

HOW CURIOUS.... TERRITORIAL COHESION MAKES A COMEBACK!

We thought it was dead, a “has-been”, sacrificed on the alter of harsh world competition and the inevitable struggle between regions for their share of the global economy cake. But, following several successive initiatives, it is back in the limelight.

The Dutch government, in the first instance, in association with the CPMR, organised a welcome seminar at the end of June on the topic of “the territorial agenda” in the Union with a view to preparing a major event on this subject in Leipzig in May 2007, during the German presidency. The speakers called for a European territorial cohesion policy as one of the basic factors needed to ensure that everyone can participate in competition. The European “territorial model” thus appears to be as important, if not more so, historically, than its “social model”.

In passing the regional policy budget for the next 7 years, the European members of parliament and the Commissioner expressed once more their concerns that the fundamentals of the policy of cohesion was being harmed in the name of short-term boosting of territories that are already competitive on the world scene.

And it is not the last interim Report on the differences in wealth in various European regions that will contradict these concerns, as these differences are growing.

Thus the need for a long-term sustainable European regional policy is even greater. Whether it disappears or develops in 2014, it will be one of the major items on the agenda of the meetings of Heads of State and Government in 2008-2009. It is the principal instrument through which the European Union, as it expands and as the world economy develops, has been able to ensure that its citizens can adapt and maintain solidarity.

This experience sets a good enough example for territorial cohesion to be the central topic of the seminar organised by our Conference on “the role of the regions in globalisation” in the Azores on 23rd and 24th June. For the first time, there was a debate between regional Presidents from five continents, representatives of world and continental institutions, thus confirming the need for a “territorial agenda” with respect to globalisation so that those responsible for the regions can best promote the involvement of the regional populations in the current movement. In this spirit, the United Nations’ Development Programme (UNDP) and the CPMR* signed a framework co-operation agreement. The same requirement for decentralised governance of development policy is being felt throughout the world.

This dimension will not be able to escape the new phase of reflection leading to changes in the Union’s institutions.

For this reason it is right that the regions, which have been involved over the last 30 years in the construction of the European Community, and then the Union, and given the importance of the various world issues (economic, demographic, environmental), are now becoming involved in the emergence of world governance.

These are some of the important subjects for discussion in the autumn of 2006.

A wish you all a good holiday. Recharge your batteries, you’ll need them!

Xavier Gizard
Secretary General

* Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (of Europe)

GLOBALISATION ALSO MEANS THE FIRST WORLDWIDE MEETING OF REGIONS!

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organised a discussion seminar on *"The Place of the Regions in Globalisation"* on 23 and 24 June 2006, at the invitation of **Carlos Manuel César**, President of the Autonomous Government of the Azores in Portugal.

Thirty years ago, while Europe was still taking shape, the CPMR initiated a continent-wide channel of expression for the regional level. Today in their search for alliances on other continents, these same regions share the same concerns as they did thirty years ago, but this time within the emerging circles of future world governance, such as the WTO, the Kyoto Protocol or the United Nations General Assembly.

The seminar on globalisation-related issues was attended by the President of the European Commission **José Durão Barroso** (by videoconference), the Commissioner for Maritime Affairs, **Joe Borg**, and **Eneko Landaburu**, Director General of External Relations at the Commission. Also participating was **Michel Barnier**, former French Foreign Affairs Minister, former European Commissioner and above all 'major expert on the Regions'. *"When I was European Commissioner for regional policy, I did say on many occasions that we could not achieve Lisbon, competitiveness for Europe and economic growth by leaving out the Regions. All Regions, whether weak or very dynamic, can play a role to help Europe win the fight for competitiveness, research, innovation and training. This is why we have maintained regional policy within the new Community budget: 309 billion euros are allocated to the Regions, with a greater share for Regions experiencing the most difficulty, and a fair amount too for the outermost Regions.*

"So on our continent," the former Commissioner went on to say, "there is no doubt that the Regions have an important role to play in helping Europe to succeed the Lisbon challenge. At a global level, things are more difficult. Dialogue is tougher, but here again Regions have a role to play. It is very important for European Regions to meet Regions from Africa, Asia or Latin America to compare their experiences. The Regions are often in the front line in terms of practical problems such as immigration, ecology or employment. In my view therefore, organisations need to facilitate their dialogue with world governance."

