



CRPM CPMR

CONFÉRENCE DES RÉGIONS PÉRIPHÉRIQUES MARITIMES D'EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE

6, rue Saint-Martin - 35700 RENNES (F)
Tél.: + 33 (0)2 99 35 40 50 - Fax: + 33 (0)2 99 35 09 19
e.mail : secretariat@crpm.org - web : www.crpm.org

PRESS RELEASE

Göteborg, 2 October 2009

Ref : CRPMCOM090059

FROM GOTHENBURG TO COPENHAGEN

On the 1st and 2nd October, whilst European finance ministers and the Governors of European central banks discussed what member states must do to put public finances in order, the regions of the [Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions](#) (CPMR) also met in Gothenburg (SE) to highlight that the response to the current crisis requires all levels to work together, including regional and local authorities.

The 37th CPMR General Assembly was held at the invitation of **Roland ANDERSSON**, President of the Regional Executive Board of Västra Götaland. Mr ANDERSSON declared, *"In 2001, in this very room, the Gothenburg strategy was launched. Today, due to the global crisis we are all experiencing, we are aware that the cost of tackling climate change will increase, however if we don't do what needs doing, it will cost us even more!"*

The economic crisis and expectations with regards to the Copenhagen International Agreement on climate change were therefore at the heart of the discussions of this General Assembly.

The 160 CPMR regions have all been hit by the crisis, as the [survey](#) carried out this summer demonstrates. This justifies that political responses be developed at regional level, in order to deal with one specific problem as well as to encourage ideas which are evolving. In addition, most regions have taken budgetary measures which are more or less coordinated with their central governments and with the measures in the European recovery plan. However this use of regional finances must be accompanied by the regional authorities' involvement in the consideration and decision of how to best use public money.

"The crisis is underway and the Lisbon strategy is drawing to a close." Stated **Claudio MARTINI**, President of the CPMR and of Tuscany. *"The time is right to establish a European strategy for 2010, and the means that need to be implemented in order to achieve the political and governance objectives that will be fixed, must be considered."*

The representative of the European Commission, **Rudolf NIESSLER**, Director for Regional Policy, replied with the announcement that *"the Commission will launch a European consultation on a post-Lisbon strategy that Mr Barroso will probably present during the OPEN DAYS."* Mr NIESSLER reassured that *"the crisis will not disrupt all policies: cohesion policy finds its legitimacy in the Treaties and it will always have positive action for the development of Europe."*

Amongst the possible political guidelines aiming to support the recovery, research and innovation prove fundamental. According to **Alain BENETEAU** Vice-President of Midi-Pyrénées Regional Council (FR), *"In this crisis, the importance given to research and innovation in the Lisbon strategy must not decrease. We should benefit from an increased involvement of the regions, especially in the European Research Area"*.



CRPM CPMR

CONFÉRENCE DES RÉGIONS PÉRIPHÉRIQUES MARITIMES D'EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE

6, rue Saint-Martin - 35700 RENNES (F)
Tél.: + 33 (0)2 99 35 40 50 - Fax: + 33 (0)2 99 35 09 19
e.mail : secretariat@crpm.org - web : www.crpm.org

Elisabeth MORIN-CHARTIER, Member of the European Parliament and member of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, stressed work mobility as one of the possibilities in ensuring recovery: *"employment is linked to professional mobility."*

Amongst the European institutions present, **Jöran HAGGLUND**, Swedish State Secretary and representative of the Swedish EU Presidency, invited the regions and member states to always work together. **Michel DELEBARRE**, 1st Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions (CoR), recalled that *"by 2014 the joint struggle of the CPMR and the CoR will be to grasp the potential, the needs and the limitations of each territory and to underline the sustainability of European, national, regional and local policies."*

On the international agreement which will hopefully be reached in Copenhagen, the CPMR is convinced of the necessity to involve the sub-national levels of governance in this process as the regions are responsible for 80% of mitigation measures and 100% of adaptation measures with regards to climate change. The CPMR will be present in Copenhagen for a side event and above all to ensure that reference to regional authorities is integrated in the final declaration.

Finally, this General Assembly was an opportunity for **Xavier GIZARD** to pay tribute to the 160 CPMR regions, *"Be as one, steadfastly united"*, said the out-going Secretary General, *"on the common interests that dictate the characteristics of our regions. It is this authentic European union, at times in contradiction with one of your national governments or another which has helped obtain success in previous negotiations."*

Eleni MARIANO, Greek and a lawyer by profession, succeeds Xavier GIZARD at the head of the General Secretariat. *"I accept this challenge with determination, willpower and hope,"* she declared. *"I believe that the regions should put their closeness to the citizens to good use for the construction of Europe and to be the driving force of the economic recovery for the future."* Mrs MARIANO will take up office in January 2010 in Brussels.

The General Assembly's [final declaration](#) and the [list of participants](#) are available on the CPMR website: www.cpmr.org.

For further information, please contact Enrico MAYRHOFER
Gsm: + 32 486 56 19 67 - E-mail: enrico.mayrhofer@crpm.org
www.crpm.org

➤ [See all working documents of the CPMR General Assembly](#)