



NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2007 - REGIONS OF THE WORLD IN 38th HEAVEN...

WWW.CRPM.ORG

## ARTICLES

### REGIONS OF THE WORLD IN 38th HEAVEN...

The Regions have reached New York at last!

It was at a final working session of the General Secretariat of the United Nations that the Regions in the World network, under the umbrella of **FOGAR** (Forum of Global Associations of Regions) and led by their President, Mr. Claudio Martini, President of Tuscany Regional Council and CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe), completed a two-day presentation of their main concerns to world bodies, on 1st and 2nd November.

The two days were extremely intense. The Presidents of the Associations within FOGAR (<http://www.crpm.org/index.php?act=4,7,2#organisation>) had meetings with several leading figures from the UN. Firstly, they met Mr. Kemal Dervis, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as two Ambassadors, Messrs. Dalius Cekulis and Léo Mérorès (current and future Presidents of the Economic and Social Council) and Ambassador Mourad Ahmia, President of the Group of 77, a caucus of developing nations set up to promote the collective economic interests of its members and create increased negotiating power for the United Nations.

All our contacts emphasised their availability and expressed their encouragement for increased involvement on the part of regional public authorities in the achievement of the Millennium Objectives for Development by implementing measures that are closer to realities, taking account of climate change and, most importantly of all, introducing global governance involving all the partners concerned.

During the discussions, we emphasised that our action should, of course, be additional to, and supportive of, the actions taken by States and local authorities.

The Co-Presidents of NRG4SD (Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development - [www.nrg4sd.net](http://www.nrg4sd.net)), Mrs. Esther Larrañaga, Minister of the Environment for Euskadi (Basque Country, Spain) and Mrs. Tasneem Essop, Minister of the Economy and the Environment for Cape Province (South Africa), described, as an example, the work undertaken by the network set up in 2002 at the Johannesburg Summit. Our contacts were invited by the President of Brittany Regional Council, Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian, to play a proactive role in the **Summit meeting of global Regions on sustainable development** to be held in Saint-Malo (F) from 29th to 31st October 2008 when debates will concentrate on ways of adapting to climate change. The topic of climate change will also be a priority for the *Northern Forum*, an association that includes all the Regions in the Arctic Arc, from Japan to Alaska ([www.northernforum.org](http://www.northernforum.org)).

The cross-border, transnational dimension was also the subject of discussions because it is a major concern in Latin America as it is in Europe. The representatives of ZICOSUR (Zona de Integración del Centro Oeste de América del Sur - [www.zicosur.com](http://www.zicosur.com)), Norte Grande and OLAGI (Organización Latinoamericana de Gobiernos Intermedios [www.olagi.org](http://www.olagi.org)), Messrs. Juan Carlos Romero, Governor of Salta (Argentina), Roy Nikish, Governor of Chaco (Argentina) and Luís Guastavino, Secretary General of OLAGI (Chile), all highlighted the issue. Mr. Lambert Van Nisterooij (Netherlands), President of AEBR (Association of European Border Regions) and a member of the European Parliament, pointed out that the problem is exactly the same on a European level.

Two other subjects were discussed at length during the meetings. Firstly, there is a need to increase the competence of bodies on a regional level so that institutional decentralisation can become a reality in various countries. Such decentralisation brings greater efficiency to services provided for populations. Secondly, there is a need to include regions and decentralised cooperation in development aid processes in order to increase strategic efficacy based, in particular, on the ART GOLD programmes being promoted by the UNDP. These two topics were more particularly raised by the President of the Tangiers-Tetouan Region (Morocco), Mr. Abdelhadi Benallal, and by the President of the International Association of French-speaking Regions, Mr. Thierry Cornillet,

also a member of the European Parliament, both of whom took part in the two days of meetings.

The next meeting will be in Brussels on 8th February 2008. On this occasion, FOGAR will introduce itself to the European Institutions and finalise the preparation of the **2nd International Assizes for a regional approach to governance and development**, organised jointly with the UNDP, in Tangiers (Morocco) from **12th to 14th May 2008**, at the invitation of the President of the Region, Mr. Benallal, and the Kingdom of Morocco. The central theme will be cohesion policies and the territorial approach required to support a form of globalisation that benefits all Regions. Simultaneously, there will be workshop on concrete project and programme development with a view to achieving cooperation between the Regions of the world.

Xavier Gizard  
xavier.gizard@crpm.org

---

## THE BLUE PLANET FORUM

The Blue Planet Forum, organised on 27 and 28 November by the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the European Commission's Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, is an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss recommendations in the Commission's 'Blue Paper' on an integrated maritime policy for the EU. This main event, which takes place at the CoR headquarters, is organised in partnership with the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and Claudio Martini will be one of the keys participants with Michel Delebarre, President of the Committee of the Regions.

Joe Borg, EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, will present the 'Blue Paper' and address how the proposed measures can contribute to the sustainable management of marine resources. Joao Mira Gomes, Portuguese Secretary of State for Maritime Affairs, will express the views of the EU Presidency.

For further information please click on the following link:  
<http://www.cor.europa.eu/Fr/activities/forums.htm>

---

***“BALTIC GATEWAY IS A PROJECT OF HIGH EUROPEAN INTEREST IN THE FIELD OF INVESTMENTS FOR MARITIME INTERMODAL TRANSPORT.”***

**DANUTA HÜBNER, EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER**

The South Baltic Sea area plays an important role as a gateway between Scandinavia and Continental Europe, and in relation to the European and Asian hinterlands further away. The area functions as a market place for inter-modal transport services, where ports offer interfaces to a wide range of destinations for passengers and goods.

