

## Globalisation: limits or opportunities?

Hello Everybody

As the initiator of globalisation through a number of “major discoveries”, Europe has sent its men and its goods out into the world for five hundred years. During this time, it was the main, if not the only, area to benefit from globalisation. However, the two bloody fratricidal conflicts of the 20th century and the collapse of the Berlin Wall have now made it one of the world’s provinces rather than its sole organiser.

Continents that have remained passive for a very long time, falling prey to a form of internal paralysis, are now emerging as additional driving forces. Today, it is Asia and Latin America; tomorrow it will be Africa.

It is to this new landscape that we shall have to become accustomed if we are to act and adapt our means of action. This work has been started through numerous missions and bilateral cooperation agreements between our member Regions and regions on other continents. The CPMR was no stranger to this, supporting, from the outset, the world Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (NRG4SD) that was set up at the Johannesburg Summit and co-chaired by the Basque Country and Cape Province. It has now acquired observer status at a number of world bodies concerned with climate change.

If, however, we want to preserve our Regions’ chances of development in the new global context, we must go further in our involvement in current changes.

Just as, thirty years ago, it was urgent to structure a capacity for expression at a regional level in a European Union that was in its infancy, so the voice of Peripheral and Maritime Regions must be heard tomorrow in the emerging arenas of future world governance (World Trade Organisation, International Maritime Organisation, Kyoto Agreement, General Assembly of the United Nations etc.). This awareness will not be more spontaneous when faced with market forces that lead of their own accord to a concentration of wealth and people. This is why there is a need for organisation:

- by seeking alliances with regions on other continents that share the same concerns. This is the meaning of the Discussion Seminar on “*The Place of Regions in Globalisation*” that the CPMR will be hosting in Ponta Delgada (Azores) on 23rd and 24th June, under the auspices of the President of the European Commission, Mr. José Manuel Durao Barroso, the General Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mr. Kermal Dervis, the Director General of the WTO, Mr. Pascal Lamy, and the OECD. For the first time, Presidents of Regions on all five continents will be able to discuss their opinions of the effects of globalisation from the point of view of the regional economy, sustainable development and involvement in global governance.
- by signing a framework agreement during this Seminar for cooperation between the CPMR and the UNDP (soon to be followed by a similar agreement with NRG4SD) in order to intensify cooperation between European Regions and regions on other continents and make them more effective. In fact, there is a need to seek complementarity with the instruments of the EU’s external policy, including the neighbourhood policy.

It is through this constructive attitude that we can ensure the full presence of our various regional fabrics in the 21st century: “Hello, Everybody”.

**Xavier Gizard**  
Secretary General, CPMR

## **COMMISSION'S MESSAGE TO THE REGIONS: FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION ON CONTENT RATHER THAN FORM**

*"We have to concede that the situation in the enlarged EU has worsened. It has to be acknowledged that decision-making responsibility is stronger at national level. The responsibility of the Regions, though not lost, is not evolving. That is a fact. But do not let this defeat you in advance. You must focus your attention on the content and act as a source of proposals!"* This was the message from **Jean-Charles Leygues**, Deputy Director General for Regional Policy and former adviser in Jacques Delors' Cabinet, speaking to the Regions at the Seminar on *"Territorial Cohesion and the National-Regional Partnership for the 2007-2013 Programming Period"*, organised by the CPMR at the Committee of the Regions on 31 May.

**Mr Leygues, how do you think the Regions can be more involved in delivering the new regional policy for the 2007-2013 period?**

*Firstly, it must be said that in relation to the previous period, current legislation has not altered on this point. But the real issue lies elsewhere, in the Regions taking political action to put concrete proposals to national governments. Over and above the regulatory framework, which already gives a great deal of flexibility, I would say that, whatever the country's political system – be it federal, centralised, mixed or decentralised –, the Regions will need to make concrete proposals on the programming content. If they do this, then discussions with their national governments will be convincing. In this case, they will have a responsibility beyond their usual remit for taking initiatives on the content. This is a central issue. It is therefore up to them to put forward concrete proposals and projects to say just what the added value of the Regions is, in Lombardy, the Finnish Regions or Nord Pas-de-Calais!"*

**In his speech during the same seminar at the Committee of the Regions, Xavier Gizard suggested the idea of a more territorially-based CAP. What is your view on this?**

*"The territorial dimension is weak at EU level. It is not institutionally recognised at present, as it is not mentioned in the Treaty. The draft Constitution planned to include this, but we still do not know what will become of this Constitution..."*

*"Nevertheless, taking into account all EU policies, especially agricultural policy, I do think that it is possible for it to be territorialised. However, it really needs to be specified that the role and mobilisation of the Regions are essential through the new rural development fund, the EAFRD, which, even though it is included in a more nationally-based strand, also takes on board the territorial dimension. Once more, the Regions have a huge responsibility. Here again, we are hoping for the Regions to take action in this area. So do not hesitate to make concrete proposals!"*

**Is regional State aid dead?**

*No, not at all. Regional State aid is not dead. Thanks moreover to some strong lobbying by the CPMR, regional State aid for Regions lagging behind in development is maintained with the same criteria. However, with regard to regional State aid for other Regions (Article 87 §3c of the Treaty), the Commission's proposal is now on the table, but the real issue is to determine the state of play of discussions between Member States and their Regions in defining zoning. I daresay that it's the same old story! Political mobilisation by the Regions could help to define regional State aid in these cases, which is henceforth vital since there is less money available for the Regions in the EU budget. So the Regions need to focus their action on content rather than form!*

**Enrico Mayrhofer**  
**Director of Communications**

## TOWARDS A WORLDWIDE EXPRESSION OF REGIONS

**Christophe Nuttall** is Director of the Innovative Partnerships Centre of the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, the UN's global development network with which the CPMR will be signing a cooperation agreement next 24 June on the occasion of the Seminar on “*Regions and Globalisation*” in the Azores. The UNDP advocates change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. It is present on the ground in 166 countries, helping them to identify their own solutions to the national and global challenges they are facing in terms of development.

