



CRPM CPMR

CONFÉRENCE DES RÉGIONS PÉRIPHÉRIQUES MARITIMES D'EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE

6, rue Saint-Martin - 35700 RENNES (F)
Tél.: + 33 (0)2 99 35 40 50 - Fax: + 33 (0)2 99 35 09 19
e.mail : secretariat@crpm.org - web : www.crpm.org

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CPMR WELCOMES COMMISSIONER HAHN'S HEARING AND TAKES PART IN THE CONSULTATION ON THE "EU2020" STRATEGY

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) is delighted to hear that [Johannes Hahn, Commissioner designate for Regional Policy](#) supports a Cohesion Policy for the entire territory of the Union.

The former Austrian Minister for Science and Research during his hearing in the European Parliament in front of the Committee on Regional Development acknowledged that the intervention of Cohesion Policy should not be limited only to the poorest areas.

*"We are on the same wavelength as the Commissioner designate," said **Claudio Martini** as President of the CPMR, "and we are sure that Mr Hahn, if confirmed by the European Parliament, will be with us in defending a regional policy for all regions of Europe and against any kind of nationalisation or sectorialisation of the policy. Member States," he added, "cannot use the economic crisis as an excuse for allocating less aid to the regions. On the contrary, today the role of regional policy is more and more important to boost regional economies after such a severe crisis."*

Eleni Marianou, Secretary General of the CPMR also appreciated Mr Hahn's intervention and mentioned the [CPMR contribution to the Consultation on the future "EU2020" strategy](#) that has its deadline tomorrow.

"Our document," said the recently appointed Secretary General, "supports the Commission's EU2020 vision of a more inclusive, more sustainable, greener, and strong knowledge-based society – rather than economy only – able to ensure social and territorial cohesion. Moreover, we are in favour of a "EU2020 strategy" as the single, overarching approach embodying EU core priorities and integrating the set of existing thematic strategies. However, we call on the Commission for a genuine governance system for EU2020 including Regions. This system is lacking in the Lisbon Strategy and this explains part of its failure."

The CPMR contribution to the "EU2020 consultation" also calls on the Commission to refuse a possible sectorialisation of EU intervention, and for a delivery method based on the territorial approach. The CPMR document states: *"Territories are places where people and businesses, which are at the heart of the strategy, live, organise, and eventually create genuine, complex and rather homogeneous systems with their own specificities. Addressing the key priorities jointly through these territories is the only efficient method if we are to give a tailored and integrated policy response to the challenges the EU faces."*

Furthermore, although the Commission makes reference to the principle of territorial cohesion introduced by the new Lisbon Treaty, in its answer to the Consultation, the CPMR does not feel that the text gives any guarantee on its actual implementation. Therefore, the CPMR draws attention to the fact that any action from the EU aimed at implementing the EU2020 strategy will have to take account of this principle and of territorial specificities as defined by Art.174 (ex art. 158) of the Treaty.

For further information, please contact **Enrico MAYRHOFER**:

Gsm: + 32 486 56 19 67 - E-mail : enrico.mayrhofer@crpm.org

Web: www.crpm.org