



CRPM CPMR

CONFERENCE DES REGIONS PERIPHERIQUES MARITIMES D'EUROPE  
CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CPMR POLITICAL BUREAU 12 JUNE 2009 - ODESSA (UKRAINE)

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### Participants:

#### Ukrainian Government:

Kostyantyn RZHEPISHEVSKY, Head of Representation of MFA of Ukraine in Odessa, represented by  
Georgiy ZAKRAYAVSKY, Councillor

#### Host Region:

Mykola SERDYUK, Head of Odessa Regional State Administration  
Mykola SKORYK, Head of Odessa Regional Council

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President:

Gunn Marit HELGESEN, President of the North Sea Commission - Mayor of Telemark (NO)

#### Vice-President:

Xaralambos KOKKINOS, Secretary General of Notio Aigaio (South Aegean, GR)  
Ramón Luis VALCARCEL SISO, President of Murcia Region (ES)

#### Full members:

- Cyprus Charalambos ELIADES, District Officer, District Administration of Famagusta
- Denmark Henning GJELLEROD, Regional Councillor, Region of Midtjylland
- Finland Marjatta VEHKAOJA, Member of the Board, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia
- Greece *See Vice-President*
- Ireland Enda BONNER, Member of Donegal County Council
- Italy *See President*
- Latvia Talis PUKITIS, Chairman of Riga District
- Norway Tom TVEDT, Chairman of Rogaland County Council
- Portugal Maria LEAL MONTEIRO, President of Alentejo Region
- Spain *See Vice-President*
- Sweden Annelie STARK, Councillor, Region Västra Götaland
- Ukraine Mykola SERDYUK, Head of Odessa Regional State Administration

#### Geographical Commissions:

##### • Atlantic Arc Commission

Laurent BEAUVAIS, President - President of Basse-Normandie Region (FR) **represented by Philippe BONNEAU, Vice-President**, Basse-Normandie Region  
Fabien MESCLIER, Executive Secretary (FR)

##### • Balkan & Black Sea Commission

George TSIOTRAS, President - Secretary General of Kentriki Makedonia (GR)  
Anthony PAPADIMITRIOU, Executive Secretary (GR)

##### • Baltic Sea Commission

Christel LILJESTRÖM, President - Chairman of the Regional Council of Itä-Uusimaa (FI)

- **Islands Commission**

Jean-Didier HACHE, Executive Secretary (FR)

- **Intermediterranean Commission**

Josefina MORENO BOLARÍN, Executive Secretary (ES)

- **North Sea Commission**

Gunn Marit HELGESEN, President - Mayor of Telemark (NO)

**Representative of the Outermost Regions:**

Rodrigo OLIVEIRA, Under-Secretary for European Affairs and External Cooperation, Regional Government of the Azores (PT)

**Alternate representatives of Presidents of Commissions:**

- **Baltic Sea Commission:** Poul MULLER, Regional Councillor, Region of Midtjylland (DK)

**Alternate members:**

- **Finland** Talvikki KOSKINEN, Board Member, Regional Council of South-West Finland
- **Germany** Reinhard BOEST, Director, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Information office in Brussels
- **Greece** Sotirios VOSDOU, Secretary General of Ionian Islands
- **Italy** Antonio VALIANTE, Vice-Président, Campania
- **Sweden** Inger LINGE, Chairman, Stockholm County Council

**CPMR General Secretariat:**

Xavier GIZARD, Secretary General

Patrick ANVROIN, Director

Julie GOURDEN, Director

Enrico MAYRHOFER, Director in charge of Communication

Damien PÉRISSE, Director

Marie-Agnès CHARON, Director of the CPMR Secretariat

**Observers:**

Laura ALCOVERRO, Asesora, Generalitat de Catalunya (ES)

Francesco ATTAGUILE, Dirigente Generale, Regione Sicilia (IT)

Theodora AVGOULIDOU, Expert Adviser to the Secretary General, Kentriki Makedonia Region (GR)

Peder BANG, International Officer, Region of Midtjylland (DK)

Themis BIBAS, Special Consultant of the Secretary General, Notio Aigaio Region (GR)

Soren BERG, Head of International Office, Stockholm County Council (SE)

