



PRESS KIT

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1. Who we are?

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) was born 50 years ago in Saint-Malo, Brittany Region. It currently brings together 150 Regions from 24 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 for Regions.

Through its extensive network of contacts within the EU institutions and national governments the CPMR has, since its creation in 1973, been targeting its action towards ensuring that the needs and interests of its Member Regions are taken into account in policies with a high territorial impact.

The CPMR currently focuses its work around six policy areas of major interest to its membership: Cohesion policy, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Transport, Climate, Energy and Migration policies. It produces policy positions based on input from its member regions in these areas, as well as numerous studies, analyses, and technical papers to support them.

2. How do we operate?

The CPMR is a unique organisation sub-divided into six Geographical Commissions corresponding to Europe’s maritime basins: the Baltic Sea, the North Sea, the Atlantic Arc, the Mediterranean, the Balkans and Black Sea, and the Islands. This layout assures the specific interests and promotion of the 150 CPMR member regions and allows to focus on the major common challenges in each territory, and it is in this sense a precursor of the EU macro-regional strategies.



3. What makes us stand out?

The CPMR has long-standing experience of regional development priorities that it has been pursuing since its inception. Its action focuses on promoting an increased role for Regions in European governance and it has a track record in influencing European policy developments at the highest level.

The CPMR is the only regional organisation in Europe that aims to reduce the distance between the economic and political center of our continent and its peripheries, thus enhancing accessibility for those Regions that have geographical handicaps hindering their potential.

The CPMR had an important role in the creation of the Committee of the Regions introduced by the Maastricht Treaty in 1992. Furthermore, for many years the CPMR has been very active in resisting the pressures of certain Member States to reduce the EU budget and its part devoted to Regional Policy.

Today, the CPMR is a regular partner of the European institutions, in particular the Commission and Parliament, but also the Council formations such as the Informal EU Council on Cohesion and the Informal Council of Maritime Affairs where it has been involved as an observer for many years already.

The CPMR is a forward-looking organisation. Throughout 50 years of existence, it has proven to be a solid but flexible organisation, able to remain relevant, and to withstand incoming challenges. The CPMR, as well as its member regions, have deeply matured over the past 50 years and is permanently reflecting on its changes in order to keep optimally serving its members and EU citizens.

4. Key aspirations of the CPMR for the new European institutions

For the past year, members of the CPMR have been working on a political manifesto celebrating Regions and calling for a new generation of European policies within a reformed European Union that really works for its citizens and its territories, with a particular focus on the Peripheral Maritime Regions whose unique geographical characteristics make them predominantly susceptible to current socio-economic and environmental challenges. Indeed, the renewal of the European institutions in 2024 constitutes a golden opportunity to consolidate the 50-year-old organisation and succeed in placing regions at the heart of the European project.

- In this Manifesto, the CPMR will call for a “new generation of EU policies” that tackle the most pressing needs of the citizens in Europe’s territories, highlighting territorial disparities within all categories of regions (e.g. focusing on the better implementation of article 174 and others in the Treaties). This new generation of policies, based on multi-level governance, should be more place-based, have a science-based approach, and enhance EU’s sustainable development. This would also allow regions to play a key role in the global arena.
- The CPMR will continue to fully support a reinforced cohesion policy as the main EU investment policy. In light of recent crises, the CPMR will call for a future-proof policy that can make European regions more resilient to future shocks, avoiding the multiplicity of funds. The CPMR

will reiterate its call for a meaningful involvement of regional authorities in implementation, a thorough respect of multilevel governance and a downright participation of regional authorities in policy drafting.

- One of the current concerns for the CPMR is the worrying tendency towards centralization in policy making and implementation. The lack of involvement of regional authorities resulting in a poor territorial dimension goes against the efficiency of public policy by disconnecting investment decisions from the territories.
- Regarding the Maritime dimension, the CPMR will continue contributing to shape a stronger Maritime Europe closer to the specificities of blue economies in each EU sea basin (blue place-based approach) and ensuring a key role to regional authorities in the design and implementation of a new generation of regionalised integrated maritime policies.
- The CPMR will highlight the theme of Solidarity, with specific messages also in relation to the role and support of local and regional authorities and current topics such as war in Ukraine or the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. Likewise, it will focus on the demands of regions in its work to achieve a Union of Equality that combats any form of discrimination.
- Regions are fundamental for the sustainable development of the European Union, and key partners for building a more sustainable and balanced Europe. The current geopolitical situation and the stemming energy crisis confirms the need for Europe to become strategically autonomous. Peripheral and Maritime regions have a key contribution to provide by nurturing the power of the wind and the sea, developing for example marine and offshore renewable energies, help put Europe in the pathway towards energy self-sufficiency, but also lead us to achieve our climate objectives and commitments.

The Political Manifesto will be voted by the CPMR General Assembly on Thursday 16/11 and it will be available [here](#).

5. Ten highlights of recent CPMR action

Thanks to the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions:

- Major cuts to the cohesion policy budget were avoided under the 2021-2027 EU Budget
- Peripheries are covered by the nine Core Network Corridors under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) 2021-2027
- Cohesion policy covers all regions in the European Union
- A greater flexibility in the use of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund emergency measures for the aquaculture and fisheries sector was achieved

- The 2021 EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy mentions specifically peripheral and maritime regions and acknowledges its needs and specificities
- The partnership and multilevel governance principles have been safeguarded in the cohesion policy package 2021-2027, reinforcing the role of regions regarding cohesion policy management and delivery
- Regional authorities can apply for direct access to funding under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the European Commission
- A share of the EU recovery plan will be delivered via Cohesion policy
- The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) 2021-2027 includes an additional objective and award criteria on territorial accessibility and connectivity, and a higher share of the transport envelope is allocated to the Comprehensive Network
- Maritime cross-border cooperation programmes are a reality in the 2021 – 2027 period

6. Other information

A dedicated website has been published at the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the CPMR: [Home | CPMR is 50](#)

As part of the celebrations to mark its 50th anniversary, Friends of the CPMR sent video greetings, reminiscing about pivotal moments in the association's history and emphasising its significance in both the European and regional scopes. Videos received include former Presidents of the CPMR, such as Jean-Yves Le Drian; European Commissioners such as Johannes Hahn or Elisa Ferreira; Members of the European Parliament, and other high-level personalities.

All videos can be seen here: [Special messages | CPMR is 50](#)

7. Contact

To learn more about our activities and latest news, please visit: www.cpmr.org

For more information, please contact: ana.canomanuel@crpm.org

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- https://twitter.com/CPMR_Europe
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