



CRPM CPMR

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GREEN PAPER OUT AT LAST!

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) welcomes the recent adoption of the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion.

Some years ago, a Green Paper on territorial cohesion was unimaginable, underlined Xavier Gizard, Secretary General of the CPMR. We managed to get this concept accepted in the draft Treaty thanks to the lobbying efforts led by all of our Regions, the European organisations of Regions and Cities united within a platform, and the Committee of the Regions, together with the support of Michel Barnier, former European Commissioner for Regional Policy. Today, this same concept is the subject of a Green Paper, something of which we are extremely proud. This is rewarding after all the years of hard work. The CPMR wishes to congratulate the European Commission, in particular its President, Mr Joao Manuel Durao Barroso, and Commissioner Danuta Hübner, for having anticipated the kind of institutional change capable of enhancing Europe's territorial diversity.

The CPMR is now committed to taking part in the consultation with its working groups and six Geographical Commissions in order to feed into the debate with a comprehensive vision in line with the position of all of Europe's regions, from the Baltic and North Sea through the Atlantic and Black Sea down to the Mediterranean, and of course not forgetting the Islands.

We are currently taking steps - continued Xavier Gizard - to initiate a productive dialogue with the different institutional players involved in the Consultation, particularly the European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, Economic and Social Committee and a certain number of States that have expressed their interest in the preliminary work we have carried out. Our President, Claudio Martini, will have the opportunity to express his views on this subject at the Cohesion Forum organised by the six-month French Presidency, and at the Summit of Regions and Cities in Prague during the six-month Czech Presidency at the initiative of the Committee of the Regions.

The CPMR will be presenting its contribution to the Green Paper at its Political Bureau meeting on 23 January 2009 in the Region of Midtjylland (DK).

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