



Internal rules of the Atlantic Arc Commission

I - PREAMBLE

These internal rules are provided for in the Charter of the CPMR. They govern the activities of the Atlantic Arc Commission which was set up following the General Assembly of the CPMR held in Faro in October 1989.

II - CONSTITUTION

The Atlantic Arc Commission shall bring together the Presidents and Delegates mandated by the representative authorities of the member Regions of CPMR which border the Atlantic Ocean.

For specific reasons it can be opened up, on the proposal of two neighbouring, maritime, member regions, to border regions participating in the dynamic of the Atlantic Arc.

III - OBJECTIVES

The Atlantic Arc Commission shall be a forum for discussion and proposals for the Atlantic Regions. Its objective shall be to define a balanced and sustainable development strategy to reduce the effects of peripherality and to develop their assets and complementarities, through inter-regional cooperation, especially with regard to the maritime domain and, more generally, all aspects of regional development.

Under the aegis of the CPMR, the Commission shall keep the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions informed of the proposals which it shall draw up.

In order to strengthen solidarity between the Regions, the Atlantic Arc Commission shall encourage inter-regional cooperation and shall draft, develop and propose programmes to the European Union.

The Atlantic Arc Commission upholds the principle of multi-sectoral and multi-level governance. To achieve this objective, the Atlantic Arc Commission is committed to developing structured dialogue with the different decision-making tiers at European and Atlantic level as well as with relevant stakeholders in respect of the various issues addressed.

IV - MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION

The Atlantic Arc Commission shall meet at least once a year on the invitation of the President of the Commission who shall send out the notice of the meeting at least three weeks in advance.

The President of the Commission or his representative shall chair meetings.

In case of decision by vote, each member Region whose contribution is up to date (see IX) shall have one vote. The required majority shall be one half of the mandated delegates present plus one.

The Secretary General of CPMR, the Presidents and Executive Secretaries of the other Commissions shall be invited to attend meetings of the Commission as observers, as shall all those whom the Commission wishes to invite.

V - THE BUREAU

The Atlantic Arc Commission shall elect, from among its members, a Bureau comprising a President and eleven Vice-Presidents. Except for the President, the seats will be distributed as follows: 3 for France, 3 for Spain, 3 for Portugal, 1 for the United Kingdom and 1 for Ireland.

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The President directs and guides the work of the Atlantic Arc Commission. The President represents the Atlantic Arc Commission throughout his/her mandate. To respect the balance of the members of the Political Bureau, the President does not have a right to vote.

The Bureau reflects the overall composition of the Atlantic Arc Commission. The composition of the Political Bureau may be reviewed in the event of new membership or withdrawal of a Region of the Atlantic Arc Commission. If the President or his/her representative is unable to fulfil his duties, the President shall designate a Vice-President of the Atlantic Arc Commission to act in his place.

The President is elected by the Political Bureau for two years, renewable once.

The Bureau shall meet as often as necessary as convened by the President.

These meetings shall be prepared by the Secretariat of the Atlantic Arc Commission (See VII) who shall ensure that notices of meeting and agendas and the corresponding working documents are sent out in good time.

The Secretary General of CPMR shall be invited to attend meetings as an observer.

VI - WORKING GROUPS

Permanent working groups: these are designed to help provide input for the discussions and positions of the Atlantic Arc Commission with regard to priority issues for its member Regions.

Ad hoc working groups: they fulfil the same objectives as permanent working groups but meet a specific need for a limited time in order to adhere as closely as possible to the priorities of the EU agenda.

Each working group is chaired by one or more member Regions that shall draw up terms of reference specifying the aims, operating rules and actions to be implemented by the group. The Bureau shall approve the creation of a group and the termination of its work when the members deem that the objectives have been reached.

The General Assembly elects, by a relative majority for a term of two years, renewable once, each Lead Region of the working groups.

After having signed a partnership memorandum approved by the Political Bureau, the qualified bodies, as associated partners of the Atlantic Arc Commission, are invited to participate in the meetings of the working groups and in the General Assembly, without the right to vote or the possibility of being members of the Political Bureau of the Atlantic Arc Commission.

Coordination Committee: this is made up of officers from member Regions of the Atlantic Arc Commission Political Bureau, leaders of the working groups and the above mentioned Atlantic organisations. This group is responsible for giving consideration to the strategic guidelines of the Atlantic Arc through cross-cutting subjects such as governance, funding, future of EU policies and communication. It is also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the working groups. In order for the coordination committee to work efficiently, the number of participants is limited. In this respect, the Atlantic organisations may have no more than two representatives.

VII - THE SECRETARIAT

The President shall designate in its Region one or more collaborator(s) responsible for monitoring the activities of the Atlantic Arc Commission. The Bureau shall designate one Executive Secretary following a recruitment process managed by the General Secretary of the CPMR. A representative of the President of the Commission could be involved in the panel that will handle the process. The Executive Secretariat is based in Rennes and the Executive Secretary is based in Rennes or in Brussels in the CPMR premises. In the case where the Executive Secretary is hosted by Region, this Region must bear the operating costs.

VIII - RESPONSABILITIES OF THE COMMISSION AND THE BUREAU

8.1 - The Atlantic Arc Commission shall define the common policy of the peripheral Regions of the Atlantic facade.

The Atlantic Arc Commission can participate and/or manage European projects through the CPMR, with the agreement of the CPMR Political Bureau.

8.2 - The Bureau shall elect the President, appoint the Executive Secretary, proposes themes for discussion to the Atlantic Arc Commission, define the working methods and the agendas of the meetings of the Commission and follow up the work undertaken by the Commission.

The Bureau shall take all the initiatives and decisions in the framework of missions entrusted to it by the Commission or on questions of an organizational or technical nature.

IX - FUNDING

The Atlantic Arc Commission shall have the following resources at its disposal for its running:

- A contribution from the Regions. This contribution shall be in the form of a single once-off payment, the amount of which shall be decided by the Commission;
- A grant from CPMR;
- Payment for running costs for EU programmes;
- Other sources of funding proposed by the Political Bureau.

The contribution from the Regions and the funding from the European Union shall be paid into a specific account managed by the Secretary of the Atlantic Arc Commission, under the responsibility of the Secretary General of the CPMR.

The Region which hosts the meetings of the Bureau, General Assembly and Working Groups of the Atlantic Arc Commission shall pay for the costs of organisation and simultaneous translation.