Lisa BELFRAGE, International Officer, Region Västra Götaland (SE)

Gérard BODINIER, Conseiller du Président, Conseil Régional de Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (FR)

Àngel CORTADELLES, Secretaria d'Afers Exteriors - Departament de la Vicepresidència, Generalitat de Catalunya (ES)

Gunta DARBINA, Adviser of Chairman on questions of Public Relations, Riga District (LV)

Piero DI MAGGIO, Dirigente, Regione Sicilia (IT)

Magnus ENGELBREKTSSON, Head of International Relations, Region Västra Götaland (SE)

Merli FEIXA, Présidente du Groupe de travail RTE-T de la CPMR, Gobierno de Aragón (ES)

Mercedes GALLEGO PELEGRIN, Asesora, Dirección General de Relaciones Institucionales y Acción Exterior, Murcia Region (ES)

Paolo GIANNARELLI, Consigliere del Presidente, Regione Toscana (IT)

Lina JAN, Chefe de divisão - Cooperação Interregional, Alentejo Region (PT)

Maria JOHANSEN, International Adviser, Troms County Council (NO)

Spiros KOLLAS, Advisor to the Secretary General, Ionia Nisia Region (GR)

Isabelle LE DEAUT, Directrice des Affaires européennes et des Relations internationales, Région Basse-Normandie (FR)

Joseph MICALLEF, Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Gozo (MT)

Julie MICLOT, Chef de Service, Région Basse-Normandie (FR)

Joseph G. SCERRI, Permanent Secretary Designate, Ministry for Gozo (MT)

Geir SØR-REIME, International Co-Ordinator, Rogaland County Council (NO)

Gordon SUMMERS, Principal European Officer, Highland Council (UK)

## OPENING SESSION

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After greeting the participants, **Gunn Marit Helgesen**, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of CPMR, gave President Martini's apologies; he had had to cancel his attendance at the last minute for health reasons. She wished him a speedy recovery on behalf of all the Bureau Members. She then thanked **Mykola Serkyuk**, Head of Odessa Regional State Administration, for his welcome, and gave him the floor. Mr Serkyuk gave a presentation of the Region of Odessa and confirmed its commitment to Europe, which was reflected in its participation in the CPMR's activities.

## SPECIAL SESSION: RECRUITMENT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

In line with the recruitment procedure launched in February 2009, the Short-listing Panel had selected two candidates. Their CVs had been circulated to the members of the CPMR Bureau prior to the meeting. The Political Bureau interviewed the two candidates separately (the order in which they were interviewed was determined by drawing lots). Following the interviews, the Bureau decided to move to a vote. Mr Enda Bonner, Member of the Political Bureau, was nominated as teller. The ballot papers were collected and Mr Bonner opened the envelopes and counted the votes. Ms Eleni Marianou was selected as candidate to the post of Secretary General by 21 votes to 5. She was therefore designated by an absolute majority. Her candidature will be submitted to the General Assembly in Göteborg on 1 October 2009.

## ORDINARY POLITICAL BUREAU MEETING

**The minutes of the Political Bureau meeting held in Aarhus (DK) on 23 January 2009 were unanimously adopted.**

**The Political Bureau approved the draft agenda for the present meeting.**

**Gunn Marit Helgesen** (Telemark / North Sea Commission) opened the Ordinary Political Bureau Meeting. She once again thanked the Region of Odessa for its welcome.

## THE REGIONS, THE CRISIS, GOVERNANCE, AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN POLICIES

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**Xavier Gizard** (CPMR) began by saying that governance and the role of the Regions in combating the crisis were key issues, and could be looked at on three levels.

At the international level, the Regions were mainly involved in financing and implementing decisions, for example on climate change and maritime trade.

On the European stage, the Regions were historically stronger, but there was still a temptation to impose uniform solutions for all the territories. No reply had as yet been received to Claudio Martini's letter to the European Commission calling for greater flexibility in the implementation of cohesion policy and requesting a dialogue between the European, national, and regional tiers.

At the level of the States, the influence of the national authorities remained considerable.

