



NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2008 - MICHEL BARNIER APPROVES THE CPMR'S TERRITORIAL-BASED TREATMENT

WWW.CRPM.ORG

INTERVIEWS AND ARTICLES

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS AND CLIMATE CHANGE MUST BE TACKLED TOGETHER

Claudio Martini, President of the Tuscany Region and of the CPMR, underlined the relationship between the current financial crisis and climate change during the "World Summit of Regions on Climate Change" held in St Malo on 29-30 October 2008.

EM: President Martini, the first "World Summit of Regions on Climate Change" has just come to a close. What was discussed?

CM: First of all, we exchanged experiences of our own endeavours at local level to tackle the negative consequences of climate change which are clearly evident from an environmental, social and economic point of view. Our exchange was extremely fruitful because Regions showed they have useful experience in terms of taxation, transport planning and urban planning. This is proof that we all have the will to change our production and social models in order to promote a different environmental approach in the future.

Our biggest success, however, is that large international institutions such as the EU and the UN have admitted that Regions need to be involved by clearly stating that a common effort is required: "We need states, regions, and cities because this major challenge can only be met if we work together..." This is a major turning point, but now we need to make sure we exploit our potential and get to work in concrete terms.

EM: Don't you think that the current financial crisis may be a major obstacle in the struggle against climate change?

CM: That might be the case if we have a short-sighted concept of the future. Unfortunately many believe that this is not the right time to deal with climate change since there are other urgent matters to attend to, such as saving banks, companies and the economy... These objectives are clearly vital for all of us, but I do not believe that there is a contradiction in pursuing these objectives and protecting the environment or tackling climate change! On the contrary, what emerged during the summit is that only a completely different environmental approach – based on cleaner production methods – can guarantee a new economic outlook. New technologies can open up huge markets for renewable energy and for a better management of water and earth resources. To imply a contradiction between these two issues would be short-sighted and I am extremely concerned that this narrow vision is starting to prevail in many Governments, including certain European ones.

I am convinced that a strong environmentally-friendly policy can give new impulse to the economy as well.

Enrico Mayrhofer (enrico.mayrhofer@crpm.org)

MICHEL BARNIER APPROVES THE CPMR'S TERRITORIAL-BASED TREATMENT

Michel Barnier, French Minister for Agriculture concluded the seminar in Nantes on "The Future of European Agricultural and Food Policy" by thanking the CPMR for its forward thinking, anticipation, and provocation abilities.

"2009 will be a special year due to the renewal of the European Parliament and the European Commission," stated the

French former European Commissioner, *"If we do not open the debate on major EU policies now, we risk losing a year and tainting the political debate with the debate on the budget. In a democracy, the political debate must always precede the budgetary debate..."*

For this reason, Michel Barnier invited the CPMR to start concentrating its efforts either on regional policy or on agricultural policy. These two policies are once more due to come up against the same opponents who hoped to undermine them in the name of a vision of Europe as a free trade area and no more. *"The opponents of the CAP are the same as those who oppose regional policy: they are those who wish to reduce the EU budget, which is already not very high,"* stated the Minister.

However, Michel Barnier reassured the regional leaders who were present in Nantes that the 27 Ministers of Agriculture all recognised the need for a common agricultural policy. This is an acquired advantage for initiating a debate and reaching conclusions on the future CAP before the end of this year. However in anticipation of these big debates about the future of the CAP, and so as to assess and adapt the current CAP, the Minister for Agriculture for the EU presidency also claimed that he was open to participating in further discussions with the CPMR in order to better reconcile the requirements between professional agricultural leaders, regional politicians and EU institutions.

With regard to the content of the [proposals](#) made by the CPMR, Michel Barnier said that he was in favour of the "territorial-based treatment" of the CAP suggested by the CPMR. Like the CPMR, he hopes to avoid disadvantaging regions and relocating production: *"cohesion of the territories is an essential pillar in European growth, and regional policy and the work of each Region can be made consistent with the Lisbon objectives. The activities and development of each Region is essential for Europe's growth and competitiveness, in which farmers contribute as a driving force."*

The former regional policy Commissioner underlined the strategic importance of the CAP at a time when our economy finds itself *"in a financial maelstrom, Europe is resisting thanks to its real economy, which is based on 14 million farms in the EU and which generate a turnover of 1,000 billion Euros."*

Agricultural policy could also be inspired by regional policy in the field of governance. With this in mind, Michel Barnier declared himself in favour of the CPMR's proposal which aims to organise, once a year, a dialogue between inter-regional organisations on the one hand, and the Parliament, Council and Commission on the other.

Lastly, Michel Barnier mentioned the regionalisation of the second pillar called for by the Regions of the CPMR. However the French Minister does not believe that this regionalisation is possible for France in the current programming period. On the other hand, he is open *"to start looking at the period after 2013 and to further the decentralisation process, provided that coherence is not lost..."*

A European food policy must be preserved and developed to face the challenges of today and of tomorrow. The objective is food sovereignty in Europe. But there are new issues which the CAP must take into account: that of food safety, that of ecological responsibility and then there is the real necessity to take up the food challenge on a global scale.

lejla.becirovic@crpm.org

OUR MODEL OF DEVELOPMENT WILL SOON CHANGE SAY JOUYET AND HULOT

Jean-Pierre Jouyet attended the World Summit of Regions on Climate Change on 29 October 2008 in St Malo where he spoke on behalf of the six-month French Presidency.