Claudio Martini, President of Tuscany and President of the CPMR is also a great observer of globalisation-related phenomena. He is also the author of a book (*A new global world from New York to San Rossore*), in which the final chapter consists of a discussion with the singer and pop star, Sting. When Martini talks of globalisation, he likes to quote **Ivan Illich** who theorised on *the symmetry of two errors*: there is the one made by the supporters of globalisation who say it should not be changed, and the other by the opponents of globalisation who are against it even though they are convinced it cannot be changed. *"We must and we can intervene,"* said Martini. We have this duty for the future of humanity. Goods, capital, information and persons circulate throughout the world, but this is not the case for democracy. In this respect, the United Nations have an unfortunately underestimated role. A reform of the UN is necessary with grassroots support, and this will occur with the backing of the Regions acting as a direct link with populations.

The positions of northern European Regions on this issue are also interesting. Norway, a non-member of the EU, but which “also experiences the effects” of globalisation, was represented by **Gunn Marit Helgesen**, County Mayor of Telemark County and Vice-President of the CPMR.

President Helgesen, is globalisation good or bad for regions?

I think both, but mostly good. Because when you bring people together, they can influence each other in a positive way. They learn, they gain new ideas, experience and knowledge. In this way we improve our society. Democracy is strengthened by globalisation.

In European governance, regions have a significant role. What is the role that regions can play in world governance?

It is important to share responsibilities between national, regional and local levels also in the world governance. We need to share powers, competences and also responsibilities, but, as we know, at the regional level we are closer to citizens. We realize today that some issues, mostly practical, are better managed by regions than countries, and this is not only in Europe but around the globe.

Can European regions lead a kind of world regional organisation process?

Yes, we can lead a lot of processes, because we already have an established network and existing partnerships.

Enrico Mayrhofer
Director for Communications

ENEKO LANDABURU AGREES WITH JACQUES DELORS:

DECISION-MAKING ON INVESTMENTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS BEST DONE AT REGIONAL LEVEL

Eneko Landaburu is the Director-General of External Relations at the European Commission. At the seminar on globalisation on 23-24 June in the Azores, he delivered a speech entitled "The European Union and globalisation, the place of the Regions".

Michel Barnier, former European Commissioner and former French Foreign Affairs Minister also expressed his views on Political and Economic Governance during the seminar.

What role can or should the world's regions play in these two phenomena?

Eneko Landaburu: "In terms of political governance, it is clear that responses to the negative effects of globalisation can only be provided through an improved organisation of government at world level. Some efforts have been made within the United Nations and Kofi Annan has also presented a plan, but in my view it is essential that the worldwide economic reality some day needs to have a corresponding worldwide political reality! In this context, it is clear that the nation states will play a predominant role, since they are the major players. It would also be important to foresee regional involvement for issues that can only be dealt with by the younger generation, who have direct responsibilities and experience in the territories."

*Eneko Landaburu: "With regard to economic governance however, if I take the European example, economic growth is largely dependent on SMEs that have a strong local or regional base. When regional policy was first introduced, Jacques Delors said that *decision-making on investments and economic development is best done at regional level*. Given our wealth of SMEs in the EU, our regions necessarily have a place in economic governance."*

The regions have significantly contributed to the process of cohesion between the peoples of Europe. What more can they offer at world level in terms of cohesion between populations?

Eneko Landaburu: "I believe we have a very solid historic experience in Europe. Establishing close economic ties between states, beginning with steel and coal, has helped to create conditions for such a strong interpenetration of economies that today it is impossible to imagine between us what we have been doing for centuries, namely waging war! Development and economic cooperation create conditions of inter-dependence and hence peace and security. If we have regions with a capacity to cooperate economically with others, then they can help contribute towards this peace process, and through their relations and inter-dependencies eliminate the causes of war. I know that this alone will not put an end to wars in the world, but young people are open to others, understanding, interested in others and are less belligerent. This does mean a state monopoly in my view, because I am convinced that regional authorities can also contribute towards world peace."