In this context, the CPMR's draft Manifesto called for the Regions to be systematically taken into account and for progress to be made towards a European territorial Pact. Further signatures were needed before it could be published. Amendments were possible, and three Regions had proposed amendments.

In reflecting on the solutions to be sought, we needed to take as a starting-point people's basic needs, such as food, energy, governance, housing, security, and health. The public policies that aimed to satisfy these needs had today more than ever to integrate the necessity of safeguarding ecosystems. They also had to take account of new sources of growth, in particular via research, innovation, and new education, training and employment policies.

All policies should, he said, contribute to the integration of the Regions in exchanges with other territories in a global world. This implied for example new approaches in the fields of transport, ICTs, neighbourhood policies, external cooperation and interregional cooperation policies, and management of migration.

Success would only be possible if the greatest possible number of stakeholders in the territories could be mobilised. This meant developing place-based policies, fostering links between stakeholders, and providing clear guarantees for territorial cohesion and a mechanism for multi-level governance.

A new debate was needed on the financial resources and the rules governing State Aids, taxation, tariff and non-tariff barriers, and public investment.

To take account of these elements, future European priorities must give rise to the adoption of a territorial Pact, and they must be supported by an adapted regional policy and appropriate sector-based objectives. A maritime Pact adapted to the specific objectives would also be necessary, the funding for which remained to be determined.

**Julie Gourden** (CPMR) presented the interim results of the analysis of the Regions and the crisis. (See Power Point presentation on the CPMR web site.)

The global overview is based on forecasts and indicators produced by the European Commission, the IMF, the OECD, and the World Bank. These show the EU losing momentum globally in terms of share of world GDP, especially in relation to the United States and China. They also show sharp disparities between EU countries, despite the overall trend of a deteriorating economic situation. Forecasts for 2010 indicate that 14 European states will still be in recession and that only 4 states will see an increase in per capita GDP in 2010.

The rate of unemployment is rising in all European states, and in 2010 will be higher than 10% in 12 states. At the EU level, the target employment rate of 70% set by the Lisbon strategy, having been reached in 2006, is now no longer respected. Salary increases had also slowed down, and in 4 EU states had fallen.

The post-2010 outlook for GDP, employment and investment remains uncertain.

Eurobarometer surveys show that citizens are worried about the repercussions of the crisis. Market levels remain low, but an upward trend has been observed since the recent G20 and the adoption of national plans, although this trend is as yet only visible over a short period.

The impact of the crisis on the Regions is analysed using the responses to the CPMR survey. Twenty-five responses have been received so far. Given the difficulty in producing quantitative analyses, the CPMR has given priority to qualitative analyses.

Most Regions are already strongly impacted by the crisis. This is reflected in sharp falls for all indicators: GDP, investment, exports, employment, and consumption. Few economic sectors are unaffected, and the impact of the crisis on each sector varies from one Region to another. Although rising unemployment is the most important impact, the social consequences of the crisis are severe and numerous.

The regional, or rather national, nature of the responses to the crisis vary from one Region to another, as do the types of budgetary, fiscal, regulatory, advisory or governance measures adopted.

The Structural Funds play an important role in the responses adopted. The Regions' assessment of the need to adapt or readjust Operational Programmes varies considerably from one Region to another.

The CPMR's next steps will be:

- A political workshop for Presidents of Regions, on 16 July in Brussels;
- Publication of the Manifesto once a greater number of signatures have been obtained;
- A political seminar on 27 November 2009 in Marseille.

For CPMR, the debate on the crisis is also fundamental because of its impact on regional policy after 2013. The key issues in this debate at the present time are the low utilisation rate of Structural Fund resources, the impossibility of predicting the impact of the crisis on GDP levels for 2010 and 2011, and the absence of a DG Regio position on the Barca report. In this difficult context, DG Regio is not, for the time being, proposing any clear vision of the future. The CPMR will present some elements at the Göteborg General Assembly.

**Gunn Marit Helgesen** (Telemark/North Sea Commission) thanked **Julie Gourden** for her very interesting presentation. She underlined the importance of the Regions in a context in which the European institutions and national governments were running out of steam.

