



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](mailto:secretariat@crpm.org) - web : [www.crpm.org](http://www.crpm.org)

## PRESS RELEASE

Gijon, 16 February 2010

Ref: CRPMCOM100010

### CPMR RALLIES WITH FABRIZIO BARCA TO DEFEND COHESION

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) met on 15-16 February 2010 in Gijón (Spain) for its Political Bureau<sup>1</sup> at the invitation of **Vicente Alberto ÁLVAREZ ARECES**, President of the Principality of Asturias.

The future EU budget and the future of regional policy further to the public Consultation<sup>2</sup> opened by the Commission on the future EU2020 strategy, were amongst the main focus of discussions.

[Presidents of CPMR member regions present](#) were able to exchange views with **Manuel CHAVES GONZÁLEZ**, Spanish Minister for Territorial Policy and Vice-President of the Spanish Government, and **Fabrizio BARCA**, Director General, Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance and author of the [Barca Report published by the Commission in April 2009](#).

*"Cohesion policy, conceived as a place-based development policy, is the only modern way for the EU to perform its development task", maintained Fabrizio Barca after having also reminded participants that, "A development policy for all places of the Union is indispensable for the Union's very existence. Those who limit EU interventions to "poor" Member States wrongly assume that cohesion policy is a mechanism for financial redistribution".*

However, Mr Barca specified that regional policy requires a change of direction especially with regard to the assessment of the results obtained through specific indicators and that the role of the European Commission should be strengthened.

**Claudio MARTINI**, President of Tuscany and of the CPMR expressed his agreement with Fabrizio Barca whilst stressing that *"cohesion policy is the only European policy which is shared by all European territories, and which helps each European to put a face to Europe through projects which can directly concern them. The disappearance, even partially, of this policy, would call into question the European project itself."*

**Manuel CHAVES GONZÁLEZ**, on behalf of the six month presidency of the EU, recalled that *"social and territorial cohesion is an asset in itself and the argument of competitiveness cannot be used to destroy it. Cohesion must be a key factor in the EU2020 strategy and must be for the whole European territory and not only for Convergence Objective regions."* The Vice-President of the Spanish government also recalled that the establishment of a common market for energy and a "digital single market", the introduction of a European strategy in support of electrical vehicles, as well as the strengthening of education and research policies must be included in the 2020 strategy. However, according to the former President of Andalusia, *"in order to develop such a strategy, Europe needs a social pact between businesses and workers, a new model of governance as well as a reflection on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)."*

<sup>1</sup> The Political Bureau is made up of: a full member and a substitute member nominated by the college of regions of each State within which CPMR has members, the Presidents of the Geographical Commissions and a representative of the ultra-peripheral regions.

<sup>2</sup> The CPMR participated in the Consultation on the future EU2020 Strategy with [a Policy Position presented on 11 December 2009](#)



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](mailto:secretariat@crpm.org) - web : [www.crpm.org](http://www.crpm.org)

Amongst the other policy areas addressed during the debates, the Presidents of CPMR member regions approved a Policy Position on the reform of the CAP and discussed the synergies between EU regional policy and EU Research and Development policies. They also addressed maritime topics and in particular expressed their satisfaction further to the creation of the "Seas and Coastal Affairs" Intergroup within the European Parliament.

*"We have always defended the idea that territorial cohesion should integrate the maritime dimension,"* declared **Vicente Alberto ÁLVAREZ ARECES**, President of the Principality of Asturias, the region which will host the "European Maritime Days" from 19 to 20 May 2010. Mr Areces also underlined that Asturias is currently developing an Integrated Regional Maritime Strategy, a pioneer project at European level following the recent creation of the Gijón-Nantes-Saint Lazare Motorway of the Sea.

At the end of the proceedings, **Eleni MARIANO**, Secretary General of the CPMR, made a commitment to organise a meeting between a delegation of the Presidents of CPMR regions, President José Manuel Durão Barroso and Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament, next April, in order to present the added value of a regional policy 2013-2020 through a genuine multi-level governance system.

The CPMR member regions are ready to join forces with the European Commission and Parliament for the implementation of a European cohesion policy adjusted to face the challenges of the EU2020 strategy.

*For further information, please contact Enrico MAYRHOFER:*  
Gsm: + 32 486 56 19 67 - E-mail : [enrico.mayrhofer@crpm.org](mailto:enrico.mayrhofer@crpm.org)  
Web: [www.crpm.org](http://www.crpm.org)