

Atlantic regions, together for a cohesive Atlantic Area



CPMR ATLANTIC ARC COMMISSION

#CPMR2022

 cpmr-atlantic.org



CPMR ATLANTIC ARC COMMISSION FLASHINFO MAY 2022

Dear Members,

Over the last few months, the AAC has been mobilised in the return to high-level events, and we welcomed all these great occasions not only to voice our positions and actively create new opportunities for further actions, but also to meet many of you again. The AAC has been represented at the One Ocean Summit to promote the creation of the Atlantic Macro-Region, which was further strengthened by a bilateral meeting with the French General Secretariat for European Affairs. In line with our work on Marine Renewable Energies, the AAC regions voted a joint declaration to promote its development on the occasion of the Wind Europe Annual Conference in Bilbao. At the CPMR Political Bureau in Barcelona of March 2022, we got the opportunity to express our vision on the Common Fisheries Policy to Director General Charlina Vitcheva. In a time where European cooperation is more crucial than ever, we thank you for your proactivity and willingness to join your forces through the AAC network.

In this Flash Info, you will find information about the latest activities of the AAC. Happy reading!



The CPMR Atlantic Arc Secretariat

[Elise Wattrelot](#), AAC Executive Secretary

[Delphine Kaczorowski](#), Project & Policy Officer

[Catherine Petiau](#), Policy Assistant

Special focus: two major meetings in the context of the French EU Presidency

Meeting with the French General Secretariat for European Affairs on the Atlantic Macro-Region



On March 15, 2022, an Atlantic Arc delegation met with the cabinet of Clément Beaune, French Secretary for European Affairs. This meeting focused on the AAC proposal to create an Atlantic Macro-Region. The AAC political representatives shared an overview of the process and main steps developed, with highlights on the benefits of a more structured cooperation in identified sectors, and on the perimeter envisaged for the macro-region. Together with the Cabinet of the French Secretary for European Affairs, they discussed practical issues to deepen the ambitions of the proposal and agreed on next steps to nurture a collaboration on this subject. As a follow-up of this meeting, a Technical Paper on the Added Value of a Macro-Region for the Atlantic has been developed and will be sent to the French Secretary of State. We invite Member Regions to share this paper with their national governments.

Thank you to the AAC political representatives for making this meeting possible!



[Read the full article here!](#)

An AAC delegation at the One Ocean Summit



On 11 February 2022, a CPMR delegation counting on the Presidency of the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission, the Basque Government, travelled to Brest (Brittany, France) to participate in the **One Ocean Summit**, which aimed at mobilising the international community to take tangible action to preserve a healthy and sustainable ocean. Together, Brittany, Galicia and the Basque Government were involved in the Coastal Regions' Forum, co-organised by the CPMR and the Region of Brittany which brought together **Virginus Sinkevicius**, Commissioner for Environment, Ocean and Fisheries and **Catherine Chabaud**, Member of the European Parliament. **Marian Elorza** was able to reiterate the [Atlantic Arc Commission Declaration of December 2020](#) asking the Council to give a mandate to the European Commission to develop an Atlantic Macro-Region. *"To better protect the ocean, we need an institutional framework of greater political influence. That framework, as the Atlantic Arc has politically declared, is a Macro-Region. We want to evolve towards a macro-regional strategy that integrates our marine identity and that also ensures that activities develop on land do not harm our coast"*, said Marian Elorza.



[Read the full article here!](#)



Atlantic Cooperation Hub

AAC Participation at the Atlantic Strategy Committee



As an associated partner of the Atlantic Strategy Committee, the AAC participated in **the first meeting of the Spanish Presidency of the Atlantic Strategy Committee** on March 14, 2022. The four pillar coordinators shared a global assessment of the activities and first conclusions with regard to the workshops organised in 2021 and also to pave the way for the changes of pillars' coordinators in June 2022. The Spanish Presidency of the Atlantic Strategy will work on a guideline document to clarify the roles of all actors of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0. It will be discussed at next Atlantic Strategy Committee on June 1, 2022. New projects co-funded by EMFAF and the new concept of Flagship projects will also be discussed. The AAC will aim at giving inputs to this process. For further information, you will find the meeting minutes in the [Members Area](#).