### **What are you expecting from the CPMR? Why this cooperation agreement?**

*“It is first and foremost a political agreement. Together with the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe, the UNDP will be able to highlight to the United Nations the role of the Regions in the UN’s intergovernmental debate. This aspect is very important, especially if we consider that we are living in a global system where the Regions can play an important role in terms of identity and governance. However, there is a more technical and operational side also. It is on the ground, especially in developing countries, that the UNDP hopes to benefit not only from the practical but also the human experience of CPMR member Regions in managing a territory.”*

**In your speech at our Political Bureau meeting in Malta, you gave the example of Cuba, a highly centralised country, where nevertheless you have succeeded in getting cooperation off the ground with the Regions. Which countries in the world are most sensitive to regional policy issues?**

*First I think the Latin American countries, with no exceptions as far as I can see. And also sub-Saharan African countries for which, quite frankly, nothing has yet been done! In these countries there is a strong emergence of decentralisation among local players, mainly the provinces, but also other geographical entities. I think that the time is not yet ripe in Asia, but at the moment I can see the whole of the former East European block and what we know as the central Asian countries.”*

**Where are we heading? What does the future hold? Will we manage to establish a worldwide organisation of Regions?**

*Ah, I hope so! I for one am convinced that there will soon be a worldwide organisation of Regions. That seems obvious to me. Just as there has emerged a worldwide organisation of local authorities, I think that we could have an organisation of Regions. But I might go further than that, since the United Nations is beginning to recognise the growing role of these local powers and the fact that these territories will have their role to play in a multi-polar yet global system.”*

**Enrico Mayrhofer**  
**Director of Communications**

## ONE "ISLAND" SHOULD NOT HIDE OTHERS

When presenting his Green Paper on Europe's Maritime Policy to the European Parliament on 7th June last, Commissioner Borg wittily declared, "*Our planet consists of a series of islands which, set in the immense vastness of the oceans, cover approximately 30% of its surface*".

Where do islands stop and continents begin? This is a question well-known to geographers who answer it in terms of a coastal index calculated from a ratio of length of coastline to surface area of the land surrounded by water. The smaller the ratio, the more "continental" the island. This is what distinguishes the European continent from the many inhabited islands around it.

Since an island's area is entirely defined by the connection between land and sea, it is easy to understand how advantageous the emergence of a European maritime policy is for the islands in the EU<sup>1</sup>. Most of the sectors of activity or policies discussed in the Green Paper affect them directly - fishing, environment, power supply, tourist economy, integrated coastal management, transport etc. However, a large number of islands also have an actively or potentially important role to play in areas such as the security of shipping lanes and shipping, the protection of the EU's external borders, or a neighbourhood policy towards third countries. As Admiral Matias emphasised at the Commission of the Islands conference in Crete last May, when invited to attend by President Tsokas, islands form an "*unsinkable*" fleet that increases the geographical area of the continent of Europe by a corresponding amount and establish "*a warning platform in the face of external threat*".

Logically speaking, Europe's maritime dimension means recognising the potential of these islands and seeking to develop their advantages. However, it also means recognising the specific difficulties, or even the permanent constraints, which these territories face (isolation, limited spatial, natural or human resources, weakness of markets of proximity, extreme environmental vulnerability etc.). Most importantly of all, it means introducing policies to attenuate or compensate for these difficulties.

Such a view cannot be satisfied with merely sectoral or erratic approaches. Nor can it rest on traditional macro-economic indicators since they do not correctly reflect the realities of these regions and the complexities of their situation. In this respect, we should praise the determination expressed in the Green Paper to promote an intersectoral and multi-disciplinary approach and to develop an appropriate statistical tool.

It is, though, to be regretted that the Green Paper is relatively discreet as regards the insular dimension of the EU and fails to discuss the situation of these regions other than briefly and very partially. It is however true that this document constitutes only the starting point for reflection, hence the islands' intention to take full advantage of the consultation period which will run until June 2007 to highlight and obtain recognition for their specificities.

**Jean-Didier Hache**  
**Executive Secretary of the CPMR Islands Commission**

*The 26th annual conference of the CPMR's Commission of the Islands, which was held in Heraklion (Crete) on 11th and 12th May 2006, focused its work on the Europe of the Sea. The Final Declaration adopted at the end of the conference, and a certain number of papers presented at the conference, can be consulted on <http://www.islandscommission.org/en/index.php?act=2>*

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<sup>1</sup> The EU has 3 island States and 24 insular regional authorities as well as several hundred coastal islands. In all, they represent approximately 21 million citizens, 4.6% of the EU25 population.

## OPENING OF THE CONSULTATION ON INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The General Directorate for the Environment of the European Commission is conducting a consultation on integrated coastal zone management strategy (ICZM). This constitutes an assessment phase for the National Strategies drafted in compliance with the Recommendation on coastal zones, which should result in proposals from the Commission on how this initiative is to be taken forward.

The consultation is open until **30 June** 2006 on the following url:

<http://www.rupprecht-consult.eu/iczm/>

This consultation is in the form of a questionnaire in which the maritime regions can express their points of view, their needs and their expectations on this subject.

The CPMR secretariat invites all regions to participate in this consultation which presents a major interest for the future of their coastline.