**Antonio Valiante** (Campania) thought that in the very delicate context of the crisis, it was necessary to strengthen European territorial policies. He added that the European Union as a macro-economic framework should be strengthened, since too many national policies remained uncoordinated. Another important aspect was to homogenise the Regions' competences in the different States, especially in order to improve the link between the European level and the citizens. A stronger role for the Regions would improve the

quality of Structural Fund utilisation and control. In certain key areas such as territorial and cohesion policy, and social and training policies, the Regions should be given the possibility of adopting stronger policies.

**Maria Leal Monteiro** (Alentejo) praised the high quality of the analysis. She pointed out that in Portugal, a centralised country; the measures adopted to tackle the crisis were very different from one Region to another. The national authorities had taken into account the need for differentiation and this was applied in the responses to the crisis as well as in the context of the Structural Funds.

**Gordon Summers** (Highland) said that even in the United Kingdom the government was taking account of the specific situation of the Regions.

**Gunn Marit Helgesen** added that the States needed intermediaries that were close to the citizens in order to implement policies in response to the crisis.

**Xavier Gizard** reminded members that the CPMR was organising a seminar on the Regions and the crisis, to be held in Marseille on 27 November 2009.

In view of the time remaining, **Xavier Gizard** invited the Political Bureau to move on to the question of the "External Cooperation" and "Research" working groups, and asked members to give their opinion on the terms of reference.

**Christel Liljeström** (Itä-Uusimaa / Baltic Sea Commission) asked what was the planned duration of the "External Cooperation" group, and asked for details concerning the links established with United Cities and Local Governments.

**Xavier Gizard** said that the aim of the group was to look at how the Regions that worked with DG Development could reinforce and coordinate their proposals. The group would work in liaison with the European platform of Regional and Local Authorities for Development, of which CPMR was part, alongside several other organisations. The working group on external cooperation was being launched in response to calls from several CPMR Regions.

**Ángel Cortadelles** (Generalitat de Catalunya) said that the working group would be open to any interested Region, and referred to the group's areas of action, described in the terms of reference. The objective was to have an impact on the external links of the European Regions.

**Annelie Stark** (Västra Götaland) remarked that FOGAR was a sensitive issue. It had already given rise to several debates, which should be taken into account by the working group and the new Secretary General.

**Xavier Gizard** said that it was not the group's role to change the CPMR's priorities. He believed a European Commission / Regions dialogue was necessary, to improve European policies on external cooperation.

**Reinhard Boest** (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) said he hoped that the group would be as open as possible, and pointed out that the CPMR had not received a mandate to develop further activities in the framework of FOGAR.

**Christel Liljeström** asked for clarification as to the duration of the working group. Concerning the launch of the new group on research, she underlined the interest already expressed by several Baltic Sea Commission Regions, and their investment in the field of innovation.

**Xavier Gizard** said that the CPMR working groups did not generally have a fixed duration a priori.

**Damien Périssé** (CPMR) said that in the field of innovation, CPMR was currently concentrating its activities on preparing a contribution to CPMR's proposals on the future of regional policy. Questions relating to research were numerous; this required the setting up of a working group, in which several Baltic Regions had also expressed interest. The Geographical Commissions were also being encouraged to develop their own research and innovation activities.

**Gunn Marit Helgesen** underlined that FOGAR had been discussed several times and that the level of CPMR's involvement had not increased. It was necessary to confirm that this involvement did not go over and above what had been decided.

**Xavier Gizard** said that concerning the financial aspect, there would be a FOGAR meeting on 1 September 2009 to adopt FOGAR's own budget for 2010. This would also be the case for nrg4SD. The mandate given had therefore been complied with.

**Annelie Stark** thanked **Gunn Marit Helgesen** for underlining the respect for these principles, which were the foundations for any discussion.

**Gordon Summers** asked a question on behalf of Kevan Lim: were the terms of reference for the External Cooperation group submitted to the Political Bureau for approval?

**Xavier Gizard** confirmed that this was the case. Two documents had been circulated on this subject: the minutes of the External Cooperation group meeting held in Barcelona on 27 April 2009, and the terms of reference for this ad hoc group. Only the terms of reference were submitted for approval.