Don't miss out! Several workshops will be organised by the Atlantic Strategy before summer, [click here!](#)

Update on the Interreg Atlantic Area Programme



The INTERREG Atlantic Area 2021-2027 programme will correspond to a budget of **EUR 113 million** from the ERDF, a slight decrease compared to the 2014-2021 period. The co-financing rate for projects approved has been set up to 75% of the total investment. Priorities of investment will focus on (1) Blue innovation and competitiveness, (2) Blue Environment and (3) Blue sustainable and social tourism and culture. A fourth priority will focus on Better governance for Atlantic Cooperation, a brand new priority which should notably be used to improve the coordination between the Atlantic strategy (more information [here](#)). The programme geography has also slightly increased with the inclusion of La Rioja Region (Spain). The programme will soon be launched, keep posted !

The first Implementation Report of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 is out!



The Assistance Mechanism released the implementation report for the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0, **being the first implementation report by the European Commission following the adaptation of the Atlantic Action Plan communication in July 2020**. The report aims to reflect a comprehensive overview of all the activities undertaken and the results of the first-year implementation for each pillar, an analysis of EU funding that addressed the pillars' goals, as well as the lessons learnt from this first period. In this first period of implementation, more than 520 projects have been estimated as aligned with the AAP 2.0, representing more than 2 billion € EU contribution. Repartition per country and per pillar has been also calculated. However, it must be underlined that the methods of calculation have not been explained and that we can suspect that only some of them benefited directly from the leverage of the Atlantic Action Plan.

In line with the conclusions of this report which is now calling to take concrete actions, the AAC reiterates the importance to define concrete flagship projects within the ASC and Pillar task forces and connect them with funding opportunities. The AAC Secretariat will keep its ambition to act as a bridge with Atlantic regions for full implementation of the Strategy at regional level.

For a full reading of the report, please [click here!](#)





The AAC discussing S3 Interregional Cooperation for Blue Economy at the EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week!



On the occasion of the third EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week that was held on March 7-11, 2022, the AAC was invited in a panel led by DG MARE to find out how smart specialisation strategies can help to boost regional cooperation at macro-region / sea-basin levels and achieve EU Green Deal objectives. On this occasion, **Elise Wattrelot**, AAC Executive Secretary, recalled the Atlantic Arc ambitions on boosting Smart Specialisation via the creation of a Macro-Regional Strategy, and **welcomed the creation of a new Blue S3 Platform** to support the CPMR mission to encourage sustainable Blue Economy between regions towards a greater territorial cohesion. She highlights potential services which could be borne by the future Platform such as capacity building activities to create partnership for I3 calls ; sharing knowledge on existing projects on S3 cooperation ; developing indicative scenarios of investment in specific sectors and supporting to common methodology for the development of Blue RIS3.

The Secretariat will keep contacts with DG MARE on the development of the Blue S3 Platform, and update the Technical Note "[Atlantic RIS3 : commonalities, differences and way forward to boost cooperation](#)" with new elements on missing regional strategies for 2021-2027.

The AAC participates in the CoR Study on the regional impacts of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement

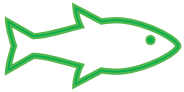


The CPMR Atlantic Arc Secretariat has been interviewed on 23 February 2022 by T33 consultancy in the framework of the **Committee of the Regions' study on the impact of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and the UK on Regions**. In this context, the AAC shared the last updates of its Brexit Task force and its work on the Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR) Recommendations deriving from the study encompasses our recommendations on the need for a reinforced BAR with territorial earmarking and active involvement of regions in the orientation of the fund.