The French State Secretary for European Affairs agreed with the ecology campaigner Nicolas Hulot, a highly popular figure in France, when he affirmed during the proceedings that we are witnessing the end of an economic development model.

EM: Mr Jouyet, do you think that the Regions can have a role in tackling climate change?

JPJ: I believe that the fight against climate change is an important sign of all stakeholders, including the Regions, rallying around what will be the big cause of 2009 with the Copenhagen conference. As I said during the COR Open Days, I believe that in a period where we are faced with global challenges, we all need to work together,

and with the Regions too. This is above all a factor in supporting economic activity. When you work with the Regions on sustainable development you look at promoting research and innovation and introducing environmentally-friendly facilities, which in turn means contributing towards supporting a sustainable economic activity that we truly need.

EM: In your speech you said that Europe must lead by example on the climate issue. For what reasons?

JPJ: Europe must lead by example because we are one of the biggest industrial and commercial powers in the world. Furthermore, it must be said that if there is no European agreement on the Energy-Climate package by the end of the year, it will be difficult to reach an agreement in 2009 with the change in the Commission and the European Parliament elections. And without this agreement, we will be unable to enter into talks with the United States, Japan and the emerging countries, because if we ourselves fail to agree, we will not manage to impose ambitious quantitative carbon emission reduction targets on others.

EM: Do we have the time to deal with the climate crisis in the midst of a financial crisis?

JPJ: The financial crisis does not excuse us from responding to global challenges. The financial crisis is the clearest illustration of the fact that we are experiencing the end of a development model. I believe we are going through a transition period, and it is our duty to switch from one exhausted form of growth to a new mode of growth. Far from drawing a dividing line between dealing with the financial crisis and tackling the climate crisis, there is a continuity of action between the two issues and a continuity of action between what we will be doing in Poznan and at the G-20 meeting in November.

EM: In this regard, Nicolas Hulot questioned our model of growth...

JPJ: If you look at the financial crisis, you will note that we are experiencing the end of a development model based to too great an extent on finance and the short term. At present, we need to move towards a more balanced, sustainable and people-friendly model of development.

Enrico Mayrhofer (enrico.mayrhofer@crpm.org)

THE UN OPENS UP TO THE REGIONS

Cécile Molinier, Director of the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) Office in Geneva took part in the opening session of the *World Summit of Regions on Climate Change* in Saint-Malo on 29 October 2008 and in her speech underlined the importance of the Regions for an Intergovernmental Organisation like the UN.

EM: Why are the Regions so important in the fight against global warming?

CM: "I think there needs to be awareness of the fact that the action plan to combat the negative effects of climate change is drafted and rolled out essentially at regional level. Of course, the national level is important, and the United Nations is and will continue to be an Intergovernmental Organisation, but 75 to 80% of this action plan is delivered by the Regions. It is also in the Regions that decisions are made especially in terms of infrastructures and transport, which have a direct impact on climate change."

EM: Mrs Hübner underlined the role that the Regions have and have had in the European Union. Do you think that the Regions can have a similar role with the United Nations?

CM: "I believe that the European Union is a pioneer in the field of regional policy and continues to progress much faster than we do. But for the past year, we have been seeing official contacts established between organisations of Regions and high-level UN bodies. We are working in partnership with these interregional organisations so that contributions from the Regions might have some sway over inter-governmental negotiations. The goals are the same, the concerns are the same, and we are convinced that joint work between the Regions and the UN is much more effective than separate and dispersed efforts."

Interview conducted by E. Mayrhofer (enrico.mayrhofer@crpm.org)

4th MARITIME AND COASTAL ECONOMY CONGRESS 2 AND 3 DECEMBER 2008, LE HAVRE

The adoption of the Blue Book "An integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union" showed a recognition of the importance of the sea for Europe. The stated aim was to bring an end to compartmentalized policy making by considering that maritime affairs have the sea as a common factor and therefore need a global and unified approach. To transform this goal into a reality, however, concrete answers are still to be found.

The 4th Conference on the Maritime Economy, organised by Les Echos and le marin, in association with The Cluster Maritime Français and The Institut Français de la Mer, will bring together all the major players in the maritime sector to discuss these challenges and debate what can be done to help the sea play a major role in sustainable and economically viable development.

The CPMR is a partner in the "Assises de l'Economie Maritime et du Littoral" organised by "Les Echos."

More information

<http://www.lesechos-conferences.fr/co/catalogue/conferences/energie-environnement-de.html>

EVENTS

25-27 November 2008, CoR Plenary Session, CoR, Brussels (BE)

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2008/index.cfm

2-3 December 2008, 4èmes Assises de l'Economie Maritime, Le Havre (FR)

http://www.crpm.org/pub/news/129_economie_de_la_mer.pdf

5 December 2008, Secure Energy Futures for Europe's Peripheral Communities, CoR, Brussels (BE)

http://www.crpm.org/pub/agenda2/92_aspire_invitation.pdf

12 December 2008, Salon Nautique de Paris, Paris expo (FR)

http://www.salonnautiqueparis.com/site/GB/Tous_droits_reserves,I1092.htm?KM_Session=7b288c852fdb637644fd318b4769b674

15-18 December 2008, European Parliament Plenary Session, Strasbourg (FR)

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

23 January 2009, CPMR Political Bureau, Aarhus, Midtjylland (DK)

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

LEGAL NOTICE

Director of Publication : Xavier Gizard

Editor : Enrico Mayrhofer

To receive the **TENOR**, please send your e-mail to the.newsletter@crpm.org

