Open Day", in Brussels on 5th May 2007 with the sail boat "Traité de Rome" which was one of the symbols of the EU open to the public.

The association "Sail for Europe" ([www.sailforeurope.org](http://www.sailforeurope.org)), which aims to promote the construction of Europe through sailing, entered the sailboat "Traité de Rome" in the 1977-1978 and in 1980-1981 *Whitbread Round the World Race*. For the first time Europe participated in an international sports competition with a European team instead of having purely national teams as, for instance, at the Olympics. Moreover, the boat also took part in the *Tour de France à la Voile* race in 1984 and in 1985. Therefore, it was natural that this boat should be associated with the ceremonies commemorating the **50th anniversary of the signature of the founding Treaties of the European Union**. Indeed, "Traité de Rome" was exhibited in front of the Council of the European Union, which supports the initiative, in March 2007. In the coming months, with the help of the **Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CRPM)** it will lift anchor for a trip around Europe where it will be a "roaming European info-point" across Europe's maritime regions.

Furthermore, on the occasion of the **European Open Day**, held in Brussels on the 5th May 2007, the sailing boat "Traité de Rome" was one of the symbols of the EU open to the public. As an extension to the activities of the European quarter, the Brussels Royal Yacht Club (BRYC) was the meeting place for maritime regions. Three CPMR regions, **Tuscany, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Valencia**, together with the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe, represented three different experiences of regional development linked to the sea.

In order to underline the link between the sea and the European Institutions the Maritimes Affairs Task Force at the European Commission took part in the event to highlight the importance for regions of the **Green Paper Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European vision for the oceans and the sea**. A copy of the Green paper signed by the Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries **Joe BORG** was offered to **Charles PICQUÉ** Minister-President of the Brussels Capital Region, who honoured the event with his presence and supported the entire initiative.



Lastly, thanks to the participation of the Community of Valencia, a live broadcast of the **America's Cup Regatta (Luis Vuitton cup)**, which took place in Valencia on the same day, was also provided, emphasising the fact that the America's cup returned to Europe after its first edition in Isle of Wight (UK) in 1851.

**Enrico Mayrhofer** ([enrico.mayrhofer@crpm.org](mailto:enrico.mayrhofer@crpm.org))



**Look into my eyes!**  
Madeleine McCann was abducted from Praia Da Luz, Portugal on 03/05/07.  
Should you have any information please contact  
Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 - [www.findmadeleine.com](http://www.findmadeleine.com)

## AGENDA

- 21-24 May**, European Parliament Plenary Session, Strasbourg (FR)
- 24-25 May**, General Assembly of the CPMR Balkans/Black Sea Commission, Canakkale (TR)
- 31 May - 1 June** CPMR Scientific Council on the Common Agricultural Policy, Coimbra (P)
- 1 June**, Management for coastal and EU maritime regions, Cataluña office, Brussels (BE)
- 1-2 June** 3rd Meeting Europe Latin-American, Poitou-Charentes, Poitiers, (FR)
- 5-6 June**, Employment week, Brussels (B)
- 6-7 June**, Plenary Assembly of the Committee of the Regions- Brussels (B)
- 8 June**, CPMR Political bureau, Podlaskie (PL)
- 14 June** Towards a future maritime policy for Europe, EP, Brussels (BE)
- 14-15 June**, General Assembly of the CRPM Baltic Sea Commission, Bodo - Nordland (N)
- 20-22 June**, General Assembly of the CRPM North Sea Commission, Vestfold (N)
- 29 June**, Energy for European Regional Development Best Practices, Cornwall, (UK)
- 4 July**, General Assembly of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission, Granada (ES)
- 5 July**, Taking new knowledge rapidly to market, Cornwall (UK)
- 9-10 July**, Seminar on Maritimes policies and globalization, Azores (P)

## LEGAL NOTICE

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To receive the **TENOR**, please send your e-mail to  
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