



CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS
CONFÉRENCE DES RÉGIONS PÉRIPHÉRIQUES MARITIMES



CPMR ISLANDS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DES ÎLES DE LA CRPM

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RECOGNITION FOR THE ISLANDS AND MARITIME REGIONS

As the Lisbon Treaty with its references to territorial cohesion enters into force, the European Parliament has decided to officially recognise two Intergroups closely linked to geographic aspects and natural handicaps. "Sea and Coastal Areas" and "Mountain, Island and Sparsely Populated Regions" are the names of the two Intergroups that the College of Quaestors has approved after checking the number of required signatures from the Political Groups.

The new Treaty amends Article 158 stating that *"particular attention shall be paid to rural areas, areas affected by industrial transition, and regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps such as the northernmost regions with very low population density and island, cross-border and mountain regions."*

"Parliament's decision is coherent with this new formulation." declared **Claudio Martini**, President of Tuscany and of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR). *"A group of MEPs from different nationalities and political families that, together, are able to promote maritime interests at a time when integrated maritime policy is being launched in Europe is also recognition of the work our Regions have been leading over many long years. But,"* added the CPMR President, *"I should like to thank Mrs Corinne Lepage (ALDE-FR) and Mr Alyn Smith (GREENS-UK) and their staff for campaigning strongly among their colleagues. Without their action, this could not have been achieved!"*

Alex Macdonald, Convener of Western Isles Council and President of the CPMR Islands Commission, recalled that at its General Assembly in May 2009 in the Outer Hebrides (Scotland), Alyn Smith had already announced the idea of a possible Parliamentary Intergroup to take on board the geographic constraints of Islands, Mountainous and Sparsely Populated Regions. *"We now need to work together to give substance to the former Article 158 and to make sure that it finds direct applications in EU regulations and directives especially in the areas of regional policy and state aid."* stated Mr Macdonald on behalf of the islands represented within the CPMR.

For more information, please contact Enrico MAYRHOFER
Gsm: + 32 486 56 19 67 - E-mail: enrico.mayrhofer@crpm.org
www.crpm.org