



CRPM CPMR

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### THE CPMR IS CALLING FOR A TERRITORIAL PACT

The member Regions of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) hosted by **Michel Vauzelle**, President of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, met on 27 November 2009 in Marseille for a seminar entitled *"Leading Europe out of the Crisis: initial proposals from the Regions on the future of the EU budget and policies"*.

The Regions aimed to provide responses to the global financial, economic and social crisis, which is doubling up as a climate crisis. *"Why are we still talking about the crisis? The banks are beginning to make profits again and are resuming their old habits of distributing colossal bonuses to those who are interested in profits but oddly no longer involved when it comes to losses. No lessons have been learnt, no deep-seated change has occurred... We don't hear anything about overhauling capitalism any more,"* affirmed President Vauzelle in his opening speech.

The leaders present indicated that they have all been hit by this crisis, predicting that in 2010 and 2011 it is the Regions' finances that will be feeling the blow.

*"All of us have taken emergency measures,"* continued Michel Vauzelle, *"especially to help our small and medium-sized businesses have access to credit. By fostering relations between business, research and training and consolidating cluster initiatives, we have sought to highlight the value of human resources in our territories, promote innovation and think about a solidarity-based economy. However, we can clearly see that the recovery is suffering from a lack of coordination with national policies, in most countries at least, and with EU policy."*

In this regard, just a few days after the enforcement of the Lisbon Treaty which affirms the principle of territorial cohesion, it seemed contradictory to the CPMR that the European Commission has failed to interpret this principle in the different EU policies. It expressed its concern about the *European Commission's Draft Communication on the future of the EU budget* which suggests nationalising cohesion policy, and also expressed its unease to President Barroso for failing to mention the regional authorities in his upcoming five-year programme.

**Claudio Martini**, President of Tuscany and of the CPMR therefore reiterated his idea of a *Territorial Pact*, a political agreement between the European Commission and all Regions. *"The aim of this agreement would be simple,"* stated Mr Martini. *"The Regions, acting within their remit, would undertake to contribute to the European Union's strategic goals shortly to be included in the strategy that will take over from the Lisbon Agenda. The Commission on the other hand should begin sharing out responsibilities as regards coordination of the EU strategy and the decision-making process, since these fail to reflect the territorial dimension at all at present. With a Territorial Pact, this dimension would have to be taken into account."*

Speaking on behalf of the Commission, Mrs **Katarina Mathernova**, Deputy Director-General at DG Regio invited the attending politicians to give as big a response as possible to the Consultation on the Future EU 2020 Strategy.



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The European Parliament was represented by Mrs **Danuta Hübner**, Chair of the Regional Development Committee, who recalled *"the importance to establish a well-structured exist strategy focusing on long term sustainable growth, on education, research and innovation, energy efficiency and advanced renewable energy industries, rather than on simply eliminating production gaps generated by the crisis."*

Speaking on cohesion policy, the former Commissioner added: *"The new Treaty, without any ambiguity, says that balanced and harmonised development of the Union is the objective of cohesion policy. It is also clear that the regional level is at the heart of this policy. Regional policy is therefore neither a business cycle policy nor the income policy. It is a structural policy working in favour of regional sustainable development of all regions."*

The global context was also raised during the discussions. The Regions agreed that a multi-level response is needed to combat the asymmetric shocks arising from Europe's insertion into a globalised world. *"However, introducing a development model requires more than a new worldwide system of governance."* recalled **Claudio Martini**. *"It implies each continent defining how it stands in this new environment that is currently taking shape and applying this model to its own territory, and more widely within its area of influence."*

**Mario Mugnaini**, President of INVESTE SP, the Regional Development Company of the Brazilian State of São Paul, shared his views as a non-European. Leaders from European Regions speaking during the debates included Vicente Álvarez Areces, (Asturias, ES), Annika Annerby Jansson, (Skåne, SE), Maria Leal Monteiro, (Alentejo, PT), Jean-Yves Le Drian, (Brittany, FR) and Ieuan Wyn Jones, (Wales, UK). All the [participants](#) unanimously approved a [final declaration](#).

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