In order to strengthen the efficiency and sustainability of the transport system, regional authorities in the area, national transport administrations, port authorities, chambers of commerce as well as private stakeholders, have joined forces in the INTERREG IIIB project **BALTIC GATEWAY** and its follow up project **BALTIC GATEWAY PLUS**.

30 Partners from six countries (Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Russia, and Lithuania) have participated in the project. The **Region of Blekinge** is lead partner with the project secretariat located in Karlskrona. The total budget is 1,043,500 Euros, financed by ERDF (536,000 Euros) and by TACIS (128,500 Euros).

On 8 and 9 November the Final Conference of the Baltic Gateway PLUS BSR Interreg IIIB project was held in Brussels. The conference aimed to present and discuss a concrete implementation plan for the “**BALTIC GATEWAY QUICK START PROGRAMME**”.

This programme started in March 2003. In February 2006, it was agreed upon by the regional political leaders in the South Baltic Sea area. It identifies prioritised transport projects, considered as the most strategic investments in providing the South Baltic Sea area with a transports system that will support integration and economic growth in the area. The most important measures identified include:

- Capacity building projects within transport and logistics;
- Improvements of inter-modal hubs;
- Investments in hinterland connections.

**For more information, please contact:**  
Bengt Gustafsson Project Co-Coordinator

Bengt.gustafsson@regionblekinge.se  
Johanna Rönn; Deputy Project Co-Coordinator  
Johanna.ronn@regionblekinge.se  
+46 455 30 50 15

**Alternatively, please visit the web site:**

<http://www.balticgateway.se/FinalconferenceBGPLUS.htm>

---

## MARITIME AND COASTAL ECONOMY CONGRESS

### Marseille, 13 and 14 December 2007

What to expect from the Blue Paper, recently adopted by the European Union, which sets milestones for a veritable integrated maritime policy?

Which role for the states and the regions in this policy?

What are the development prospects for maritime sectors such as fisheries, transport and ports, ship building or sailing?

How can economic development and protecting the coastline be reconciled?

These are some of the issues to be addressed during the 3rd "Maritime and Coastal Economy Congress", organised by the economic daily newspaper "Les Echos" and the weekly maritime economy publication "Le Marin" on 13 and 14 December 2007 in Marseille.

Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, will make an opening speech, as well as Michel Vauzelle, President of the Region Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur and the CPMR Inter-Mediterranean Commission.

The future of the Mediterranean area and the creation of a Mediterranean Union, sought by Nicolas Sarkozy, will be one of the key topics of this Congress. Maritime safety and security, economic exchanges, coastal development and resource conservation are some of the challenges facing countries on both sides of the Mediterranean in the context of their collaboration for sustainable co-development.

**For all information regarding the programme, please contact:**

Jean-Ronan Le Pen, Congress Manager, [jrlepen@lesechos.fr](mailto:jrlepen@lesechos.fr)

**To register for this event:**

Dalila Niouri, Registration Manager, 01 49 53 22 77, [dniouri@lesechos.fr](mailto:dniouri@lesechos.fr)

[http://www.lesechos-conferences.fr/co/catalogue/conferences/energie-environnement-de/economie\\_mer\\_littoral/presentation.html](http://www.lesechos-conferences.fr/co/catalogue/conferences/energie-environnement-de/economie_mer_littoral/presentation.html)

## EVENTS

**27-29 November**, Blue Planet Forum, CoR, Brussels (BE)

[http://www.cor.europa.eu/document/Highlight/2821\\_forum\\_BluePlanetFINAL.pdf](http://www.cor.europa.eu/document/Highlight/2821_forum_BluePlanetFINAL.pdf)

**27 November**, European Regional Champions Awards, Brussels (BE)

[www.regionalreview.eu](http://www.regionalreview.eu)

**28-29 November**, 5<sup>th</sup> Interregional Partnership Platform, Brussels, Office of Valencia (BE)

<http://www.uegva.info/fundacioncv/agendaweb/index.php?id=656>

**3-4 December**, CPMR Scientific Council "Regional Development and globalisation", Lisboa (PT)

<http://www.crpm.org/index.php?act=6,1,2,56>

**6-7 December**, InterCluster 2007, Brussels (BE)

[http://www.intercluster.eu/images/Programmes/intercluster2007%20programme\\_en.pdf](http://www.intercluster.eu/images/Programmes/intercluster2007%20programme_en.pdf)

**10-13 December**, European Parliament Plenary Session, Strasbourg (FR)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/public/plenSession.do?sessionId=758B06461084CBB831EBC1AAEC260454.node1?language=EN>

**13-14 December**, 3<sup>èmes</sup> Assises de l'Economie Maritime et du Littoral, Marseille (FR)

[http://www.lesechos-conferences.fr/co/catalogue/conferences/energie-environnement-de/economie\\_mer\\_littoral/presentation.html?PHPSESSID=sdqe015n5k2ma0saf5po39ovk5](http://www.lesechos-conferences.fr/co/catalogue/conferences/energie-environnement-de/economie_mer_littoral/presentation.html?PHPSESSID=sdqe015n5k2ma0saf5po39ovk5)

**13-14 December**, European Council, Brussels (BE)  
[http://www.consilium.eu.int/cms3\\_fo/showPage.asp?lang=EN](http://www.consilium.eu.int/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?lang=EN)

**18 January**, CPMR/CoR Seminar, "Which future for Regional policies after 2013?" Seville (ES)

**19 January**, CPMR Political Bureau, Seville (ES)  
<http://www.crpm.org/fr/index.php?act=6,1,2,63>

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**Director of Publication : Xavier Gizard**  
**Editor : Enrico Mayrhofer**

To receive the **TENOR**, please send your e-mail to  
[the.newsletter@crpm.org](mailto:the.newsletter@crpm.org)