*The terms of reference for the "Research" and "External Cooperation" groups were approved.*

## **PARTICIPATION OF THE REGIONS IN EFFORTS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE**

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**Xavier Gizard** pointed out that the CPMR had been active on climate change for quite some time, since the Johannesburg Summit in 2002 when nrg4SD was set up. The summit meeting organised in Saint Malo last October, for which the CPMR had provided considerable support, had generated a large number of contacts. CPMR was involved, alongside other organisations of Regions, in the preparation of the Copenhagen summit. Its aim was to see the role of the Regions and Cities fully taken into account. A common basis for negotiation, proposed by the Climate Group and nrg4SD, had been adopted in March 2009 at the FOGAR General Assembly. This involved intense activity, on amendments in particular.

**Annelie Stark** praised the quality of the CPMR's action and underlined the importance of prevention alongside adaptation.

**Xavier Gizard** pointed out that for the time being only a White Paper on adaptation had been published. A call for stronger preventive action should be delivered to the Swedish Presidency and the European institutions during the Swedish Presidency.

**Gunn Marit Helgesen** said that climate change was perhaps a more important problem than the financial crisis, and hoped that the European Union would step up its efforts.

**Poul Muller** (Midtjylland) thought the Göteborg General Assembly came too late for a reaction to the White Paper.

**Xavier Gizard** said that a reaction would be sent as soon as possible. To date only the Intermediterranean Commission and the Atlantic Arc Commission had forwarded their opinions to the General Secretariat.

## **REVISION OF THE TRANS-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT NETWORKS**

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**Merli Feixa** (Gobierno de Aragón), representing the President of the CPMR Intercommissions working group on the TEN-T, presented the conclusions of this group's meeting and of the Scientific Council on this theme, which had taken place on 16 & 17 April in Zaragoza. A CPMR response to the Commission's Green Paper had been drawn up and sent to the European Commission on 30 April. This would form the basis for CPMR's continuing debate on the subject, which would be concluded at a major event organised during the first half of 2010 in Zaragoza under the Spanish Presidency of the EU.

**Patrick Anvroin** (CPMR) said that there would not, finally, be a session on transport at the CPMR General Assembly. The transport group would meet in Göteborg and a technical paper would be prepared before October. This would look at the questions of the motorways of the sea, in particular, and would also emphasise ports and logistics hubs, as well as the necessary balance between the imperatives of accessibility and of environmental protection. The paper would, for example, support the principle of green corridors. The Atlantic Arc Commission wished to involve the Cities in the work of the group. An appeal was made to the Islands Commission and Ultra-peripheral regions, which were not represented at the last meetings of the transport group in Zaragoza in April.

**Gordon Summers** hoped that greater importance would be given to regional economic development under the European approach.

**Reinhard Boest** thought that the proposed text was still too general. He hoped that CPMR would not rule out questioning the pertinence of the major transport axes defined at European level. He reminded members that the Baltic Sea Commission had set up a transport group.

**Philippe Bonneau** (Basse-Normandie / Atlantic Arc Commission) said that the reflection on transport should be part of a broader reflection on the crisis and sustainable development. The Atlantic Arc Commission emphasised six main ideas: support for the development of European networks giving priority to railways; co-modality; support for regional competitiveness; combating climate change; improving freight transport by rail and sea routes; improving links between the Atlantic Arc and the centre of Europe. The next meeting of the Atlantic Arc transport group would take place on 1 July 2009 in Poitiers.

**Patrick Anvroin** said that CPMR's work on transport was indeed linked to an overall reflection on the future of regional policies. He also said that the Council of Transport Ministers had recently put pressure on the European Commission not to call into question the existing trans-European network projects.

**Annelie Stark** thanked **Merli Feixa** and congratulated her on her presentation.

## THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S GREEN PAPER ON THE REFORM OF THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

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**Xavier Gizard** outlined the background to the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), on which the European Commission had published a Green Paper:

- The CPMR Fisheries Intergroup, at its meeting in Brussels on 8 June, had drawn up a position which would be submitted to the Göteborg General Assembly and which would constitute the CPMR's contribution to the Green Paper;
- Mr Fokion Fotiadis, Director General of the European Commission's DG MARE, had confirmed at that meeting that he was awaiting the contribution of the Peripheral Maritime Regions to the Fisheries Green Paper with interest. Although he thought it was still possible to propose new guidelines, he nonetheless emphasised coastal zone protection, the links between maritime policy and the CFP, and the strengthening of the role of the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs). He was also considering the possibility of replacing the current, centralised mechanisms, which were inefficient in terms of protecting resources, by an alternative model based on having confidence in local stakeholders;
- The FAR-NET's programme for 2010, in which CPMR is taking part, would be presented at the Göteborg General Assembly.