This study completes the European Commission's [Annual report on the implementation and application of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#) released on 24 March 2022

For more information on the CoR study, please [click here!](#)





Maritime Hub

The AAC votes a declaration on Offshore Renewable Energies at Wind Europe



On April 4, 2022, the Atlantic Arc Commission met to agree on a Political Declaration on Offshore Renewable Energies on April 4, 2022 on the occasion of the **WindEurope Annual Conference** in Bilbao, Spain. They agreed on a [Political Declaration](#) setting the vision of the Atlantic Arc Commission on future steps to take to support the sound development of offshore renewable energies in the Atlantic area. The declaration, addressed to national governments and EU institutions, was greatly shaped by the context of important volatility of energy prices due to the Russian attack on Ukraine, which was unanimously condemned by Atlantic Arc Commission political representatives. This initiative is in line with the letters the AAC addressed to Commissioners Gabriel, Simson, Sinkevicius, calling for a higher share of funding for Marine Renewable Energies in the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2024.

[Read the full article here!](#)

[Read the declaration here!](#)

The AAC contributes to CPMR actions on the Common Fisheries Policy



In December 2021, the European Commission opened a consultation on the to take stock of the results reached by the implementation of the CFP to date. Based on exchanges with members, the CPMR Secretariat submitted a response to the consultation and addressed a set of key messages. In this context, the CPMR met with Director General Charlina Vitcheva at its Political Bureau in March. The AAC Fisheries and Aquaculture also met with DG MARE on the occasion of its Hub meetings to have an overview of the results of the public consultation on the CFP and refine some political messages. **The the social dimension of the CFP, climate change and clean oceans and seas are considered as three topics which should be better tackle in the future CFP.** The Commission also evoked to work on the effectiveness of the policy, a greater flexibility in the use of current tools, and a more tailored approach to regional specificities.

As a follow up, the CPMR will continue to harness views of its member regions and will aim for a Political position to be adopted in October. Galicia Region will host a major event on the CFP on **2-3 June** to which the CPMR will be associated. DG MARE will also conclude its stakeholder consultation of the CFP with an event on **10 June 2022**.

[Read the full CPMR Answer on CFP here!](#)



Attractivity & Accessibility Hub

TEN-T: The CPMR work of influence goes on with the upcoming TRAN report (EP)

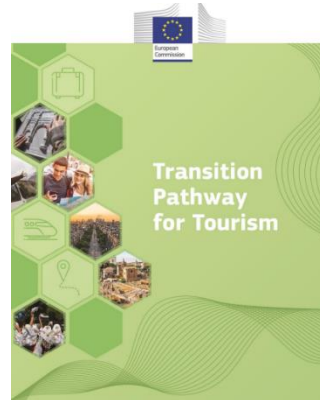


In light of the debates held during the last Political Bureau in Barcelona, **CPMR Vice-President Valle Miguez will held a series of meetings with MEPs to convey preliminary messages.** The CPMR General Secretariat met also the French Permanent Representation and continued to exchange with the European Commission on a regular basis, MEPs, and Transport organisations. The CPMR will keep defending the amendments on the maps provided last year by the Geographical Commissions. At the European Parliament, exchanges on draft report in TRAN committee are foreseen in the week of August 28, 2022, and the deadline for amendments on this report is set to September 13, 2022. The adoption of the TRAN report is set to January 2023, with adoption in plenary in February 2023.

Next CPMR Transport Working Group will be organised on June 08. CPMR Secretariat will also participate in the TEN-T days in Lyon in June 28-30, 2022. More information [here](#).

Complementarily, the AAC will organise a seminar in **September 2022** to consolidate the CPMR work of influence. AAC Regions are also kindly invited to answer to the Basque Country Questionnaire on the future orientations for the group (**Deadline 17 May 2022**)

Tourism: the Transition Pathway is on good track!



On February 04, the European Commission published the [transition pathway for tourism](#). The final report identifies 27 areas of measures for the green and digital transition and to improve the resilience of EU tourism.

In order to pave the way towards green and digital transition of the tourism ecosystem, the European Commission opened a [call for commitments](#) dedicated to stakeholders wishing to announce their commitment and interest in participating in the transition pathway. **The CPMR will coordinate a joint response**, however we also encourage to circulate the information to regional tourism stakeholders to participate in the co-ownership of the initiative. Commitments will be published on the DG GROW website and the upcoming tourism stakeholder collaboration platform (Together for EU Tourism, T4T), and pledges will be monitored at least once a year to follow their development. They should open new cooperation and funding opportunities at EU level.

