



CONFÉRENCE DES RÉGIONS PÉRIPHÉRIQUES MARITIMES
CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS



COMMISSION ARC ATLANTIQUE DE LA CRPM
CPMR ATLANTIC ARC COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

Rennes, 18 July 2011

Ref: CRPMCOM110059

THE CPMR'S ATLANTIC ARC COMMISSION VOICES CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN FISHERIES

In light of the European Commission's proposals on the "Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)" presented on Wednesday 13 July by the Commissioner for Maritime Affairs, **Maria Damanaki**, the Atlantic Arc Commission of the **Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)** expresses concern about the future of the fishing industry in the maritime Regions.

"After two years of talks between the European Commission, Member States, NGOs and representatives from the fishing sector, things have failed to meet our expectations today, since the solutions proposed in terms of modernisation, innovation and safety on board vessels fall short the requirements of the European fleet," stated **Rosa Quintana Carballo**, the Galician Minister for maritime affairs (ES) and Chair of the Atlantic Arc Commission's Fisheries Working Group. She adds that failure to integrate the social and economic impacts of this policy in the same way as environmental considerations could lead to major negative effects, especially in terms of job losses and economic growth. In this respect, **Quintana Carballo** points out her *"dissatisfaction with regard to the lack of explicit aid for all sustainable fishing activities, including small-scale fishing,"* underlining that *"the future of the industry will be linked to preserving and supporting these activities, which underpin economic growth and help to keep people in coastal areas."*

The CPMR's Atlantic Regions believe that selectivity is essential for reducing discards, but that landing all catches poses a certain number of problems. They fear in particular that the economic outlets (processing into animal meals) proposed by the European Commission for undersize catches make it impossible to meet the initial environmental objective. They also regret the proposed model of governance, since it corresponds to a renationalisation of the CFP without giving the Regions the possibility to play a role, especially in analysing and managing fisheries, equal to the social and economic challenges they represent in the European fisheries sector. The fact that they are not included as full members in the Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) is one illustration of this.

From the other Atlantic Arc Regions, **Isabelle Thomas**, Vice-President of Brittany Regional Council in charge of maritime affairs and coastal protection was herself hoping for the *"Commission to introduce a frame of reference for sustainable fisheries as well as a legislative framework for the creation of a European quality label for fisheries, shell-fishing and aquaculture products."* Finally, with regard to the external dimension of the CFP, **Adeline L'Honen**, Regional Councillor from Pays de la Loire, in charge of fisheries, aquaculture and salt production, underlines that *"Given that we import over 70% of sea products consumed in Europe, we are also asking for these imports to be subject to the same CFP requirements on health and environment as European products."*

The Atlantic Arc Regions want a more ambitious sustainable policy that is truly oriented towards the future of fishing and shell-fishing and are mobilised to work together on this. The CPMR will present its reaction to the European Commission's proposals on the CFP Reform at its General Assembly due to take place from 28 to 30 September 2011 in Aarhus (Denmark).

For more information, please contact:

- Enrico MAYRHOFER :

Gsm : + 32 486 56 19 67 - E-mail : enrico.mayrhofer@crpm.org

Web: www.crpm.org