



CRPM CPMR

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MARTINI TO BARROSO: WITH THE "CRISIS" WE NEED MORE FLEXIBILITY

Claudio Martini has written a letter to **José Manuel Barroso** in which he asks the European Commission for more flexibility in implementing cohesion policy.

"The European Regions are today facing what is acknowledged to be "The crisis". They are confronted with calls for action on the part of firms – for the most part SMEs well established in their territories – in difficulties because of restricted access to funds." writes the President of Tuscany Region on behalf of the 160 leaders of the member Regions of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR).

For this reason the CPMR is asking the Commission to *"enable those Member States and Regions who wish to do so to receive co-financing for the new measures in the Operational Programmes as quickly as possible, without having to wait for validation by the Commission's services, along the same lines as the measure adopted for major projects."*

In addition Claudio Martini also asks, as an exceptional measure, for a year-long moratorium on the N+2 rule for the year 2007. This measure therefore would be applied until 31 December 2010 instead of 31 December 2009, the deadline for spending the structural funds.

"Over and above these emergency responses," concludes Claudio Martini, *"the Commission must provide an impulse for a collaborative effort at all levels of public authority, to prepare the way for an "after-crisis" which does not reproduce the growth model of these last decades.*

For their part, the member Regions of the CPMR have begun to work on analysing the situation and bringing forward proposals along these lines.

Click here to download a copy of the letter:

http://www.crpm.org/pub/news/160_lettreemail_cm-bbarroso_en.pdf

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