Meeting of the Atlantic Arc Commission
17 October 2019 - Palermo (Sicily - Italy)

CONCLUSIONS
(To be approved at the next General Assembly of the Atlantic Arc Commission)

Participating Regions in the meeting: Alentejo, Bretagne, Cantabria, Galicia, Navarra, Northern & Western Regional Assembly, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, País Vasco, Pays de la Loire, Wales

INTRODUCTION

Francisco Martín Gallego, Regional Councillor of the Government of Cantabria, Vice-President of the Atlantic Arc Commission, introduced the meeting.

He put the minutes of the Madeira plenary meeting (October 2018) to a vote, which were approved unanimously by the members.

ATLANTIC COOPERATION

Katie Cavell, Executive Secretary of the Atlantic Arc Commission, presented the context and decisions taken at the previous meeting on Atlantic cooperation. A group on the "Cooperation in the Atlantic" (coordinated by the Pays de la Loire Region as chair), with several pillars, is therefore approved. These pillars are the Task Force on the Atlantic Strategy, coordinated by the Pays de la Loire Region (as chair of the Atlantic Arc Commission), a Task Force on the exploration of a macro-region (coordination proposal by the Basque Country), and a Task Force on relations with third countries (coordination proposal to be approved). This structure is unanimously approved by the Regions of the Atlantic Arc Commission.

INTERNAL RULES

Katie Cavell presented a series of amendments to the internal rules of the Atlantic Arc Commission for a restructuring of its Political Bureau.

Mikel Anton, for the Basque Government, questioned why these amendments were necessary.

Katie Cavell explained that the main aim was to review the composition of the Political Bureau in order to achieve greater efficiency and a fairer balance between the Regions of the Atlantic Arc Commission. The Bureau is currently composed of 11 Regions out of the 15 member Regions. It seemed unfair to isolate 4 members from the decisions taken within the Bureau. It is on this basis that the amendments are presented.

Nia Lewis, for the Welsh Government, raised the matter of political or technical representation in the Political Bureau.

Mikel Anton mentioned an imbalance in the proposal in relation to the number of Spanish Regions that are members of the Atlantic Arc Commission.
Katie Cavell explained that the idea is to make the decisions more effective. And to respond to an imbalance in the Political Bureau with 11 members out of a total of 15 member Regions. 4 Regions were therefore excluded from the decision-making process. One solution could be to give the Bureau an advisory and validation function, with a final decision made at the General Assembly, where in fact all member regions would have the possibility to be represented and vote individually. In order to allot time to the debate, a new proposal will be presented at the General Assembly in Porto.

**FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS OF THE ATLANTIC ARC COMMISSION**

Katie Cavell presented the Atlantic Arc Commission’s financial documents, which will be presented for validation at the CPMR General Assembly.

**CPMR MANIFESTO**

Katie Cavell presented the main "Atlantic" amendments that will be presented on the CPMR Manifesto. The final consolidated version was sent to participants and members. The document was unanimously approved at the CPMR General Assembly.

Click on the link to view the CPMR Manifesto - Palermo 2019

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY PORTO 2019**

Katie Cavell provided a reminder that the Atlantic Arc Commission will exceptionally convene its General Assembly on 14 November in Porto, as part of the Commission’s 30th anniversary and in parallel with numerous "Atlantic" meetings. She presented the meeting's agenda, and invited members to actively participate.

Francisco Martín Gallego concluded the meeting and thanked the participants for their attendance.

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