



CRPM CPMR

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PRESS RELEASE

Gijón, 21 May 2010

Ref : CRPMCOM100018

THE REGIONS AT THE MARITIME DAYS

"We have been campaigning since 1993 for greater coherence between EU-led interventions at sea and in coastal areas, and the popularity of this third annual edition of the European Maritime Days shows how right our pioneering intuition has proved to be." It is with these words addressed during the Plenary Session that **Claudio Martini**, President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) welcomed the European Maritime Days held in Gijón, Asturias (ES) between 18 and 21 May 2010.

The CPMR took an active part in the European Maritime Days, providing a number of speakers and organising several workshops. Claudio Martini was a guest speaker in the Plenary Session alongside Luis Ramon Valcarcel Siso, President of Murcia (ES), Member of the CPMR Political Bureau and Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

"Over and above the democratic achievements brought about by the Lisbon Treaty, we are persuaded that a maritime Europe rooted in the territories, their people and their economic and social players will be shaped through close relations with the Regions. We therefore wish to be closely involved in the exercise DG Mare is undertaking to identify potential for "blue growth" and examine the feasibility of exploiting this potential," said Claudio Martini.

Whatever analysis one may make of the proposals currently on the table to deliver the EU Strategy 2020, the CPMR considers the seas and coastlines to be sources of growth that need to be optimised in a sustainable way. This vision was shared by **Vicente Alberto Álvarez Areces**, President of the Principality of Asturias, who stated: *"The Integrated Maritime Policy has not only changed the idea that we as Europeans have of our seas and ocean, but it has also been a valuable contribution to growth, employment and environmental protection in coastal areas"*. According to the President of the host Region of the Gijón Maritime Days, *"these days constitute an event that should extend beyond coastal communities and countries. The sea is one of the EU's most valuable shared assets."*

Jean Yves Le Drian, President of Brittany Region (FR) and Member of the CPMR Political Bureau, also took part in the proceedings by chairing a *"Comparative Workshop on Macro-Regional Approaches within the Maritime Basins"*. **Eleni Marianou**, Secretary General of the CPMR made a presentation during a workshop on *"Consolidating Coastal and Marine Information for Integrated Management of European Maritime Areas"*.



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On behalf of the Geographical Commissions, **Gunn Marit HELGESEN**, President of the CPMR North Sea Commission and County Mayor of Telemark (NO) chaired the meeting on "*A Strategy for the North Sea Region*", and the Atlantic Arc Commission held a workshop on "*An integrated Atlantic strategy, a necessity for the EU*". Also in relation to this, the City of Gijón in collaboration with the Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities (CAAC) organised a meeting on "*Restructuring coastal towns for sustainable development*".

Finally, as part of the activities led by its Aquamarina working group, the CPMR organised a meeting on "*Regional Maritime Clusters*" and another on the "*Regional Dimension of European Marine Research Infrastructures*".

During the discussions, the CPMR also put forward the idea of a new European programme entitled "**Maritime Erasmus**" to stimulate the mobility of young people within the maritime professions and help make the sector more attractive in the Regions where developing the economy and employment is part of their remit.

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