**Christel Liljeström** said that there was a problem with the timetable proposed by the CPMR Fisheries Intercom Group, because the summer holiday period meant certain Regions would not be able to make a political contribution on this subject.

**Enda Bonner** (Donegal) explained that the small-scale fishing industries in Ireland had disappeared and were not able to re-develop, mainly because of the lack of clarity in the European Commission's position on the size of trawls.

**Philippe Bonneau** said that when Commissioner Borg attended the Political Bureau meeting of the Atlantic Arc Commission in Caen, the discussion had covered various aspects, in particular: the environment, stocks, finding a balance between fleet management and an active and responsible fisheries industry, the position of the Regions in governance, control and the role of the Fisheries Control Agency, and market transparency. He supported the proposal to give the RACs a more important role, and noted on this point that the meeting of the AAC's fisheries group on 6 & 7 July 2009 would take place at the same time as the General Assembly of the South-western waters RAC. Galicia, which coordinates the work of the AAC fisheries group, would present a proposal for an AAC response to the Green Paper, in the hope that a joint AAC/South-western waters RAC response could emerge.

**Reinhard Boest** said that this debate had aroused a great deal of interest in Germany, where the impact on fishermen was considerable. Germany's position on the Fisheries Green Paper would be adopted after the summer holiday period. Priority would be given to sustainability (combating illegal fishing, ensuring greater market transparency, and the key problem of over-capacity of the fleets).

**Mercedes Gallego Pelegrín** (Murcia) announced that the Region's President, Ramón Luis Valcarcel Siso, had been nominated as the Committee of the Regions' rapporteur on the reform of the CFP. The first debate would take place in the Commission for Sustainable Development on 30 June, and this would be followed by a meeting in Poland in October. The report would be adopted in the COR's plenary session in December 2009. She wished to gather the opinions of local and regional authority players on this subject.

**Xavier Gizard** made the following points in response to the discussion:

- The timetable for the CPMR contribution to the Fisheries Green Paper would be maintained, given that the representatives of the Baltic Sea Commission had agreed to it at the Fisheries Intercom Group meeting. He proposed that the text be circulated by e-mail, and reminded members that amendments could be submitted at any time up to the General Assembly;
- Josie Simpson, Shetland Islands representative and coordinator of the Fisheries Intercom Group, said he would not be able to take part in the structured dialogue with Commissioner Borg on 29 June, and invited those who would be available to contact François Desrentes in order to organise CPMR's participation in this event;
- He said that the CPMR remained at the disposal of President Valcarcel Siso to help him in drafting his report;
- He said that Mr Fokion Fotiadis had agreed in principle to take part in the Göteborg General Assembly.

**Patrick Anvroin** announced that the Aquamarina group would be meeting on 18 June to discuss the reform of the CFP, marine energies, and to review the 2008/2009 action plan. A professor from Seville University, adviser to the Spanish Presidency on maritime issues, would be taking part in the meeting.

**Reinhard Boest** reminded members that the President of the Aquamarina group had proposed to examine the question of maritime professions. A meeting would take place on this subject on 17 June in Brussels. The Regions of Murcia, Midtjylland, Aberdeen, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Brittany would take part. He regretted the low level of participation, however, and encouraged members of the Political Bureau to attend. A number of ideas were evoked, including the creation of a maritime Erasmus programme for young people and adults.

## **PREPARATION OF THE GÖTEBORG GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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**Xavier Gizard** outlined the draft agenda for the Göteborg General Assembly.

**Magnus Engelbrektsson** (Västra Götaland) said he looked forward to welcoming all the CPMR Regions on this occasion, and reminded members that:

- Given the number of events taking place during the same period, hotel reservations should be made as soon as possible;
- The event would be organised taking a sustainable and ecological approach.

