



Application Basse-Normandie Region - Main lines for the Presidency of the 2010-2013 Atlantic Arc Commission

For the attention of:

Fabien MESCLIER
Executive Secretary of the
Atlantic Arc Commission
Conference of Peripheral Maritime
Regions in Europe
6, rue Saint-Martin
F - 35700 RENNES

Dear Mr MESCLIER,

As President of the Basse-Normandie Region, it is with great pleasure that I am applying to run for the elections of the new president of the Atlantic Arc Commission, of which my region is a member, to be held on 17th June in Rennes during our annual General Assembly.

Over the last two years, we have worked to create new dynamics in the Atlantic Arc, striving to reposition this space within the community by encouraging the involvement of all those concerned. Our efforts have been rewarded as the network now benefits from greater visibility thanks to the definition of a new strategy based on ambitious objectives and new activities. Creating an executive secretary's position has led to concrete results by putting an integrated Atlantic strategy on to the European agenda. The exemplary involvement of Spanish regional members in the promotion of our work has also proved to be an excellent political springboard under the current European Union Presidency.

The first steps towards an integrated European maritime policy have thus been made and will lead to concrete results in 2011 with the publication of a European Commission Paper on the Atlantic maritime strategy.

We now need to actively promote this integrated strategy at political level within member states, before the European Parliament and before the Committee of the Regions. During the 2010 General Assembly, we shall focus our joint efforts on defending the future of our regions within the framework of the forthcoming debates on the post 2013 cohesion policy and community budget.

Yours sincerely,

Laurent BEAUVAIS



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“Governance – Territoriality – Maritime Dimension”: the main thread remains

The actions undertaken with all Atlantic stakeholders since 2008 and focusing on territorial cohesion, the 3rd objective of territorial cooperation, transport, and an integrated maritime policy in favour of the emergence of an integrated strategy for the Atlantic Arc, have widely contributed to putting this space in the centre of the European agenda.

1. Stepping up efforts to implement an integrated European maritime policy in the Atlantic Basin

The European Commission's Paper on maritime strategy to be published in 2011 will be an important achievement reflecting the strengthening of our links with the European Commission but also with the European Parliament.

The ocean is first and foremost an asset for the economic development of the Atlantic space. Thus, a considerable amount of Atlantic activities, whether traditional such as fishing or emerging such as renewable marine energy, depend more or less directly on the sea. The Atlantic coastline has been relatively well conserved and is recognised for its quality of life and hence continued attractiveness. However, its coasts are increasingly vulnerable owing to several factors: global warming, destruction caused by land use pressure, damage to the coastal environment owing to accidental pollution or pollution from pesticides or chemical or petroleum products.

The maritime dimension of the Atlantic space represents a genuine challenge. Without determined action, phenomena linked to climate change will lead to economic activities being relocated, to the detriment of maritime zones, and to marine ecosystems collapsing. The development of sea-related activities must therefore be coordinated. We must:

- Strengthen our involvement in the CPMR Aquamarina task force coordinated by the Brittany region and implement strategic maritime planning work in the Atlantic basin, notably by collating scientific data.
- Create a task force on renewable marine energies coordinated by the Cantabria region following the successful Santander seminar in April 2010.
- Together with the Atlantic Regional Advisory Committee, redefine the work to be carried out by the task force on the reform of the Common Fishing Policy.

2. Embedding the Atlantic Region in future European regional policy

Two major challenges are emerging from the budget negotiations and debates about the future of the cohesion policy:

- One stems from reflecting upon macro-regional strategies: faced with the increasing number of proposals concerning the entire European space, the Atlantic Arc Commission must adopt an approach that is both strategic (i.e. involves the States) and pragmatic (i.e. proposes a limited number of objectives)
- The other centres around the future of European Territorial Co-operation: the Atlantic Arc Commission must strive to defend Objective 3 and make such cooperation more strategic through better coordination between European, regional and national policies.



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Johannes Hahn, the Commissioner in charge of Regional Policy, will be putting forward his proposals for the EU's future cohesion policy in the autumn of 2010 at the same time as the 5th report on economic and social cohesion is published. The Commissioner wishes to link the cohesion policy with the EU 2020 strategy (designed to replace the Lisbon Strategy).

