

Other major views

Views and priorities of funding agencies

Session 2

Uniting to build scientific responses to the challenges of the Mediterranean: the opinion of the Mediterranean Regions of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)

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CPMR was founded in 1973 and brings together different regional authorities with the three-fold objective of helping to integrate regions in the construction of Europe, reducing unequal levels of competitiveness between the centre of Europe and its peripheries and promoting Europe's marine resources.

It currently brings together 154 regions from 26 states and comprises 6 geographic commissions: Atlantic Arc, North Sea, Baltic Sea, Intermediterranean, Balkan and Black Sea, and Islands.

The Intermediterranean commission, which is currently presided over by the chairman of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur regional authority, comprises 49 regions of the 7 European countries and 3 non-member countries (Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon)

The commission's work is performed by seven task forces.

The Maritime Policy task force was created in 2006 and its objective is to help draw up and implement a maritime policy in the Mediterranean.

The policy is part of an integrated approach to sustainable development and focuses on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, fishing production, marine research, transport and maritime safety and the governance of maritime policies in the Mediterranean Basin.

The task force constitutes a network of technical services concerned with marine themes within the Mediterranean regions.

As such, the task force may be considered a major partner for research organisations that wish to develop programmes for the Mediterranean Basin.

To date, the task force has drawn up three proposals:

- contribution by the Mediterranean regions to the green paper on the European Union's maritime policy (General Meeting on 5 July 2007),
- contribution by the Mediterranean regions to the green paper on adapting to climate change (General Meeting in Florence on 17 October 2007),
- a statement on pollution in the Mediterranean (General Meeting on 17 October 2007)

This work, which will be presented at the symposium, has given rise to themes for priority projects shared between the regions and particularly specifies what the regions expect from research into each of the themes.

The development of overall research programmes for the Mediterranean Basin is of paramount importance for several of the priority themes that have been adopted.

The symposium will also discuss the conditions for international scientific cooperation set up by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur regional authority, with special emphasis on cooperation in the Mediterranean.