



CRPM CPMR

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YES TO THE ENERGY PACKAGE IF...

The day after a working session organised at the European Parliament with Jeremy Rifkin, the **Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)** provides a first reaction to the European Commissions proposals on the "integrated package of energy and climate change measures to reduce emissions for the XXI century".

Being - by their geographical situation - affected to the utmost by the potentially disastrous effects of climate change, the Peripheral Maritime Regions approve the Commissions objectives to reduce at least 20%, even 30%, of EU Greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. They particularly subscribe to the imposition of an obligatory objective of 20% when it comes to renewable energy sources, and to a radical energy efficiency policy.

The CPMR also welcomes the Commissions report regarding administrative and physical obstacles which burden the development of renewable energies in EU territories, and especially regarding the situation of under-investment which characterises the energy transport network. The CPMR however underlines that this situation is not only limited to the interconnections between national networks, but that it also affects, as highlighted in the **European Parliaments Morgan Report** of last December, the ability of peripheral, maritime Regions and Islands to fully exploit their considerable renewable energies potential. "I recall that the Parliament," stated **Claudio Martini**, President of Tuscany and the 155 CPMR Regions, "had, on that occasion, recommended that particular attention be given to the development of renewable solar and marine energies in the various sea basins of the EU, and, amongst other things, to the exploitation of offshore wind turbine energy."

Likewise, Martini is in favour of "the necessity to reduce CO² emissions linked to transport, which lies 98% on petrol, and reiterates the desire to see the Union unblock the road networks by actively promoting motorways of the sea, and more generally, maritime transport." As far as air transport is concerned, a sector where technological advances are less obvious, he feels "that the measures implemented by the EU must take into account the realities of their territories, and in particular the dependence that the most remote Regions have on this mode of transport."

For the CPMR, the question is to know if, beyond the intentions, the legislative proposals which will eventually be submitted by the Commission and adopted by the Council and Parliament, will take these different aspects sufficiently into consideration. The Conference reiterates to the Commissioners responsible its availability to rally its 155 Member Regions at the service of this EU ambition.

Finally, **Jean Didier Hache**, CPMR Energy Director, recalled that, "in the fight to reduce the causes of the Greenhouse effect, the regional and local dimension must play an important role not only within the EU, but also within developing countries." In that respect, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (**nrg4SD**), the CPMR intends to promote a cooperation policy between European Regions and local and regional authorities of the latter.

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