



Atlantic Arc Commission meeting of the Atlantic Strategy Working Group

28 November 2016 - Brussels

MINUTES

I – INTRODUCTION BY THE REGION PAYS DE LA LOIRE, PRESIDENCY OF THE ATLANTIC ARC COMMISSION

On behalf of the presidency of the group, **Agnès Trarieux** reaffirmed the commitment of this group to be an efficient communication channel between the institutional Atlantic Strategy Group (ASG) and the stakeholders on the ground. She thanked all participants and more particularly Mrs Marcella Smyth, Maritime *Attachée* at the Irish Permanent Representation, Chair of the ASG in 2016, for maintaining a good cooperation throughout the year.

Bruno Retailleau, President of the Atlantic Arc Commission, considers crucial to raise awareness about the Strategy among stakeholders in the Regions. A conference with maritime stakeholders was notably organised in Nantes last 7 October 2016. However, there is still a lot to do to get results from the Strategy.

This is one of the main messages President Retailleau addressed to the Commission on the occasion of his meeting with Commission Vella, MEP Alain Cadec and the First Minister of Wales on 7 December 2016.

II – CONTEXT SINCE LAST MEETING

Pauline Caumont, Executive Secretary of the Atlantic Arc Commission thanked both Marcella Smyth and Reka Rozsavolgyi from DG MARE (C1 Unit) for taking part in this meeting. She recalled that the group is an open group (open to non Atlantic Arc Commission members), which aims at providing Regions with frequent updates on the Atlantic Strategy. It is the only existing group that mirrors the ASG.

Pauline Caumont then presented the context since last meeting, which took place on 30 June 2016. The main issues discussed during that meeting were the election of Bruno Retailleau as new President of the Atlantic Arc Commission, consequences of Brexit for the Atlantic Arc Commission, as well as an update on activities related to the Atlantic Strategy. Since then, the AAC was involved in many direct activities:

- **6 and 7 September 2016:** meeting of the Atlantic Area Monitoring Committee (Interreg) to select projects (First phase). The Atlantic Arc Commission participated in this meeting, as well as the two other Atlantic transnational networks (of Cities and Economic and Social Council).
- **14 September 2016:** ASG Meeting - Brussels.
- **26 September 2016:** ASG High Level meeting: Sébastien Pilard, the President's delegate for the Atlantic Arc Commission took part in the meeting in Dublin.
- **27 September 2016:** Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Forum in Dublin. Sébastien Pilard, Thierry Rolando and Pauline Caumont met with Andras Inotai (Vella's member of Cabinet) and Felix Leinemann (new head of Unit DG Mare)
 - **2 projects in which the Atlantic Arc Commission was involved won an Award:** Atlantic Power Cluster (APC) and ARCOPOLplatform.
 - **Workshop organised:** on Maritime Training: exchange with a Cluster representative (Oceano XXI), an Irish University and Sébastien Pilard representing the Presidency of the Atlantic Arc Commission.

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- **7 October 2016:** in Nantes, the President organised an event, together with the Assistance Mechanism, to gather all regional maritime Stakeholders, let them know about the Atlantic Arc Commission, the Atlantic Strategy and thus strengthen the link between the Atlantic Arc Commission and the actors in the territory. Again, it was a bit success. Very good to “anchor” our actions in the Regions.
- **20 October 2016:** ASG Meeting - Brussels
- **2/4 November 2016:** CPMR General Assembly in Ponta Delgada, Azores (PT)
 - **Atlantic Arc Commission plenary meeting on 3 November 2016;**
 - [Working document on Macro Regions presented](#)
 - **The minutes of the CPMR General Assembly have been sent by e-mails to all CPMR Member Regions**
- **22 November 2016:** EASME informed us that our project “A blue biotechnology Master for a Blue Career - BBMBC” submitted to the “Blue Careers” call for proposals (EMFF) **was selected**. This project will start in January 2017 and last two years. The Atlantic Arc Commission Innovation working group will liaise between the Atlantic Arc Commission members and the project partners.
- **27 November 2016:** Meeting of the Atlantic Arc Commission Atlantic Strategy Working Group.
- **27 November:** new ASG meeting, end of Irish Presidency.
- **28 November:** CPMR maritime meetings in the morning, Atlantic Arc Commission Marine Renewable Energies Working Group in the afternoon.
- **7 December:** Meeting between President Bruno Retailleau and Commissioner Vella in Brussels (Cf. [Press release](#)).

