



Atlantic Arc Commission *ad hoc* Marine Energies Working Group

Proposed Terms of reference

I. CONTEXT

Marine-based renewable energies (wave and tidal power), as well as offshore wind power, have enormous potential to meet the energy needs of the EU in the near future.

The Commission's policy commitment to renewable marine energies is also one of the fundamental elements in its aim to achieve the 20-20-20 targets and make the European economy greener. Greater use of renewable energies generally, and marine energies in particular, could significantly reduce greenhouse gases, strengthen our autonomy in terms of energy supply, and generate important economic and social advantages through job creation.

The Atlantic Arc has real potential in terms of offshore wind power. But its potential lies also and above all in the area of marine energies. A European strategy for the Atlantic area would boost the development of marine renewable energies in this area. The development of marine energies is one of the key priorities in the European Atlantic Strategy proposed by the CPMR's Atlantic Arc Commission at its General Assembly in Santander in May 2009.

Member States and Regions have responsibility in the field of energy policy for prioritising, managing and supporting this issue. The Regions therefore have a crucial role to play in implementing policies to develop marine energies, and the existence of the working group will promote coordination among the Atlantic Regions, thus contributing to the success of this development.

II. MANDATE

The Marine Energies group will be tasked with monitoring the implementation of the SET Plan and the Directive on renewable energies. It will also analyse and contribute to any other Communication published by the European Commission on this subject.

The group will bring together Member Regions of the Atlantic Arc Commission that are interested and willing to offer their expertise to provide input to the group's work and actions, together with other Atlantic stakeholders that wish to join in this thought process (Economic & Social Committees, research centres, universities, regional development agencies, etc.).

The group will maintain close relations with the CPMR's Innovation, Aquamarina and Energy working groups.

III. ACTIVITIES

Cantabria shall undertake to coordinate and run the following activities:

- Organisation and chairing of **regular working meetings**.
- **Monitoring of the policies, legislative provisions**, either in force or being drawn up, **consultations, communication or recommendations** of the EU institutions, **analysis and decision-making** in order to establish a joint position of the Atlantic Arc Commission.
- Drafting of Atlantic Arc Commission **reports, conclusions and policy position on the development of marine energies** in coordination with the working group's member Regions.
- Support for collaboration between European Atlantic Regions wishing to respond to **European calls for proposals**.
- Help with organising **exchanges of experience on clusters** set up in the area of marine energies.

Thematic sub-groups will be set up to address the specific themes identified for discussion and action. These groups could be coordinated via the collaboration of various Regions.

Positions adopted in the framework of this working group will be submitted to the approval of the Atlantic Arc Commission Political Bureau and/or General Assembly.

In the same way, actions to be undertaken on this basis targeted at EU institutions and national governments will also be discussed by the Atlantic Arc Commission Political Bureau.

Cantabria's commitment to coordinating and implementing the activities described in this paper will be subject to sufficient involvement by the Regions joining the Marine Energies group. Cantabria reserves the right to cease coordinating this group if it is unable to rely on the necessary support.

IV. AREAS FOR ACTION

Areas to be addressed by the Atlantic Arc Commission Marine Energies group:

- ✚ Implementation of **policies and strategies defined at European level** (research policy, SEAR ENERGY 2020, trans-European energy network, etc.) which specifically include marine energies.
- ✚ Introduction in the European priorities for **funding** of R&D&I and in the Structural Funds, of specific sections for **research and demonstration projects** in the field of marine energies.
- ✚ Establish ourselves as a platform for exchanges on the **ad hoc financial instruments** created by the Regions in this field.
- ✚ Monitor the application of any **EU legislation** that could have repercussions for marine energies.
- ✚ In terms of research and technological development, promote an integrated approach bringing together bodies of researchers and technicians with sufficient critical mass to be able to address the scientific and technical needs that come to light throughout the value chain and the development phases of marine energies. The group will actively promote programmes involving **training and exchange of human capital** in the marine energy sector.
- ✚ Draw up a **map of the scientific and technical skills and infrastructure**.

- ✚ Encourage the **creation of networks and closer interconnections between the different centres and R&D&I initiatives** being promoted in Europe so as to identify synergies, fill gaps, and maintain Europe's leadership in the field of renewable marine energies.
- ✚ Provide an input for the lobbying activities undertaken by the Atlantic Arc Commission and the CPMR to extend the **European interconnection projects** already under way to all the countries of the Atlantic Arc.
- ✚ Undertake and regularly update a **study of the obstacles that may hinder the development of marine energies** (technological maturity, lack of clarity in the administrative and legal processes for obtaining permits, funding, environmental restrictions, acceptance by the general public, etc.).
- ✚ On the notion of **acceptance by the general public**, establish a culture of dialogue based on the experiences of Northern Europe and in other areas. Think about the political messages to be got across, and how best to communicate about the development of this kind of energy.

V. ORGANISATION

Cantabria will lead and coordinate the group by providing the appropriate human resources and political and technical support.

The Executive Secretariat will work together with Cantabria to organise meetings, making available the offices of the CPMR delegation in Brussels to hold meetings. The Cantabria Government in Brussels will also make available its offices to hold some meetings.

Minimum working languages will be English and Spanish. If necessary, the cost of simultaneous interpreting will be covered by the Region hosting the meeting.

The Executive Secretariat of the Atlantic Arc Commission will act as a secretariat for the Marine Energies group and will help to prepare the meetings. It will cover the cost of translating documents for submission to the Political Bureau and General Assembly, together with any background documents and meeting reports.

Where appropriate, experts will be commissioned. These are to be selected together by Cantabria and the Executive Secretariat of the Atlantic Arc Commission, in consultation with the participating Regions. Reimbursement of experts' travel and accommodation expenses will be examined on a case-by-case basis. The issue will be examined by Cantabria and the Executive Secretariat of the Atlantic Arc Commission.

Members of the group shall cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.

VI. WORK SCHEDULE

On a basis of 2 to 3 meetings a year depending on the EU agenda and the willingness of the Regions.

- 18/19 November 2010: Seminar in Cantabria on floating marine energy devices in relation with the 2010 Open Days.
- January 2011: First working group meeting aiming to study the various European calls for proposals, and discuss ideas for setting up a projects exchange.
- May 2011: General Assembly of the Atlantic Arc Commission – Discussion and presentation of the group's work.