



PRESS RELEASE

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THE REGIONS CAN HELP SOLVE THE CRISIS

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and the Forum of Global Associations of Regions (FOGAR) welcome the European Commission's communication "*Supporting developing countries in coping with the crisis*" published on 8 April 2009, which considers that it would be an historic mistake to reduce the amounts earmarked for development aid and to focus solely on the EU's internal difficulties. In an entirely interdependent world, growth, security, prosperity and the promotion of the EU's values are intrinsically linked to those of developing countries.

However, the Regions regret that this analysis is not accompanied by extra funding which would be a strong sign for these countries in need.

They are also surprised that no reference is made anywhere to the role of regional and local authorities, their specific added value and their desire to contribute to more effective aid more in line with the needs of the populations concerned within the territories.

"The CPMR's Regions, in association with networks of regional authorities from the five continents that have joined together under the umbrella of FOGAR, are looking in concrete terms at the effectiveness of aid, issues related to food security and the consequences of climate change in countries from the south. It is becoming a matter of urgency for the Commission to note of and above all take on board the proposals and actions for development that are carried out and financed by our Regions. All these issues are developed in the Commission's communication, and all these issues are addressed by the regional level." stated the President of Tuscany Region, **Claudio Martini**, also President of the CPMR and FOGAR.

Xavier Gizard, Secretary General of the two organisations invites the European Commission to take into account the [proposals the CPMR put forward in 2008](#) on integrating the regional level in the actual implementation of its code of conduct on the division of labour.

Despite being disappointed at the lack of reference to the regions in the communication, the CPMR welcomes the Commission's involvement in the reflections led by the Regions. The European Commission will be taking part in the [seminar "Regions and Development"](#) on the territorial approach to development organised by the CPMR on **29 May 2009 in Marseille** (FR) under the umbrella of the European platform of regional/local authorities for development. Commissioner Louis Michel has expressed his support, as well as that of his services, for the *Summit of the World's Regions on Food Security*", which will take place in **Dakar** (Senegal) on **18 and 19 January 2010**.

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