- Extend the Atlantic maritime strategy through the “territorial” implementation of an integrated strategy. This involves contributing to the EU 2020 strategy: greater participation of local authorities is needed to further develop to these strategic objectives and harvest a better citizen buy-in to European priorities.
- Define the needs of the Atlantic space in terms of land and sea transport (development of port infrastructures, inter-modality, and building of a North/South route as part of the trans-European transport network): this is a key issue owing to the peripheral nature of the Atlantic space and to the ever-increasing traffic. Integrate the “London 2012” objective and the “Grand Paris” project in our thinking.

3. Developing an Atlantic governance project

- Consider Atlantic maritime governance through two approaches:
 - On the one hand, take the Atlantic Arc into account as a whole: the objective is to identify issues that can only be addressed efficiently on a transnational scale.
 - On the other hand, adopt a maritime “sub-basin” approach in order to identify the specific features and needs of each sub-basin while at the same time recognising that any work done must not lead to a dividing up of this space but foster and promote a global approach.
- Define the mechanisms required for efficient “territorial” governance that covers multiple sectors and levels by establishing formal partnership agreements outlining the type of cooperation and enabling joint work to be monitored. This will fortify our exchanges and ensure better coordination with European institutions, member states and our Atlantic partners.
- Put citizens back in the centre of the Atlantic project as the ultimate beneficiaries. As part of the Aquamarina sub-task force on maritime training, we must seriously consider the proposal to create a maritime Erasmus programme from an Atlantic point of view. This approach would particularly strengthen links with universities and research centres.

→ In the medium term, this work will pave the way for the Irish Presidency of the EU Council in the first half of 2013.

Basse-Normandie Region will be pleased to start new working groups on transnational topics linked with European context. Any suggestions for new activities from AAC members are welcomed.



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CV - Laurent BEAUVAIS :

Son of an inseminator who supported Pierre Mendès France, Laurent Beauvais grew up in Évreux and then Mortrée near Argentan. After a secondary school education at the *Collège du Paty d'Argentan* and the *Lycée Mézeray*, he was awarded a Master's in economic science at the *Université de Caen*, but also obtained a diploma from the IEP political science institute in Paris and a post-graduate degree in economics from the Paris Dauphine university.

At the age of 21, he joined the Socialist Party and became a municipal councillor for Mortrée in 1977. In the same year, after spending several months at the DATAR Inter-ministerial Delegation for Regional Development and Competitiveness, he joined the DGRST General Delegation for Scientific and Technological Research. He worked with Jean-Pierre Chevènement and then Laurent Fabius at the Ministry of Research and Industry. He worked at the CNRS National Centre for Scientific Research as a research engineer before becoming private secretary to the socialist Minister of Research Hubert Curien, from June 1988 to 1993.

In 1989, he did not run for the municipal elections in Mortrée in order to take part in the left wing's conquest of Argentan with radical minister François Dubin, following which he became Deputy Mayor². After the legislative elections in 1993, he returned to the CNRS as Assistant Director of the IN2P3 National Institute of Nuclear Physics and Particle Physics from 1993 to 1997. Still within the CNRS he became secretary-general of the GANIL national heavy-ion accelerator mission in Caen before being appointed projects director in 1997.

A member of the opposition regional council in 1998, he was elected to the head of the Argentan council of townships in 2001, becoming Vice-President of the Basse-Normandie Region in 2004 in charge of General Education, Higher Education and Research following the victory of the socialist party led by Philippe Duron.

Since Philippe Duron was holding a plurality of offices, he was required to step down which led to Laurent Beauvais being promoted to the head of the region. He also became the new Mayor of Caen after being elected Executive Vice-President in charge of economic development, trade, small business, research and innovation when Bernard Cazeneuve stepped down from office, again after several terms, when he was elected MP for the French *département* of La Manche (Channel). Laurent Beauvais thus became the sixth President of the regional institution and the first person from the Orne to be elected to this position². He was re-elected on 26 March 2010.

Laurent Beauvais has also acted as the Socialist Party's national delegate for innovation issues.

In April 2010, he was elected to the executive committee of the Association of French Regions where he chairs the "Higher Education, Research and Innovation" commission.

Source : http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurent_Beauvais