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OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT BARROSO

Further to the European Commission's draft Communication on the general reform of the EU budget, **seven¹ leading politicians of member Regions of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)** have expressed their concern in [an open letter to President Barroso](#).

"Although only a draft at this stage", indicates the letter, "this document sets out proposals whose foreseeable consequences are so detrimental to sustainable recovery in Europe that we feel it is our duty as Regional Leaders to warn you as early as possible."

In the document currently being prepared by the Commission's services, the three priority areas of action that have been identified as the basis for the future European budget - sustainable growth and jobs, energy and climate, and the EU as a global player - respond to a fundamental need for the European Union to adapt to the global and multi-polar world of the 21st century. However, the CPMR feels that *"the proposals for implementing these priorities within EU policies do not make sense and are unacceptable in this day and age. In addition to dismantling EU regional policy, which would be renationalised and limited to the poorest Member States, the draft document proposes a sectoral reorganisation of EU policies which completely disregards the territorial dimension and the principle of territorial cohesion."*

For **Claudio Martini**, President of the CPMR, *"by reducing Cohesion Policy to a simple charity hand-out, and a low-cost one at that, those responsible for drafting this document are, in our view, making a grave mistake. Only an integrated mechanism involving sub-national public actors - one like Regional Policy through the Structural Funds - will make it possible to mobilise territorial forces effectively in order to combat the shocks that Europe is being subjected to in a global world"* concludes the President of Tuscany.

In the CPMR's opinion, it would be a mockery if guidelines like these were to be advocated by a Commission that is taking up office, just as the Lisbon Treaty looks likely to come into force. Moreover, it is the new Treaty itself that introduces the principle of economic, social and territorial cohesion.

All these reasons lead the seven signatories to *"refuse to believe that you will agree to endorse a draft Communication of this kind,"* in conclusion to the letter addressed to President Barroso.

On 27 November, the CPMR will be holding [a seminar](#) in Marseille to put forward its proposals for leading Europe out of the crisis. The CPMR also took the opportunity of this letter to renew its invitation to President Barroso to take part in the debates.

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