



CPMR ATLANTIC ARC
COMMISSION

Plenary Meeting of the Atlantic Arc Commission

3 November 2016 - Ponta Delgada (Açores-PT)

MINUTES

*(for approval during the 2017 General Assembly
of the Atlantic Arc Commission)*

INTRODUCTION

Bruno Retailleau, President of the Atlantic Arc Commission and President of the Pays de la Loire Region, welcomed the participants and presented the meeting agenda. By way of introduction, he listed the activities carried out since the Pamplona General Assembly (2-3 June 2016). As previously announced, he confirmed the upcoming meeting with the Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Mr Karmenu Vella (7 December 2016 in Brussels). He pointed out that Alain Cadec, Chairman of the Fisheries Commission of the European Parliament, would also be attending the meeting, which would address issues related to the Atlantic strategy and blue growth. He also recalled that on 26 September 2016 in Dublin, the Atlantic Arc Commission participated in the high-level steering group with the States, European Commission, European Parliament and Committee of the Regions. During this meeting, the representative of the Atlantic Arc Commission raised the question of a European budget dedicated to the Atlantic strategy, training and mobility. Bruno Retailleau then gave an update on the projects selected in the first stage of the Atlantic Area Programme. Lastly, he mentioned the meeting held on 7 October in Nantes, attended by stakeholders from the Loire region's maritime sector. The Atlantic Arc Commission's Fisheries and Aquaculture group met that same morning and invited stakeholders from the sector. He stressed the importance of this type of meeting, which helps to better identify the direction in which we need to work to be in tune with our territories' needs. Finally, he mentioned the recruitment of a person under a VIE contract (*Volontaire International en Entreprise* – French state-subsidised programme for young graduates) financed partly by the Pays de la Loire Region under its presidency. He announced that the next General Assembly would be held on 2 and 3 March 2017, probably in Les Sables d'Olonne in the Pays de la Loire. The venue was to be confirmed soon, together with a draft agenda including sessions on fisheries, innovation, training and maritime spatial planning.

To conclude this first item on the agenda, **Bruno Retailleau** asked members to vote on the minutes of the 2016 General Assembly in Navarre, which was approved unanimously.

TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION TASK FORCE

Mikel Anton Zarragoitia, Director of European Affairs at the Basque Government, detailed the aim of this Transatlantic Cooperation Task Force which consisted in identify existing contacts between authorities on both sides of the Atlantic. He recalled that the Regions had been asked to contribute on this subject. Several Regions (Galicia, Wales, Nouvelle Aquitaine) had submitted information, mainly on the cooperation agreements already existing in their respective Regions. Mikel Anton hoped that we could keep on considering the subject and giving Regions the possibility to provide additional information until the end of December 2016. He said that the idea would then be to organise one or more workshops on this topic to present the existing agreements and relations and the areas on which the European Regions and authorities on the other side of the Atlantic were working.

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CPMR DRAFT FINAL DECLARATION

Pauline Caumont, Executive Secretary of the Atlantic Arc Commission, outlined the main guidelines of the document and recalled that the main demands of the Geographical Commissions had been taken into account in the draft Final Declaration. She detailed the amendments received and reminded members of the process for dealing with these amendments.

Different regions (Montserrat García for **Cantabria**, Mikel Anton for the **Basque Country**) intervened for a series of proposals for additional amendments to the Final Declaration.

Pauline Caumont recalled that these needed to be detailed and presented to the resolutions overview group for final validation - Consult the [CPMR Final Declaration - Azores 2016](#).

CPMR ATLANTIC ARC COMMISSION INTERNAL BUSINESS

Pauline Caumont gave some information on the Atlantic Arc Commission's finances, in particular the budget for 2017. She recalled that the Pays de la Loire Region was making an additional contribution to maintain the position under a VIE contract (*Volontaire International en Entreprise* – French state-subsidised programme for young graduates) to support the Atlantic Arc Commission team. The final accounting result was still negative but the deficit would be covered by the CPMR general budget and possibly revised depending on the projects approved in the first half of 2017.

Pauline Caumont recalled that in terms of representation, it was crucial for the Irish Southern Regional Assembly to join the Atlantic Arc Commission network.

Pauline Caumont concluded with the Atlantic Arc Commission's [2016/2017 calendar](#) and reminded members of the working group meetings for the upcoming weeks.

In conclusion, President **Bruno Retailleau** thanked all participants for attending the plenary meeting and looked forward to seeing all members in the Pays de la Loire Region in March 2017.