



A MANIFESTO FROM THE CPMR: REGIONS AT THE HEART OF A REFORMED EUROPEAN UNION

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and its 150 Member Regions are of the firm opinion that territories matter in a reformed European Union (EU) that should also act as a stronger global actor.

Following the European elections and as the new European Commission is about to start its mandate, the CPMR highlights the following messages to the European institutions.

1 A Europe that trusts Regions to provide democratic legitimacy to the European Union project

- 1.1** We believe that the European Union should be engaging and proactive: **we want a Europe that provides leadership and frameworks for cooperation, supported by a strong EU budget.** A Europe that recognises the strength and value of regions as key enablers in translating ambition into action, often on a more appropriate and effective scale than national governments. Regions and cities are assets and allies in connecting with citizens, in tackling the many challenges Europe is facing, and in giving democratic legitimacy to the European project. Democracy is one of the core values of the European Union, at local, regional, national and European level.
- 1.2** **The Regions are essential partners of a European Union** which benefits from the rich diversity of its regions and aims towards ensuring the welfare of the whole of its population, preserving major ecological balances, peace and strengthening human rights throughout the world.
- 1.3** **Europe is more than a market.** Europe is a community of states, regions and citizens who share a common destiny and work together on politics. Europe is a project of common values and interests, about how to respond to new challenges and opportunities. We share not only a continent, but also a history, an identity and, most importantly, a future.
- 1.4** **The Member Regions of the CPMR defend this model of Europe and call for action.** The common values that Europe stands for are at stake, and we can no longer choose to turn inwards within national borders. Europe alone can enable us to take action in the world, in the face of the contemporary challenges we all face.

2 A European Union with an ambitious and long-term strategy

The European Union should equip itself with a long-term strategy to achieve balanced territorial development throughout Europe, in line with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and to turn the Territorial Agenda into a reality to unlock the potential at regional level. This strategy should, in particular:

- 2.1 Ensure that future EU and wider European policies are designed to consider the diversity of territories**, both in terms of building on their potential and addressing their specific needs. Particular attention should be paid to territories beset by permanent and geographical handicaps.
- 2.2 Reach carbon neutrality by 2050 at the latest.** The transition to carbon neutrality and to a resilient society should be fair and socially balanced and delivered in full partnership with regional and local authorities, businesses and citizens. CPMR Members are on the front line of both suffering the effects and putting in place solutions to combat and adapt to climate change.
- 2.3 Reassert Cohesion Policy as the EU's main investment policy** for accomplishing a green, carbon-free and socially just Europe fit for the digital age. The Commission's renewed ambitions for Europe should be achieved through the policy objectives of Cohesion Policy. The implementation of Cohesion Policy at regional level should stimulate collaboration with regions across national borders to strengthen the joint development of the European Union.

3 A European Union relying on Regions to reach its objectives

Many of the EU's current and emerging challenges and opportunities are located at Europe's periphery. Member Regions of the CPMR are highly strategic and legitimate actors to deliver on these priorities. Given the growing importance of climate change and its concrete impacts, the Member Regions of the CPMR affirm their willingness to step up their actions within the scope of all their competences in order to achieve carbon neutrality and improve the resilience of the regions. As part of a long-term strategy and regarding regionally relevant policy action at European level, the European Union should:

- 3.1 Ensure that objectives linked to sustainability are strongly connected to territorial cohesion.** Future EU wider European funding programmes involving regions from third countries should be designed to ensure that all territories in Europe are able to reach such objectives.
- 3.2 Explicitly integrate a territorial approach within EU and wider European climate and energy policies** and recognise and foster the role that CPMR Member Regions have for clean renewable energies, carbon capture and storage, as fundamental tools for achieving the carbon neutrality objective by 2050 and in delivering EU objectives.

- 3.3 Broaden and strengthen the Smart Specialisation (S3) approach** building upon regions' individual strengths and cooperation with other regions.
- 3.4 Pay special attention to the different adaptation capacities of regions to the effects of climate change** in order to reduce their vulnerability to it and to avoid increasing inequalities between them.
- 3.5 Prioritise protecting the marine environment and sustainable blue growth, drawing on smart specialisation, training and circular economy principles** in sectors such as marine renewable energies, maritime industries, fisheries and aquaculture.
- 3.6 Ensure that future EU and wider European transport policies guarantee territorial accessibility and an equal access to smart and clean mobility** throughout Europe and with its neighbours. The existing Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) must be completed in the established deadline of 2030 for the core network and 2050 for the comprehensive network, and strengthened in all regions, while prioritising sustainable transport modes and enhancing intermodal solutions.
- 3.7 Develop a strong ambition for sustainable maritime transport and Motorways of the Sea** as key elements to deliver an innovative and sustainable European transport system in order to meet targets on carbon neutrality.
- 3.8 Pursue the efforts to make aviation greener** and more sustainable, and **to provide long-term accessibility** to all CPMR Member Regions.
- 3.9 Facilitate the development and uptake of innovative and intelligent transport solutions** (e.g. automated autonomous transport).
- 3.10 Ensure that future EU migration policies** are designed to acknowledge the supportive role that regions that so wish can play in that regard, and provide adequate finance mechanisms according to the needs of territories - especially those located at the external borders of the EU - and improve the links between migration, the integration of migrants and development, while respecting international law and human rights.

