



Baltic Sea Commission feed back on the future of CPMR

Baltic Sea Commission Feedback

The Baltic Sea Commission (BSC) participants identified a wide range of ideas and issues.

SWOT Analysis

1. What do you consider as the CPMR's biggest achievements during the recent years?

For the BSC groups, the most popular and common themes in the answer to this question were:

- The CPMR has done a lot for EU regional policies by doing a good job in including all regions.
- The CPMR has become a strong lobbying organisation which is established and respected.
- The CPMR is well known in Brussels.
- The CPMR has close co-operation with the Commission.

Other comments included:

- The CPMR is active in opening discussions on different issues
- The CPMR has done a good job on influencing the Maritime Policy
- The CPMR provides a good base for co-operation
- The CPMR is more political than AER – focusing more on partnership
- The CPMR has not been excluding regions
- The CPMR has an active and professional secretariat
- The CPMR's voice is heard by others
- The CPMR's President is close to the Commission
- Through the CPMR good Practice is available to the regions on common challenges

2. In what occasions, or in what areas, do you consider that CPMR has failed, or could have done more?

For the BSC groups, the most popular and common themes in the answer to this question were:

- There has been a lack of marketing and information sent out to the Regions.
- There has been too much focus on the southern regions and not enough attention paid to the Baltic Sea and northern parts of the CPMR area.

- The CPMR has not handled the enlargement and the involvement of the 'new' regions in a good way.
- The CPMR could have handled the FOGAR (Forum of Global Associations of Regions) discussions in a better way.

Other comments included:

- The CPMR could have included the member regions better
- The CPMR requires better evaluation and follow up
- There has been too much focus on the Maritime Policy
- There is not always enough information for members
- There is a lack of recognition of the CPMR
- The CPMR could have done more on the Common Agricultural Policy

3. What do you consider as the most important issues which CPMR should address in the foreseeable future?

For the BSC groups, the most popular and common themes in the answer to this question were:

- The CPMR should still focus on the successful regional policies.
- The CPMR should continue to focus on sustainability - including climate change, energy and fisheries.
- The CPMR should focus on preparing for actions required post 2013.
- The CPMR should consider Regional competency issues.

Other comments included:

- The CPMR should strengthen the links between the Baltic Sea and North Sea activities
- The CPMR should consider the inclusion of regions from new member states
- The CPMR should increase the EU budget for regional policies
- If external policy is a part of CPMR's goals – the focus should be on Russia
- The CPMR should focus on European self sufficiency in raw materials
- The CPMR should focus on Infrastructure/accessibility
- The CPMR should focus on Energy and climate change
- The CPMR should focus on Demography and migration
- The CPMR should focus on Maritime Policy implementation and development
- The CPMR should focus on the protection of coastal areas

- The CPMR should focus on the link between new and old members

CPMR external relationships

4. Do you think that CPMR should get more actively involved with other stakeholders on the European scene, and if so which ones?

The most popular and common themes in the answer to this question were:

- The BSC groups thought that, overall, the CPMR should get involved with other stakeholders on the European scene – but it should focus on specific issues and working together where appropriate.
- The BSC groups thought that there should be more activity with the Barents Regional Council.
- The BSC groups also stated that there should be more co-operation with AER - including practical work on specific issues - but also on a presidential and secretariat level.
- The BSC groups felt that the CPMR should be involved with the Committee of the Regions - but it should fill the dialogue with more concrete questions.

Other comments included:

- The CPMR should get more actively involved with Northern dimension stakeholders

5. Do you think CPMR should play a greater role with the territories covered by the EU Neighbourhood Economic Policy?

The most popular and common themes in the answer to this question were:

- The BSC groups thought that, overall, yes the CPMR could play a greater role with the territories covered by the EU Neighbourhood Economic Policy – and it should do this by actively inviting and collaborating with the neighbouring countries. This could be dealt with by the Geographical Regions.
- There was, however, also an alternative view that was less supportive of the CPMR playing a greater role. Some of the BSC participants thought that the CPMR should focus on Regional Policy and implementation for existing members.

6. Do you think that CPMR should become increasingly involved with other structure or networks of regional organisations worldwide?

- The majority of the BSC group members thought that there was no need for more organisations. They also thought that there were not enough resources for new organisations. The BSC group members thought that the CPMR should concentrate on doing its existing activities better, and focus on the BSC's near neighbours eg Russia and Northern Africa.