

Resolution is forwarded by the Baltic Sea Commission and the North Sea Commission

The 33rd General Assembly of the
Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR)
Madeira, Portugal , 2/4 November 2005

Resolution on EU Territorial Co-operation 2007–2013

The General Assembly of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe appreciates the European Commission's efforts to further develop the instruments of territorial co-operation and welcomes the principles of partnership, multi annual programming and solidarity as vital elements in the general outline of the EU Cohesion Policy.

The introduction of a new objective - European Territorial Co-operation - in the period 2007 – 2013 demonstrates the great value which the Commission attaches to regional co-operation in all its variants and facets.

The General Assembly of the CPMR with this resolution would like to pay attention to some specific points related to the European Commission`s proposal.

The European Commission has proposed four prioritised themes for the future Transnational Co-operation, being:

- Water management
- Natural risk prevention
- Improving accessibility
- Creation of scientific and technological networks.

The CPMR acknowledges the value and relevance of these themes. However the CPMR would welcome an increase in the proposed number of co-operation themes and, in consultation with the regions, the possibility to add themes that are appropriate to individual co-operation areas. Examples of such themes could be Demographic Change, Coastal Management, Energy Futures and Cultural Heritage.

The present geographical limits of Interreg IIIB - programme areas are based mainly on common spatial features and specific characteristics of these areas and have had an important relevance for the constructive and succesfull collaboration in the Interreg IIC and IIIB period.

The CPMR requests the European Commission to demonstrate a flexible approach with regard to the establishment of new geographical co-operation areas in order to promote and stimulate co-operation between areas in common fields of interest.

The member regions of CPMR ask to be consulted on the establishment of the co-operation areas in which they are involved.

With regard to the allocation of financial resources for territorial co-operation the CPMR supports the proposal of the European Commission to have balanced contributions to cross-border operations at one hand and transnational co-operation at the other hand. The CPMR requests the European Commission and the EU Member States to do utmost efforts to achieve decisions in this respect at short notice.

Madeira, November 2005