Note also that the [Glasgow Declaration](#) remains also open to new signatures! Should you be interested in connecting your tourism stakeholders around a shared commitment on climate, **do not hesitate to contact the CPMR General Secretariat which is one of the 517 signatories.**

In light of the hub meeting on Tourism, we also encourage you to contact Klaus Erlich, coordinator of the Pact for Skills on Tourism!





AAC Projects' Corner

In addition to the on-going AspBAN project, we are pleased to announce you that the project CleanAtlantic and SAFER won a 1,5 year extension through the Interreg Atlantic Area Capitalisation Call. In this same context, the AAC also joined the FAN-BEST project. (Re)Discover them below!

SAFER



SAFER is a project aiming at improving the innovation performance of the seafood sector by increasing technology adoption and transnational cooperation in the Atlantic. During its first phase, the AAC notably developed a [catalogue of sustainable and innovative best practices](#) of the seafood sector in the Atlantic, and addressed key [political recommendations](#) on the sector to the EU institutions. For this new phase, SAFER welcomes one new partner, [APRIA](#), a technology-based company from Cantabria which develops innovative solutions for aquaculture water treatment.

→ **What's new for the AAC?** The AAC will develop a **policy-toolkit to support the inclusion of seafood innovation in RIS3s**, and also organise the final conference of the project.



Spread the word to your regional stakeholders! An open call for pilots will open soon, offering support to implement Industry 4.0 technological solutions for more efficient processes and improved and sustainable production. The call will target organisations of the seafood sector located in the Interreg Atlantic Area interested in improving their processes and products by the introduction of new technologies. For more information, you can contact the AAC Secretariat.

FAN-BEST



FANBEST is a project aiming at fostering the technology transfer to SMEs in blue biotechnology and exploitation of marine resources by creating a network of public and private entities focused on the fund raising that make possible the start and scale-up phase. Funds such venture, business angels, participatory loan or crowdfunding are developed so that the technologies "made in Atlantic regions" can reach the market turned into successful business projects.

→ **What's new for the AAC?** The AAC will produce an **analysis of RIS3 2021-2027** and will develop capacity building workshops to support the creation of new cooperation on Blue S3. Its work will climax with the drafting of policy recommendations in this respect.



Spread the word to your regional stakeholders! Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce launches the BLUE SME Internationalisation Programme as part of the project. SMEs can apply for a chance to access funded export support worth up to €10,000 euros. The successful businesses will receive tailored support including an export readiness assessment, review and development of an export strategy, market research/identification, training as well as a bespoke market visits. Deadline [to apply](#) is set to **May 27, 2022**.

CleanAtlantic



CleanAtlantic aims to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Atlantic Area by improving capabilities to monitor, prevent and remove marine litter. It has developed an important set of tools and studies to fulfill this objective. The AAC has been actively involved in the development of the [CleanAtlantic Knowledge Tool](#), nurturing links with Pillar IV of the Atlantic Strategy, and organised a [SEARICA event](#) which eventually led to the mention of the project in MEP Catherine Chabaud's [report](#) on the impact on fisheries of marine litter.

→ **What's new for the AAC?** The AAC will develop a **regional toolkit for regions to implement measures against marine litter**. The project's outcomes have inspired the AAC pledge which will be voted at the General Assembly.

Update on AspBAN



On March 10, 2022, the successful start-ups to the open call met online for the first time to officially kick off the AspBAN **Acceleration Services**.

The AAC will organise in September a seminar with the Balkan and Black Sea Commission to share the results of the project and adapt it to the Black Sea realities.



Spread the word to your regional stakeholders! The AspBAN project has also launched another Open Call for startups for its **Open Innovation Programme**, aiming at facilitating and establishing the collaboration between Startups and Ports through concrete pilot projects.





