



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

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 7 July 2010

Ref: CRPMCOM100025

BARROSO: WE NEED THE CPMR TO HELP US DELIVER THE IMP

A [delegation](#) of eight regional leaders from different countries, members of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), met with the President of the European Commission, **José Manuel Durão Barroso**, on 7 July. Issues raised during the meeting included EU cohesion policy, maritime policy and the role of the Regions.

"The economic context gives grounds for maintaining a cohesion policy for all European Regions. A cohesion policy coherent with the Europe 2020 Strategy, but which maintains its own mission: it cannot become just the financial instrument for this strategy for growth," stated the CPMR's President, **Claudio Martini**.

The political leaders taking part in this meeting handed Mr Barroso a [document](#) which reaffirmed their position and recalled that 55% of European Regions have a GDP below the EU average. According to the document: *"This figure highlights the lack of competitiveness of European Regions on an EU-wide level. This underperformance is also true at global level: according to OECD data, the GDP of European Regions is on average significantly lower than its direct competitors, especially in the US."*

President Barroso expressed his satisfaction with the meeting and stated, *"Despite the difficult budgetary context, we need to join up cohesion policy and EU 2020 in order to ensure growth within Europe"*, and speaking on maritime policy he acknowledged that *"We need the CPMR to help us deliver the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)."*

Jaroslaw Dworzanski, Marshal of Podlaskie (PL), spoke on the European Social Fund focusing on the importance of maintaining the structural funds, while **Ramón Luis Valcarcel Siso**, President of Murcia (ES) and Vice-President of the COR and CPMR, drew President Barroso's attention to the issues of governance. *"The regions are leading players in regional policy and should be involved in all territorial policies of the EU as responsible partners in a Europe facing difficulty,"* he said.

Regarding integrated maritime policy (IMP), **Jean-Yves Le Drian**, President of Brittany (FR), recalled that the success of the Europe 2020 Strategy also depends on the seas and coasts and stressed, *"Although the Blue Book on IMP gave a high level of priority to the issues of maritime jobs, energy and marine research, the actual achievements have so far not lived up to expectations. To help to make maritime careers more attractive the CPMR has launched the idea of a "Maritime Erasmus", which we could call the "Vasco de Gama" programme!"*

Among the other members of the delegation, **Carlos Manuel César**, President of the Azores (PT) and **Godwin Grima**, Principal Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Gozo (MT) raised the problems of Regions beset by permanent handicaps, especially the outermost regions and islands, in the context of the new financial programming.

Gunn Marit Helgesen, County Mayor of Telemark (NO) and Vice-President of the CPMR, was the only leader of a region from a non EU member country. She indicated that she was in favour of a macro-regional approach and stressed the importance of a neighbourhood strand in the next EU regional policy.

The meeting closed with some thoughts from **Carwyn Jones**, First Minister for Wales (UK), who underlined that *"stepping up conditionality is necessary for greater transparency and efficiency, but equity has to be at the heart of any system."*

For more information, contact Enrico MAYRHOFER:

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

Web: www.crpm.org