

## INTERVIEW

### DO NOT ASK WHAT FUTURE GENERATIONS CAN DO FOR YOU, BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THEM

The question is not if CO<sub>2</sub> emissions should be reduced or not, but how they should be reduced. Aware that wind cannot replace fossil fuels we know that it must go hand in hand with oil and gas. At VESTAS<sup>1</sup>, the world's leading company in supplying wind turbines, they work to ensure that rising energy consumption will not increase greenhouse gas emissions.

Peter Kruse is the Senior Vice-President at VESTAS, a company which hosted a study tour for the CPMR during the latest Baltic Sea and North Sea Commissions' Joint General Assembly, which was held in Herning (DK) on 13 June 2008. VESTAS holds 23% of the world market share and has installed more than 35,000 wind turbines in 63 countries. They install an average of one wind turbine every four hours and in 2007 their turbines generated more than 60 million MWh.

*EM: M. Kruse, VESTAS is the world's leading supplier of modern energy solutions. What is the secret of your success? What are your goals for the future?*

*PK: Next year we will celebrate 30 years since we installed our first wind turbine. From that day our production increased significantly and our market is no longer only Denmark but the whole world. We export in different countries with different political environments and geographical situations. Today nobody has the same knowledge that we have in wind energy. This is the key to our success. What is our main goal for the future? We want to build the strongest wind plant in the world!*

*EM: If one of our Regions wanted to develop wind energy in its territory, what would be the best thing to do?*

*PK: First of all, a region should make sure it has the right type of wind. Then it has to build a grid to spread the energy produced by the turbines and decide where to plant the turbines. It is very difficult to face the citizens, because some of them will not be in favour, but the Governor of a region should take into account the enormous quantity of clean energy produced by a turbine and the money which will be saved in the long term. I believe that it is necessary to carry out serious long-term planning before starting the implantation of wind turbines.*

*EM: During the 20<sup>th</sup> century oil had a significant role and great impact on the world economy, as coal had a major role in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Do you think that this century will be the one for renewable energy?*

*PK: It is hard to say, but we have to face the fact that oil and coal are limited, whilst wind is not...*

*EM: Our organisation brings together peripheral and maritime regions across Europe. They are usually very windy and sunny; therefore they are "potential" centres for renewable energy. Do you think they will ever become the "heart" of energy production in Europe?*

*PK: Why not? Hypothetically, if you plant many off shore installations in a very windy area, like the Atlantic Arc, for instance, you could also think of exporting the energy produced! Unfortunately, we are far from this reality, but the technology is developing quickly and I am sure renewable energy is the future.*

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<sup>1</sup> [www.vestas.com](http://www.vestas.com)

EM: Who are your competitors? Do you consider other renewable energies as competitors?

PK: Not at all. We all have space in a market dominated by fossil fuels. Personally, I just believe that today, wind energy is more competitive than solar energy, for instance, but of course we do not consider the sun as a competitor of wind... we all fight climate change! Of course, we do have competitors, because we are not the only producers of wind turbines. There are also ENDESA, GE, SIEMENS, etc., but as I said we all have a space in the market!

Enrico Mayrhofer (enrico.mayrhofer@crpm.org)

## ARTICLES

### SAINT MALO: THE WORLD'S REGIONS COME TOGETHER TO TACKLE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The Regions are first-hand witnesses to climate change on account of the way they manage their territories and related activities. It is therefore logical that they have chosen Climate Change as the main topic of the Summit organised by nrg4SD (Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development) in Saint-Malo on 29 and 30 October 2008.

- The working group behind the project, which put forward its conclusions at the nrg4SD General Assembly in Khanty-Mansiysk (Western Siberia) in May 2007, wanted to highlight the central role that regional governments play in reducing the factors responsible for climate change (mitigation) and in introducing adaptation measures.
- For this reason, the Regions have wished to focus their work on exchanges of concrete experiences and good practices in line with these two regional policy guidelines (mitigation and adaptation) whether they involve government authorities or civil society. The Saint-Malo Summit will therefore be a demonstrative event focused on the needs, expectations and actual achievements of local and regional governments to cope with the challenges of climate change.

The Regions are keen for all the sessions of the Saint-Malo Summit to highlight:

- reasons why climate change issues are of direct interest to the regional level,
- reasons why the regional level is in a position to act on the issue of climate change,
- reasons why the regional level presents extra added value alongside central government and sub-regional levels.

This Summit will also provide the opportunity to initiate a broad-based partnership between the United Nations (UNEP-United Nations Environment Programme and UNDP-United Nations Development Programme) and the regions entitled "*Towards carbon neutral and climate change resilient territories*".

CPMR members are invited to take part in this initiative which will be led in full coordination with EU guidelines, particularly those that are to be set out in the European Commission's White Paper on Adaptation due out at the end of 2008.

For further information and details on how to register, go to the dedicated website:

[www.worldsummitofregions.org](http://www.worldsummitofregions.org)

François Desrentes, CPMR Director (francois.desrentes@crpm.org)

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### THE CPMR LOBBIES FOR THE CAP

Even if the CPMR is an organisation of maritime Regions, its members felt that it must be involved in the debate on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy, which, just behind Cohesion Policy, represents the second most important EU budgetary redistribution mechanism within the territories.

At the end of a very intense period of studies and internal debates, the CPMR Political Bureau in Rhodes adopted a set of principles, on the basis of which the CPMR put forward some amendments to the European Commission's legislative proposals, currently being discussed as part of the "Health Check".