III – REKA ROZSAVOLGYI, DG MARE – ATLANTIC UNIT

Reka Rozsavolgyi thanked the Atlantic Arc Commission for the invitation and gave the following information:

There is a [new organigram](#) in DG Mare as from January 2017:

- One Directorate on Maritime Economy (including Sea Basins Strategies) led by **Bernhard Friess**, less geographical, more policy focused. **Felix Leinemann**, current C1 (Atlantic) head of Unit will be head of a new “Blue Growth” Unit. **Christos Economou** will be head of Unit on “Sea basins strategies”.
- One International Directorate focusing on Ocean Governance.
- Two Directorates on Common Fisheries Policies: one for North & West of Europe, the other for South and East of Europe.
- One Directorate for General Affairs and Human Resources.

2017 will be the year of the Atlantic Action Plan mid-term review:

- to be conducted **before the end of the year 2017**. DG Mare will contract a consultant to help with the evaluation of ongoing “Atlantic” projects.
- Format not decided yet: could be a staff working document or a Communication.
- There will be an online public consultation open during the **1st half of 2017**, probably launched in parallel with the 2017 [European Maritime Days](#) (EMD) in Poole (UK). NB: Timeline not officially validated yet.
- The Assistance Mechanism will be up and running until January 2018. Its continuation will depend on the outcomes of the mid-term review evaluation.

III – FROM THE ASG PRESIDENCY, MARCELLA SMYTH

First of all, **Marcella Smyth** mentioned that she was very happy with CPMR-AAC work and its active involvement in the ASG.

She also highlighted the main 2016 landmark events:

- ASG met every month in 2016: the group engaged and enthusiastic. DG RTD is involved.

- Visibility of the Atlantic Action Plan enhanced throughout the year: European Maritime Days 2016, high level meeting in the European Parliament (SEARICA intergroup in June), Meeting with Managing authorities in June, Stakeholder platform Forum in Dublin in September (400 participants registered, focus on practical issues).
- Next [“Our Ocean” Conference](#) in Malta in 2017 should be focused on the Atlantic (high level).
- Awards: successful, need to build its “reputation” for the future (NB: 2 Atlantic Arc Commission projects were awarded: cf. [Newsletter](#)).
- The UK will be the Next ASG Presidency in 2017. The UK seems enthusiastic and wants to keep the current format of the ASG meeting (which means that CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission should continue to be part of the group).
- EMFF IMP budget was approved by beginning of November. There is unfortunately **no specific allowance for the Atlantic Action Plan**. Budget reduced from € 75 Million to € 72 Million in 2017. VERY small budget. ([More info on EMFF priorities](#)). However, some calls on Marine Ocean Energy will target directly the Atlantic (calls on tidal power for instance).

IV – FROM DG REGIO, JOANNA KIRYLLO

Within DG Regio, **Joanna Kiryllo** is in charge of the follow-up of the Atlantic Interreg Programme. She gave the group some general information concerning DG Region in 2017:

- There will be a Public Consultation in **Spring 2017** on the post 2020 cohesion policy
- A new Director General, **Marc Lemaître**, has been appointed. He organises regular brainstorming sessions. One session will deal with European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) Policy: Atlantic Arc Commission members can send inputs to Joanna.

Information from the Atlantic Arc Commission:

- Link to the CPMR working document on macro-regions and Sea Basins Strategies discussed in Ponta Delgada (Azores): [Background note October 2016](#)
- CPMR launched a survey, sent to all members regarding the use of EMFF in the Regions: **Please liaise with your experts in the Regions to complete this extremely important questionnaire!**
- The 2017 EMFF Work programme is available on line, [see link!](#)
- The CPMR has a new website! Launched in December, new address: [cpmr-atlantic.org](#), old website [www.arcatlantique.org](#) will remain available for a few months.
- Next Atlantic Arc Commission General Assembly Meeting: **1/3 March 2017** in “Les Sables d’Olonne”, Pays de la Loire (FR): **SAVE THE DATE!** The draft agenda will be circulated soon.
- Wednesday 1st March will be dedicated to an onsite visit of a fish canning factory followed by a short working group on Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- A new architecture of Working groups should be proposed to the Political Bureau to rationalise our time (from 6 Working Groups to 3 main pillars with internal Task Forces).
- CPMR is favourable to the alignment between Macro Regional Strategies/Sea Basin Strategies and European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes.
- Cantabria (Inma Valencia) will be involved in the CPMR group on the future of ETC in Europe. Information will be circulated through this working group. Our aim will be to suggest bigger envelopes for ETC, in particular its transnational component
- An Atlantic Strategy Conference will be organised in April 2017 in Nouvelle Aquitaine with the help of the Assistance Mechanism.

For any question, please send an e mail to the Secretariat:
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