



CRPM CPMR

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### THE ATLANTIC ARC SOON TO HAVE A MARITIME STRATEGY

The Atlantic Arc Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), chaired by Basse-Normandie (FR), is campaigning to voice its views under the future Spanish Presidency of the European Union.

A delegation led by **Dolores Gorostiaga Sáiz**, Vice-President of the Cantabrian Government, **Philippe Bonneau**, Vice-President of Basse-Normandie Region representing the Atlantic Arc Presidency, and **Philippe Duron**, Chair of the Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities, was in Madrid today to meet the Spanish State Secretary for the EU, **Diego López Garrido**.

During the meeting, the Regions of Europe's Atlantic coast called for a strong, pro-active strategy for the Atlantic Area, which would be led together by the European Commission, national governments and regions as part of a new partnership.

Diego López Garrido stated that he was highly in favour of such a strategy, recalling that the European Commission had recently launched an *ad hoc* strategy for the Baltic Sea. "I'm all for the idea!" replied the State Secretary to the regional politicians present. "The Spanish Presidency," he continued, "is without doubt a suitable presidency for relaunching the Atlantic Arc and receiving proposals from its regions."

The delegation also suggested to the State Secretary that a Task Force should be set up to include Member States, the European Commission, Atlantic Regions, the European Parliament, Committee of the Regions and Atlantic networks, to give thought to how this integrated strategy should be defined. Finally, the Atlantic Arc politicians suggested launching a broad reflection on this strategy on the occasion of the European Maritime Day (19-21 May 2010) to be held in Gijón, Asturias, under the Spanish Presidency.

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