Beyond this current situation, it is the medium-term future of European support for farmers, sectors, processing industries and rural development which interest the CPMR. The internal debate will thus continue at an event on 23 October 2008 in Nantes (Pays de la Loire, France) organised by the CPMR together with the Committee of the Regions, which will be open to all institutional and economic players concerned.

On this occasion, the following people will be present to engage in discussions with the Regions: Michel Barnier, French Minister for Agriculture, and President in office of the Agriculture Council, well known by the CPMR Regions, who will be able to take part in the discussion on the future of the CAP launched at the informal meeting of agriculture ministers in Annecy; Mariann Fischer-Boel, European Commissioner; Jean-Michel Lemétayer, Chairman of COPA-COGECA, the influential European agricultural lobby group.

The principles defended by the CPMR are simple, and the meeting in Nantes will help to clarify how the Regions can contribute to making them a reality:

- any important evolution must be based on a genuine strategy, which cannot disregard the world's food situation, and which must not be determined by the WTO;
- the European agricultural and food policy must remain a common policy, but the tools for its implementation must give the Regions scope to adapt them to their territories;
- coherence between public support for agriculture and rural development must also be organised at regional level. The current situation - where the regional authorities are not obliged to be involved in the implementation of the second pillar of the CAP - does not correspond to the CPMR and its Regions' expectations of "well-governed" European policies.

Seminar in Nantes on 23 October 2008: <http://www.crpm.org/en/index.php?act=6,1,2,93>

Patrick Anvroin, CPMR Director ([patrick.anvroin@crpm.org](mailto:patrick.anvroin@crpm.org))

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## GET TOGETHER IN BAYONNE!

At the invitation of Mr Alain Rousset, President of Aquitaine Regional Council, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) shall meet in Bayonne (Aquitaine, France) from 1st to 3rd October for its 2008 General Assembly.

This event will be held under the patronage of the six-month French Presidency of the Council and the Committee of the Regions Open Days.

The General Assembly will focus on preparing CPMR's proposals with a view to the upcoming negotiations on the participation and role of our Member Regions in the EU policies of the next decade.

The European Commission's consultation on the reform of the EU budget; the introduction of the principle of territorial cohesion in EU primary law; changes to the Common Agricultural Policy and their impact on regional economies; the place and role of the Regions in various policies in relation to the Lisbon Agenda; the role of the Regions in the areas of energy and climate change; maritime policy and how it is to develop; the Regions' involvement in the EU's external policies designed to promote a globalisation process beneficial for all territories, will be the issues at the centre of the debates.

Mr Joe Borg, Maritime Affairs Commissioner, will also be taking part in the General Assembly and, together with our Member Regions, will assess the delivery of the European Commission's action plan on maritime policy after its first year, and how it is to develop.

Not to be missed!

## EVENTS

**22-25 September 2008**, European Parliament Plenary Session, Strasbourg (FR)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/plenary/agenda.do?language=en>

**26 September 2008**, Brainstorming session on external cooperation, Brussels (BE)

<http://www.crpm.org/index.php?act=6,1,2,100>

**25-27 September 2008**, 7<sup>th</sup> European Information Society Conference (EISCO) Naples (IT)

<http://www.eisco2008.eu/>

**25 September 2008**, Seminar ARF "Les Régions et l'avenir de la Politique Agricole Commune " Cournon (FR)

<http://www.crpm.org/index.php?act=6,2,2,50>

**1 October 2008**, Employment and Training CPMR Working Group, Bayonne (FR)

<http://www.crpm.org/index.php?act=6,1,2,83>

**1-3 October 2008**, 36th CPMR General Assembly, Bayonne (FR)

<http://www.crpm.org/index.php?act=6,1,2,65>

**2 October 2008**, Traffic & mobility management in the tourism destination Danube Delta, Tulcea (RO)

<http://www.crpm.org/en/index.php?act=6,2,2,51>

**3 October 2008**, Sustainable tourism in wetlands and coastal areas, Tulcea (RO)

<http://www.crpm.org/en/index.php?act=6,2,2,52>

**6-8 October 2008**, European Coastal Exhibition: Economic Development Coastal Management, Lorient (FR)

<http://www.crpm.org/index.php?act=6,2,2,47>

**6-9 October 2008**, OPEN DAYS, CoR Plenary Session, CoR Brussels (BE)

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/od2008/index.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2008/index.cfm)

**16-18 October 2008**, Annual Conference of the Association of European Border Regions, Plauen (DE)

<http://www.crpm.org/index.php?act=6,2,2,46>

**23 October 2008**, CPMR Seminar, The Future of European Agricultural and Food Policy, Nantes (FR)

<http://www.crpm.org/index.php?act=6,1,2,93>

**29-30 October 2008**, World Summit of Regions on Climate Change, Saint Malo (FR)

<http://www.worldsummitofregions.org/en/index.php>

**30-31 October 2008**, Conference on territorial cohesion and the future of the cohesion policy, Paris (FR)

[http://www.ue2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/accueil/PFUE-10\\_2008/PFUE-30.10.2008/conference\\_sur\\_la\\_cohesion\\_territoriale\\_et\\_l\\_avenir\\_de\\_la\\_politique\\_de\\_cohesion;jsessionid=50F83DD78B85BB4354FE7086A6248E4A](http://www.ue2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/accueil/PFUE-10_2008/PFUE-30.10.2008/conference_sur_la_cohesion_territoriale_et_l_avenir_de_la_politique_de_cohesion;jsessionid=50F83DD78B85BB4354FE7086A6248E4A)

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