## **EXAMINATION OF AND VOTE ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ORGANISATIONAL CHARTER**

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**Xavier Gizard** introduced the two amendments to the CPMR's Organisational Charter.

The amendment to Article 8.5 concerning the Secretary General was unanimously adopted.

The amendment to Article 1.2 / 1.3 proposed by the Intermediterranean Commission (CIM) concerning the status of members from the Southern shores of the Mediterranean gave rise to a debate:

**Gérard Bodinier** (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur / Intermediterranean Commission) explained the background to this amendment. He reminded members that the Intermediterranean Commission was made up of Regions from the Northern and Southern shores of the Mediterranean, and that the Southern Regions currently had the status of associate Regions. On the proposal of its President, the Political Bureau of the Intermediterranean Commission had unanimously decided to admit these Regions as full members of the Intermediterranean Commission. This symbolic and political decision in favour of the Southern partners had been taken:

- Out of respect for these Regions and in order to align the Intermediterranean Commission's action with its words;
- To ensure parity (as in the example of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly - EMRLA) ;
- Out of the conviction that each region should have a vote.

**Gérard Bodinier** said he thought that building a Mediterranean space based on solidarity that had two sets of rules was a contradiction, and was not in line with the States' agreement on the participation of regional

and local authorities in the Union for the Mediterranean. This decision should also help to improve democratic governance by working alongside partners rather than by multiplying constraints and imposing ways of looking at things. It was necessary to change the EU's arrogant attitude, and to get the Union for the Mediterranean moving thanks to the Regions, at a time when it was not moving ahead with the States.

**Annelie Stark** outlined the position of the Swedish Regions. They opposed the amendment and proposed to leave the Charter unchanged, simply replacing "Euro-Mediterranean Partnership" by "Union for the Mediterranean".

**Christel Liljeström** called for further debate before any decision was taken.

**Henning Gjellerod** (Midtjylland) shared the views of Ms Stark and Ms Liljeström.

**Marjatta Vehkaoja** (Ostrobothnia) feared that such a modification would focus attention on Mediterranean issues in the future.

**Reinhard Boest** thought that the CIM's decision should not be imposed on the CPMR as a whole.

**Maria Leal Monteiro** supported the CIM's proposal. She thought it was useful as a way of consolidating the Barcelona process and peace in this geographical area.

**Gunn Marit Helgesen** proposed to postpone the decision on this amendment. The question should be discussed within the different Geographical Commissions. Following consultation, a decision would be taken as to whether or not to put this item on the agenda of the Political Bureau meeting of 1 October in Göteborg. The Bureau meeting on 1 October would then decide whether or not to include the item on the agenda of the General Assembly of 2 October.

## FINANCIAL ISSUES

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**Xavier Gizard** presented the statement of the accounts for 2008 and a progress report for 2009.

The auditor's report on the CPMR's annual accounts closed on 31 December 2008 was unanimously adopted by the Political Bureau. Total income was EUR 3.264.455 and total expenditure was EUR 3.295.874. After taking account of exceptional income and expenditure, provisions, and dedicated funds, the final balance showed a deficit of EUR 28.637. The Political Bureau unanimously approved the 2008 accounts, and proposed that they be approved by the Göteborg General Assembly.

Xavier Gizard indicated that the draft budget for 2009 was being executed as anticipated.

## APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

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**Xavier Gizard** presented membership applications from the Regions of Bremen (DE) and Trabzon (TR). These were unanimously approved.

**Philippe Bonneau** asked whether an EGTC could be a member of CPMR, further to a request from the Duero-Douro EGTC to join the Atlantic Arc Commission.

**Xavier Gizard** said in his view such a structure could have an observer's role, but that the status of member should be strictly limited to regional authorities as defined in the Charter.

## NEXT MEETINGS OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU

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The Bureau accepted the invitation from Asturias for the meeting early in 2010 and thanked the Region's President. The Bureau repeated its acceptance of the invitation from Troms for the meeting in June 2010.

## CONCLUSIONS

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**Gunn Marit Helgesen** closed the meeting, and warmly thanked the Regions of Odessa for its welcome.