4 A European Union empowering Regions to deliver European policies to citizens from all corners of Europe

To achieve this, the European Union should:

- 4.1 Prioritise EU policies and priorities delivered in partnership with regional authorities under shared-management** and work to improve the quality of partnership arrangements between the regional, national and European level to deliver such programmes (in particular Cohesion Policy funds and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund).
- 4.2 Be accompanied by a substantial reform of the European Semester** to ensure meaningful involvement of regions and a greater territorial dimension when it comes to **guiding investment from European Structural and Investment Funds**.
- 4.3 Deliver a level playing field for all EU funds and financial instruments supporting investment** (centrally managed or under shared management) in the future, based on the principle of multi-level governance.

4.4 Reduce the bureaucratic burden on beneficiaries and managing authorities of EU funds in a clear framework to deliver genuine simplification.

5 A European Union based on cooperation and solidarity between peoples and territories

Many challenges and opportunities transcend national borders and require a European solution. The European Union must be bold to reinforce existing policies and design new solutions to foster cooperation, dialogue, and joint working between EU and non-EU regions, territories and countries. It should therefore:

- 5.1 Show real ambition on European Territorial Cooperation** by increasing its funding and enhancing its role to contribute to a sense of EU community and build on the innovation potential at regional level, and by advocating also for maintaining all forms of cross-border cooperation including maritime.
- 5.2 Sustain and reinforce existing cooperation mechanisms between EU regions and the UK nations and local authorities** in the context of Brexit and provide financial mechanisms to alleviate the impact of Brexit to the most affected regions.
- 5.3 Support cooperation frameworks such as macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, and similar initiatives.** These frameworks provide significant EU added value to align priorities, funding resources and strengthen the multilevel cooperation between stakeholders from EU, Pre-Accession and non-EU Neighbourhood countries. The role, the potential, and the participation of regions need to be reinforced and fully exploited in terms of governance and implementation as well as financially.
- 5.4 Ensure that the future EU Neighbourhood Policy further considers the regions and the needs of all neighbourhood partner countries,** as well as their territorial stakeholders. The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument and the European External Investment Plan should provide a key role and adequate funding opportunities for regional and local authorities, amplifying the connection with other EU sectoral policies.
- 5.5 The EU Neighbourhood Policy should strengthen democracy, rule of law and human rights, and should facilitate the participation of third country partners** in projects together with partners from European regions.
- 5.6 The European Union should capitalise on and make visible** at international level the potential that European regions bring to the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda through decentralised cooperation and new alliances with stakeholders from third countries.

**Adopted unanimously
Palermo, 18 October 2019**



The Peripheral Maritime Regions listed below met for the 47th CPMR Annual General Assembly in Palermo (Sicily, Italy) on 17-18 October 2019:

ABERDEEN CITY (UK), ABRUZZO (IT), AÇORES (PT), ALENTEJO (PT), ANDALUCÍA (ES), AUST AGDER (NO), BALEARES (ES), BORNHOLM (DK), BRETAGNE (FR), CALARASI (RO), CANARIAS (ES), CANTABRIA (ES), CATALUNYA (ES), CORNWALL (UK), CORSE (FR), CYPRUS, DYTIKI ELLADA (GR), EMILIA ROMAGNA (IT), FLEVOLAND (NL), GALICIA (ES), GÄVLEBORG (SE), GENERALITAT VALENCIANA (ES), GOTLAND (SE), GOZO (MT), HELSINKI-UUSIMAA (FI), IONIA NISSIA (GR), JÄMTLAND HÄRJEDALEN (SE), KRITI (GR), KYMENLAAKSO (FI), LAZIO (IT), LIGURIA (IT), MIDTJYLLAND (DK), MØRE OG ROMSDAL (NO), MURCIA (ES), NAVARRA (ES), NOORD-HOLLAND (NL), NOORD-NEDERLAND (NL), NORDJYLLAND (DK), NORRBOTTEN (SE), NORTE (PT), NORTHERN & WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY (IE), NOUVELLE AQUITAINE (FR), OCCITANIE (FR), ÖREBRO (SE), ØSTFOLD (NO), OSTROBOTHNIA (FI), OULU (FI), PÄIJÄT-HÄME (FI), PAÍS VASCO/EUSKADI (ES), PAYS DE LA LOIRE (FR), PODLASKIE (PL), POLYNÉSIE FRANÇAISE (FR), RABAT-SALE-KENITRA (MA), RÉGION SUD (FR), ROGALAND (NO), SAMEGRELO-ZEMO SVANETI* (GE), SATAKUNTA (FI), SICILIA (IT), SKÅNE (SE), SOGN OG FJORDANE (NO), SOUTH-WEST FINLAND (FI), STOCKHOLM (SE), SYDDANMARK (DK), TELEMARK (NO), TIRANA (AL), TOSCANA (IT), TRØNDELAG (NO), TULCEA (RO), VÄRMLAND (SE), VÄSTERBOTTEN (SE), VÄSTRA GÖTALAND (SE), VEST-AGDER (NO), VESTFOLD (NO), WALES (UK), WEST-FLANDERS (BE), ZUID-HOLLAND (NL)

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The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) brings together some 150 Regions from 25 States from the European Union and beyond.

Representing about 200 million people, the CPMR campaigns in favour of a more balanced development of the European territory.

It operates both as a think tank and as a lobby group for Regions. It focuses mainly on social, economic and territorial cohesion, maritime policies and accessibility.

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