

In search of a Framework for Cooperation in the Atlantic Area

Open Days Seminar by the Atlantic Alliance

Wednesday 7 October, 2009

10am – 12.30pm

Fundacion Galicia Europa, Rue de la Loi 38, 1040 Brussels

Introduction:

Europe's Atlantic regions across Ireland, UK, France, Spain and Portugal have been working together for many years, facilitated more recently by the EU Territorial Cooperation programmes, notably the Atlantic Area programme, in policy fields such as fisheries, transport, energy, ports and marine research. This workshop will reflect on lessons learnt through this cooperation and will open a debate on future territorial cooperation post-2013.

The workshop will seek to address a number of questions including:

- What has been the impact of trans-national funding in the Atlantic Area in fostering cooperation in the past and what role can it play in the future?
- How can the most effective interaction between Territorial Cohesion and Integrated Maritime Policy be assured?
- How can regions in the Atlantic Area best advance the application of maritime spatial planning in the EU and what are the barriers to an integrated approach?
- Is the EU's Atlantic seaboard a viable space to develop a future framework for cooperation?

In doing so, the workshop will also examine the process behind new governance models for co-operation between regions, drawing heavily on the experiences of the Baltic Sea area, to determine their relevance and potential transferability to the Atlantic Area.

The aim of the workshop is to identify the most appropriate framework and tool(s) for future cooperation between regions on the Atlantic seaboard.

Organiser:

The ATLANTIC ALLIANCE conglomerate:

Wales (UK)

Norte (PT)

Northern Ireland (UK)

Irish Regions (IE)

Bretagne (FR)

Scotland (UK)

South West UK,

La Coruna (ES)

Basse-Normandie (FR)

Format:

The workshop will be an animated debate, moderated by Mr. Eddy Hartog (DG MARE), with introductory statements from 3-4 panellists to help stimulate the debate.

The intention is to then proceed to have an active involvement of participants, with spontaneous contributions from practitioners from the regions and other audience members.

The emphasis will be upon the issues, threats and opportunities which collectively bind together the future prospects of these coastal regions.

Chair:

Mr. Eddy HARTOG,

Head of Unit, Arctic and Atlantic Ocean, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

(Eddy Hartog will open by outlining the objectives of the workshop and set the scene in terms of some of the key policy developments and the interaction between territorial cohesion and integrated maritime policy)

Welcome:

Mr. Salvador FERNÁNDEZ MOREDA

President, Coruna County Council

Panellists: (10-15mins each)

Ms. Ana Teresa Lehmann

Managing Authority, Atlantic Area Programme

(Ana Teresa Lehmann will set out some of challenges facing co-operation in the Atlantic Area, provide an overview of the area's priorities and some of the actions required to meet future needs)

Mr. Colin WOLFE

Head of Unit, Territorial Cooperation, DG Regional Policy (tbc)

(Colin Wolfe will give an overview of the future direction of territorial co-operation and the likely role that macro-regions will play in future policy)

Professor Esko ANTOLA

Director, Centrum Balticum

(Professor Antola will provide the experiences of co-operation in the Baltic Sea, focusing on the frameworks and processes adopted to ensure an integrated and coherent approach by all partners and highlighting where possible lessons transferable to the Atlantic areas)

While all workshop participants will be welcome to contribute, the Chair will call on pre-identified contributors to react to statements made, to provide experiences from the regions and to introduce new issues into the discussion, in order to ensure a vibrant debate.

Contributors (from the partner regions) include:

Cllr. Humphrey TEMPERLEY

Devon County Council, South West Maritime Task Force (tbc)

Ms. Patricia POTTER

Director, Dublin Regional Authority

Professor Lynda WARREN

Chair, Wales Coastal and Maritime Partnership

Ms Julie MICLOT

Head of European Affairs and Territorial Cooperation, Basse-Normandie Region

Mr. Bill PAULEY

Head of European Division, Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland

Mr. Salvador FERNÁNDEZ MOREDA

President, Corunna County Council

Mr. Fabien MESCLIER

Executive Secretary, CPMR Atlantic Arc