



Rennes, 21 June 2010

Press Release

THE COUNCIL LAUNCHES AN ATLANTIC STRATEGY

On 18 June, as the Council of the EU in Brussels was inviting the European Commission in its conclusions to draw up a **Strategy for the Atlantic Region by June 2011**¹, the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission (AAC) and the Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities (CAAC) were meeting in Rennes (FR) to discuss the content of an **integrated strategy for the Atlantic Arc** on the basis of a technical paper² drafted jointly by the two networks.

The President of the CAAC, **Philippe Duron**, French MP and Lord Mayor of Caen, believed that an integrated Strategy for the Atlantic Arc should help to concentrate and coordinate resources better in order to address the challenges of these territories. **Laurent Beauvais**, President of the Regional Council of Basse-Normandie, who was re-elected to the presidency of the AAC for a two-year term, stressed the importance of focusing on a limited number of strategic projects in order to achieve concrete results that would directly benefit the general public.

Isabel Moya, Advisor on Territorial Policy at the Permanent Representation of Spain in Brussels, representing the Presidency of the Council of the EU, highlighted the attention the Council has wished to give to the Atlantic Arc thereby responding to the demands of the Atlantic regional and local authorities which have been campaigning on this issue for over a year.

Pierre Dartout, the French Inter-ministerial Delegate for Spatial Planning and Regional Attractiveness explained that this strategy should focus as a priority on marine and maritime research, maritime surveillance and economic and environmental challenges.

Finally, **Eddy Hartog**, Head of Unit at DG Mare in charge of maritime policy in the Arctic, Atlantic and Outermost Regions, speaking on behalf of the European Commission, presented the institution's work programme on the Atlantic Arc, which will kick off with the launch of an on-line consultation on the Atlantic Region as of July 2010.

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↳ **The Atlantic Arc Commission**, chaired since 2008 by Laurent Beauvais, President of Basse-Normandie, is one of the six Geographical Commissions of the CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions). It brings together 27 Regions which have been cooperating and making their voice heard among the EU institutions since 1989.

↳ **The Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities (CAAC)**, chaired since 2009 by Philippe Duron, French MP and Lord Mayor of Caen, was set up in 2000 on the initiative of the City of Rennes. It currently has a membership of over 30 cities and urban networks from the 5 countries of the Atlantic seaboard (Ireland, UK, France, Spain and Portugal) with the aim of promoting their interests at EU level.

↳ These meetings of the joint General Assembly of the Atlantic Arc Commission (AAC) and Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities (CAAC) coincided with the 20th anniversary of the AAC and the 10th anniversary of the CAAC.

¹ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/115166.pdf, page 3

² http://www.arcatlantique.org/pdf/doc_travail/327_en.pdf