EU Calls' Corner

Interregional Innovation Investment (I3)



The second round for I3 Projects grant is open! Three Strand 1 calls are opened for submission **until October 18, 2022**: one focusing on the green transition ([GREEN](#)), another on digitalisation ([DIGIT](#)), and the third one on advanced manufacturing ([MANU](#)). Strand 1 calls "Financial and advisory support for investments in interregional innovation projects" targets partnerships to help them accelerate market uptake and scale-up of innovative solutions in shared smart specialisation priority areas, as well as to develop a portfolio of investment projects. More information [here](#).

Creative Europe



Creative Europe

Calls for European Cooperation projects small, medium and large scale are open for submission **until May 05, 2022**, aiming at responding to the objective of the CULTURE strand of the programme. Projects may address at least one and no more than two of the following priorities: audience, social inclusion, sustainability, digital and international dimension. For 2022, activities of capacity building has been identified in a number of identified sectors, among them **cultural heritage and sustainable cultural tourism**. More information [here](#).

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CINEA



The [Sea Basin Strategies' Assistance Mechanism Call for tenders](#) aims to conclude a service contract to continue providing technical assistance services

for the implementation of the three EU sea basin strategies: Atlantic Ocean, Black Sea, Western Mediterranean. The service contract will support the European Commission, Member States and third countries involved in the implementation of policy objectives and priorities, through specific activities at national and regional level, tailoring the specificities of each regional sea basin. The deadline is set for **May 30, 2022**.

Erasmus+ Programme



The call for Alliances for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills for 2022 is open!

Alliances for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills aim to create new strategic approaches and cooperation for concrete skills development solutions – both in the short and the medium term – in given economic sectors, or in areas implementing a major action of the European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, the Pact for Skills. They target the 14 industrial ecosystems identified in the New Industrial Strategy for Europe. Applications are open **until 15 September 2022**. More information [here](#). Note that the AAC Secretariat is currently working on a proposal for the call Partnerships for Excellence – Centres of Vocational Excellence, **closing on 07 September 2022**.

In the meantime...

The AAC has been reached by Atlantic stakeholders to participate in **the submission of two proposals** for the calls below:

- **Atlantic and Arctic basins lighthouse – coordination activities** "Protect and restore marine and fresh water ecosystems and biodiversity ([HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-02](#)).

The project will help our network to get involved at early stage in the preparation of the Atlantic lighthouse to restore the Ocean and will give opportunities to regions to have a privileged access to replicability activities. The project is connected to the AAC Innovation working group.

- **Partnerships for Innovation - Forward Looking Projects ([ERASMUS-EDU-2022-PI-FORWARD](#))**. The project will support the implementation of the Pact for Skills on Offshore Renewable Energies in which the AAC is involved. It will give the regions the opportunity to build durable skills partnerships for the ORE sector. The project is connected to the AAC MRE working group.

Interested in building a project or needing more information about a call? Please contact the AAC Secretariat!



CPMR ATLANTIC ARC COMMISSION



In the eye of the Regions : Wales edition

An Interview with Derek Vaughan, Welsh Government Representative on Europe



Derek Vaughan CBE was born in Aberfan and studied politics and history at Swansea University. He was elected to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in 1995. He became leader of the Labour group, and leader of the council, in 2004. He was also leader of the Welsh Local Government Association from 2005 to 2008 and deputy leader from 2008 to 2009. Derek Vaughan was elected as Labour Party Member of the European Parliament for Wales in the 2009 European Parliament election and served until 2019.

Dear Mr Vaughan, congratulations for your appointment as Welsh Government Representative on Europe. Could you please explain us what will be your missions?

My appointment sends a strong message that Wales still sees itself as a European nation and wants to stay connected to Europe and maintain our partnership. We continue to share core values and many policy goals. Therefore, my main priorities include monitoring EU legislation, promoting Wales in Europe and creating stronger links with our partners in other regions and nations. This is part of Wales' International Strategy which aims to promote greater awareness of our nation, to grow our economy and to show us as a globally responsible nation.

You are strong of an extensive experience as former Member of the European Parliament, former Leader of the Welsh Local Government Association and Leader of Neath Port Talbot Council. What are the key lessons you learnt from these positions?

