



WORKING GROUP MARITIME POLICY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 13th SEPTEMBER 2010

Reflections concerning the implementation of maritime policy related to the Strategy for inclusive, sustainable, and smart growth. EUROPE 2020

Maritime and coastal economic activities produce approximately 40% of the GDP of the Union and carry a still significant margin for improvement.

The EUROPE2020 strategy focuses on broad principles applicable in all areas of activity within the Union. However, Maritime Policy, which is in essence Transnational, has been recognized by the Union as being managed on an integrated and sea-basin scale.

Thus was the genesis of the Blue Book on maritime policy of the Union and the Commission's communication for an 'integrated maritime policy for the European Union' declined in the Mediterranean.

The Regions ask if the Europe 2020 strategy takes full account of the recommendations of the Integrated Maritime Policy, both sectoral and geographical.

The presence in a single sea-basin of European and non-European states, not subjected to European legislation but subject to many economic difficulties, may hinder the development of inclusive growth, especially in the sectors of maritime transport, fisheries and coastal tourism.

Moreover, the absence of common legislation in international waters in the Mediterranean limits the ability to manage resources and ecosystems in the basin.

This requires a macro-regional vision of the maritime problems and the improvement of dialogue in this domain between the States bordering the Mediterranean.

On the flagship initiatives proposed by the Commission:

- One Union for innovation:

The Regions recommend not confining the notion of a society of knowledge to a business-research partnership and allowing the establishment of platforms for exchange, dialogue and cooperation with different levels of governance and management of coastal territories.

The improvement of coastal engineering in connection with support for the coastal economy and the preservation of ecosystems is a growing, non-displaceable market that requires the acquisition of knowledge and data on a basin-wide scale to be transferred to policies for local management.

- Youth in Movement:

The support for maritime training in general, but also for the training of high level government officials and communities should be developed to provide improved land management and increased relevance of public orders. This is necessary throughout the whole Mediterranean.

This is the case, for example, in the management of fisheries resources, pollution control, and adaptation to climate change in coastal areas.

- *A digital strategy for Europe: Emphasis on;*

- the importance of continuing the implementation of the Inspire Directive and the EMODNET network closely associating regional authorities, and the holders of much coastal and maritime data,

- the necessity to conceive a digital strategy for maritime data on a basin-wide scale in the Mediterranean and to provide the idea for a Mediterranean platform for dialogue about the data that will improve the flow of knowledge.

The Mediterranean Regions are already working to develop interoperability of management tools through working groups and cooperation projects.

Sustainable growth ;

- the urgent need to take into account the coastal and maritime adaptation component of policies and 'adaptation to climate change,' particularly against extreme events to ensure better protection of instruments of the coastal economy.

A resource efficient Europe

- the importance of promoting the development of innovation in the use of propulsion of ships that consume less energy, or new methods of propulsion.

An industrial policy in the era of globalization

- The regions would like to see sustained European shipbuilding and the development of clusters oriented towards the high-tech niche in this sector as well as a decrease in the impacts of fishing activity on the marine environment;

The Regions also recall the need to take into account their operational role in land management and coastal economies for the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy.