



CRPM CPMR

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PRESS RELEASE

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EUROPEAN REGIONS SUPPORT MARITIME POLICY EVERY SINGLE DAY

["European Regions support Maritime Policy every single day"](#) is the title of the manifesto issued by the **Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)** today in Rome to mark European Maritime Day 2009.

Between 2004 and 2009, Europe has worked towards shaping its own maritime policy and the Regions have played a major role in this stage. With the support of CPMR, they now want to join in taking forward this work and in helping to implement a policy for the sea in the world's most maritime continent.

"From the communication in the Green Paper, then the Blue Book, thanks to the vision and permanence in the efforts of the Commission – particularly Commissioner Borg – and the European Parliament, our continent is given the means to collectively further develop its maritime assets," stated **Xavier Gizard**, Secretary General of the CPMR during his speech at the Policy Workshop **"An all Embracing Stakeholder platform for a holistic policy"**. *"Today, 20th May 2009 - European Maritime Day -, it is time now to pave the way for a new stage where we are hoping that Europe will carry forward work on the spatial and territorial dimension and governance."*

CPMR's regional politicians consider that important progress has been registered in taking better account of the sea in a whole series of EU policies. Nevertheless, they hope that the EU will help all the integrated initiatives and partnerships aiming for good interaction between land-based and maritime activities, and a sustainable and joint development of all the activities carried out in the shared maritime sea basins

With regard to governance, the CPMR has raised the issue of the competences of central governments, Regions and local authorities, which vary from one State to another. We propose a new form of governance which confirms the key role of the Regions as interfaces between the citizens and the economic and social stakeholders on the one hand and national and EU institutions on the other, especially in the cross-border and transnational sea regions.

"CPMR Regions," stipulated **Xavier Gizard**, *"are not just stakeholders, but public authorities. I am aware that it is difficult to find a generic term, even in English, to describe all of the parties concerned by an EU policy, and the term stakeholders is quite a practical one; but the Regions only recognise themselves partly under this term, not only because some of them have a wide remit and considerable demographic weight, but also because the Regions are the guarantors of a thriving, prosperous and sustainable territory."*

The CPMR actively took part in the Rome days by organising a **Political Workshop** on **"Regional Maritime Clusters"** that should be considered as driving elements of the maritime economy and need to be consistently in line with policies. **Jean-Yves Le Drian**, President of Brittany Region and Vice-President of the CPMR will be speaking tomorrow afternoon on the issue of maritime clusters.

The CPMR has also invited its 160 Regions to highlight its Maritime Manifesto on their websites and hold 20th May celebrations in all the territories.

[European Maritime Day](#)

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