Michel Barnier also stated: Successful globalisation? We are still a long way off! Positive globalisation? There again, we are still a long way off! Do you agree?

*Eneko Landaburu: "Yes absolutely. Globalisation is capitalism and capitalism, although it has generated a great deal of modernity, capacity, creativity and competitiveness, has also brought with it difficulties. To quote Jacques Delors once more, "*the market is short-sighted*", and this is why in Europe we need cohesion and social policies alongside the internal market. There is no alternative to globalisation, but if globalisation is managed solely on the basis of capitalist*

reasoning, it will lead us into chaos. We must avoid this chaos by means of public policies, accepting that the market economy can make regulations to maintain, in humane societies, prospects and aims that are not purely financial and economic in nature”

Enrico Mayrhofer
Director for Communications

ZICOSUR, A LATIN-AMERICAN CPMR*

ZICOSUR (Assembly of Governors of the central-west South American Integration Area) is an association of South American peripheral regions with a population of 30 million and comprising 33 local governments from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Chilli – a sort of Latin-American CPMR, chaired by **Juan Carlos Romero**, President of the Salta Province in Argentina.

Mr. Romero, what is ZICOSUR?

“ZICOSUR is an association of regions which has been in existence for 10 years. We are going to meet again next year in Chilli, in the region of Antofagasta, which is where our first, founding meeting took place. The aim of our association is to promote a productive dynamic to facilitate co-operation between our regions and foster trade and financial exchanges”.

The CPMR often proposes its positions to the European Union. What is the relationship between ZICOSUR and MERCOSUR?

“Unfortunately, the MERCOSUR structure is not very well-established as yet. At present, it is simply a customs union that facilitates co-operation and dialogue. This is why we also work with our governments to get them to participate in our regional projects. So, the governments allocate funds for infrastructures to our regions who seek to implement cross-border projects.”

Today in the Azores, almost all the continents are represented. The first meeting of the regions of the world, something that was impossible ten years ago. Does this, too, constitute globalisation?

“Of course. We are here to share, to “globalise” our experiences, our day-to-day problems. Problems relating to water, ecology, urbanisation, relocation, problems that all regional Presidents in the world are faced with. Organisations such as the CPMR or ZICOSUR enable us to share our ideas so that we can avoid the errors that have been committed elsewhere. That is one of the positive aspects of globalisation....”.

Patricia Silva Mujica is the assistant of the *Intendenta* in the region of Antofagosta and is also very involved in ZICOSUR activities.

What is ZICOSUR concentrating on at present?

“Economic, commercial and cultural integration of our regions. We form part of a peripheral macro region that is located a long way from our respective capitals. This process is extremely costly, and we believe that integrated management of our regions would make us less dependent on the centre and thus lead to better development of our economic areas”.

Are other regions interested in becoming members of ZICOSUR?

“Yes. The province de Jujuy in Argentina and the province of Tarija in Bolivia are interested in our activities. We have, for example, just begun a programme with them to create an agency to promote small and medium-sized companies”.

Enrico Mayrhofer

Director for Communications

* Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe

CPMR SUPPORTS A BLACK SEA TRANSPORT NETWORK

Professionals from the transport industry and relevant public institutions met on 6 and 7 June in Odessa - Ukraine - for the 5th Conference on "The Black Sea Area Transport Network Formation. East-West integration". The conference underlined the extremely rapid development of maritime traffic in the Black Sea and the related challenges and opportunities for logistics specialists, harbour managers and institutions.

On this occasion, the CPMR was able to highlight its role and that of its Geographical Commissions in the development of Motorways of the Sea and the preparation of the Trans-European Transport Network, and invited the Black Sea Regions to take action in this area.

The General Assembly of the Balkan & Black Sea Regional Commission will be held on 29 September, also in Odessa, at the invitation of the Regional Governor. It will no doubt enable the CPMR to develop its presence in this geographical area and could help to extend the Motorways of the Sea towards the Black Sea.

Conclusions available at http://www.balkansblacksea.org/pub/docs/22_appeal.doc

Patrick Anvoin,
CPMR