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TECHNICAL NOTE FROM THE CPMR GENERAL SECRETARIAT

FUNDING OF THE LAUNCH OF THE FORUM OF NETWORKS OF WORLD REGIONS (2008-2009)

OBJECTIVES AND TIMETABLE

During 2008 and 2009 the Forum of Networks of World Regions will pursue a number of objectives:

- The acquisition of a legal personality.
- Gaining recognition as an Intergovernmental Organisation with an observer's seat in the General Assembly of the United Nations (with the right to address the Assembly and to make proposals but without a vote).
- Its enlargement to new members (national or transnational organisations of Regions).
- Supporting the founding and/or development of transnational organisations of Regions outside the European area, on the basis of the successful experience over the last 30 years of the European organisations that have become key partners of the Union.
- Development of multilateral cooperation actions between the European Regions and Regions of other continents with the support of the United Nations Agencies, the European Union, the OECD, and other transnational State bodies, with a view to contributing to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These strategies for decentralised development will be conducted mainly in the framework of the European neighbourhood and wider neighbourhood policies, and under the Union's external relations policies.
- Development of proposals for the introduction of cohesion instruments at global, continental and national level to accompany globalisation in order to make the most of its advantages and reduce the impact of its asymmetric shocks.

Over the months ahead, this agenda will be punctuated by the following events:

- First Executive Bureau meeting of the Forum in Cape Town, on 24 and 25 August 2007.
- Presentation of the Forum by a delegation of Presidents of Networks to the authorities of the United Nations and its Agencies (1-3 November 2007, New York).
- Joint UNDP-CPMR scientific seminar on the links between "Globalisation and Regional Development", on 3 and 4 December 2007 in Lisbon, with the backing of the Portuguese Presidency of the EU, the OECD and the European Union.
- Second International Convention for a regional approach to development, in Tangiers, at the invitation of the Kingdom of Morocco, 12-14 May 2008.
- Summit of World Regions for Sustainable Development, organised on the initiative of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) and the Region of Brittany, in Saint-Malo (France), 28-31 October 2008.

FUNDING NEEDS

In line with the decisions made by the CPMR Political Bureau and General Assembly, the efforts deployed since 2006 to develop the Regions' capacity to participate and express themselves in the framework of globalisation have been undertaken using the CPMR's own resources.

The success of this initiative, the speeding-up of its growth and its various developments require in the medium term the creation of new and independent resources which do not jeopardize the initial objective of the normal dues paid by the member Regions, i.e. the defence and promotion of their interests vis-à-vis the institutions of the EU.

A typical annual budget for the Forum for the years 2008-2009 could be:

- Personnel costs (part-time Secretary General, a Director in charge of the CPMR's extra-EU activities, a secretariat, a part-time communications function): €290,000.
- Fixed costs covering the housing, management and running of the Forum: €50,000.
- Travel expenses: €70,000.
- Costs of creating and hosting a Forum web site: €10,000.

i.e. a total of €420,000 per year.

ROLE OF THE CPMR REGIONS

The Executive Bureau of the Forum will examine this question at its first meeting in Cape Town at the end of August 2007 and will need to agree on methods of funding that will become progressively independent. It would appear however difficult to imagine an overall solution being found as early as 2008. For this reason, we appeal to those member Regions of the CPMR most concerned about the challenges of globalisation and ask them to make a contribution for the years 2008 and 2009 to the funding of this emerging organisation. This is how the CPMR was able to emerge and operate during its first years (1973-1976).

The European Regions have a pioneering role to play. It is in their interest that the regional dimension becomes progressively more widely recognised within the institutions of global governance, and that this recognition corresponds to their expectations and their needs. This can only be the case if these expectations and needs are defined by the Regions themselves, independently and using their own expertise, in liaison with the States, international institutions, and all the other stakeholders in this new globalisation.

The CPMR has shown itself to be a visionary organisation promoting the interests of its Regions vis-à-vis the European Union. It is important for the Regions to be present from now on on the international and world stage, and the CPMR, with its member Regions, is keen to contribute to this.

The financial contribution made by the member Regions will be accompanied by the setting up of a "Globalisation" Commission within CPMR, which will report on the work of the Forum and consult the Regions about ongoing and future activities. This Commission will in particular reflect on the conditions for a future territorial cohesion at global level, and will monitor the implementation of cooperation programmes.