In my former roles I learned that personal relationships are important. Over the years I have built up many contacts in Brussels and I plan to put those relationships to the service of Wales. Those connections are a huge part of what makes international activity in Brussels work. I am finding that there is still a very positive interest across the EU in maintaining links with Wales.

In February, Wales launched its own international exchange programme "Taith". Could you please explain it to us and how can Atlantic Arc Commission regions support this programme?

The Taith¹ programme will provide £65m (approximately €75m) over 5 years. The most significant aspect of the programme is that it works two ways, with international students being welcomed to Wales at the same time with Welsh students travelling abroad to study. The other added value is that Taith will support a much wider range of learners of all education settings, youth organisations and provides support for researcher and staff mobility. We are delighted with the positive response that Taith has received in Europe and we

look forward to hearing from other Atlantic Arc regions who are interested in the opportunities.

The Welsh government announced a trial of a universal basic income that will pay around 500 people £1,600 a month for two years. Could you please tell us more about it?

Welsh Government has committed to pilot the use of a basic income scheme in Wales. It will focus on care leavers once they have reached their 18th birthday, with the pilot due to start in financial year 2022/23. Each member of the cohort receiving a basic income payment for 24 months from the month after their 18th birthday. The pandemic has seen some of the most vulnerable groups in Wales being hardest hit, few more so than young people leaving the care system. Additional support at this age could provide a more solid foundation for care experienced young people to build their adult lives from. We have considered a range of international evidence from around 80 basic income pilot approaches, notably in Finland, Ireland, Ontario, Canada and Santa Clara, California.

Dear Mr Vaughan, before closing this interview, could you tell us what will be the upcoming steps for Wales in 2022?

Wales is determined to be an outward looking nation, keeping strong links with EU Institutions, European Nations and Regions. The focus of my role, along with other Welsh government officials and politicians, will be to ensure we achieve this. We plan to concentrate activities on our Programme for Government commitments, including examining potential pathways to achieve net zero by 2035, supporting innovation in new renewable energy technology and protecting and restoring biodiversity. We know that embracing digital innovation can lead to greater economic opportunities and a more prosperous and resilient society, so we will continue delivering on our ambitious digital strategy. This, and all our work, will continue to be underpinned by our well-known Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Thank you Mr Vaughan for your time, Welwn ni chi cyn bo hir !

¹ *"Taith means "journey" in the Welsh language.



EXTERNAL EVENTS

9-14 MAY 2022
European Regions for Smart Communities Summit Evora, Portugal / Online
19-20 MAY 2022
European Maritime Days Ravenna, Italy
21-22 MAY 2022
EU4OCEAN Summit Ocean Literacy Festival Ravenna, Italy
10 JUNE 2022
DG MARE event on the Common Fisheries Policy Brussels
14-15 JUNE 2022
Blue Food Innovation Summit London, England
11 JULY 2022
Assemblée Régionale Mer et Littoral
JUNE 2022 (27 -> JULY 1)
UN Ocean Conference / Ocean Science&Business2Sea Lisbon, Portugal
4 OCTOBER 2022
12e Assises Ports du Futur Lorient, France
18-20 OCTOBER 2022
International Conference on Ocean Renewable Energy Technologies San Sebastian, Spain

CPMR EVENTS

23 MAY 2022
SEARICA Conference on Blue Skills Online
24-25 MAY 2022
AAC General Assembly, San Sebastian, Spain
2-3 JUNE 2022
Galicia Region's event on the Common Fisheries Policy Galicia, Spain
08 JUNE 2022
CPMR Working Group on Transport Online
09 JUNE 2022
CPMR Cohesion Core Group Brussels, Belgium
16 JUNE 2022
CPMR Political Bureau Helsingborg, Sweden
1 JUNE 2022
Atlantic Strategy Committee Meeting, Canary Islands, Spain
SEPTEMBER 2022
AAC seminar on Transport Date and Venue tbc
27-29 OCTOBER 2022
CPMR General Assembly AAC Plenary session Crete, Greece