



ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN BORDER REGIONS  
ASSOCIATION DES RÉGIONS FRONTALIÈRES EUROPÉENNES



CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS  
CONFÉRENCE DES RÉGIONS PÉRIPHÉRIQUES MARITIMES

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### REGIONS CALL FOR MORE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

In the framework of the “**European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)**” presented by the European Commission on 7<sup>th</sup> of December, the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) and the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), call for more cross-border cooperation.

The two regional associations welcome the newly outlined “European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)”, and particularly the “Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC)” programmes with neighbourhood countries and the Russian Federation.

*“The growing interest in Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) showed by these countries should receive the highest support from the European Union. Indeed, we believe that it is a very good way to promote sustainable and long-lasting integration processes in border areas.”* Said the President of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), **Mr Karl-Heinz Lambertz**.

*“However, we would like to see more clear possibilities for cooperation between border regions and neighbourhood countries, including Russia, because there are some sensitive border areas and some very promising scenarios needing support, while guaranteeing national co-financing in the long-term.”* Mr Lambertz added.

*“We welcome the increase in the budget for the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), particularly in the current context of financial difficulties. Moreover, we approve that the sea basin approach will continue after 2014: this proves that it was a success and we hope that it will be implemented in full synergy with the macro-regional approaches also in the scope of EU Integrated Maritime Policy.”* Declared **Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian**, President of the CPMR and the Region of Brittany.

At legislative level, although the new provisions seem to facilitate more effective and faster implementation of the programmes, both associations regret not having a specific new regulation for territorial cooperation within this instrument in order to avoid unnecessary delays and misunderstandings.

*For further information, please contact:*

- *Enrico Mayrhofer :*

Gsm : + 32 486 56 19 67 - email: [enrico.mayrhofer@crpm.org](mailto:enrico.mayrhofer@crpm.org) - [www.crpm.org](http://www.crpm.org)

- *Martín Guillermo-Ramírez – email : [M.Guillermo@aebr.eu](mailto:M.Guillermo@aebr.eu) – [www.aebr.eu](http://www.aebr.eu)*