

ORGANISATIONAL CHARTER OF THE C.P.M.R.

**Modified & adopted by the CPMR General Assembly,
meeting in Saint-Malo (F) on 12 September 2003**

ARTICLE 1: CONSTITUTION

1. The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe shall be made up of the meeting of the delegates holding a mandate from the representative bodies of the regions approving the joint resolution of 23rd June, 1973, laying down the aims of the Conference (The Saint-Malo Resolution), and sharing the principle of a balanced and polycentric development of Europe.

2. The following may join C.P.M.R. as members:

- a. Any European region which, because of its geographical, economic or political situation, considers itself to be a part of the maritime periphery of Europe, and which is considered as such by the members of the organisation, subject to the provisions of Article 2, i.e.:
 - The peripheral maritime regions of the Member States of the European Union;
 - The European peripheral maritime regions of the Member States of the Council of Europe, as well as other European regions belonging to States that respect the fundamental principles of the Council of Europe.
- b. Any non-maritime peripheral region which, because of its geographical, economic or political situation, considers itself to be a part of the Periphery of Europe, and which is considered as such by the members of the organisation, subject to the provisions of Article 2, i.e. :
 - The peripheral regions of the Member States of the European Union or of the Council of Europe, and which form part of the large geographical maritime areas of Europe.

3. The following may join C.P.M.R. as associate members:

- a. Any region of the States belonging to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.
- b. The conditions under which they may take part in deliberations shall be laid down by the C.P.M.R. Political Bureau and ratified by the General Assembly.

4. The following may participate as observers:

- a. Regions which meet the criteria set out in Articles 1.2 and 1.3, but which are neither members nor associate members of C.P.M.R.
- b. Observers may be invited to all meetings - subject to payment of a contribution towards the expenses of the network which will be fixed each year by the Political Bureau. They may take part in debates but may not vote.
- c. Regions which sit as observers for more than a year will be asked to pay a fee towards the costs of the sitting.

ARTICLE 2: PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. The Conference may accept new regions as members or grant regions observer status, according to the following procedure :
 - a. Applications must be sent to the Secretary General of C.P.M.R., who shall submit them to the Political Bureau for approval. The Political Bureau shall reach a unanimous decision following advice from the relevant Geographical Commissions according to the provisions of Article 9 of this Charter.
 - b. Applications from regions that do not form part of a geographical area covered by one of the Geographical Commissions shall be submitted directly to the Political Bureau.
2. Membership of the Conference and of its Geographical Commissions is linked to payment of the annual dues according to the provisions of Article 11.2.a.
3. Any application for membership accepted during the first six months of the calendar year, implies payment of the full annual due for that year. Applications accepted during the third quarter of the year give rise to payment of half the annual due. Applications accepted during the fourth quarter are not liable for payment of the due for that calendar year.
4. In the event of withdrawal during the first six months of the calendar year, the membership due for the full year will be payable. In the event of withdrawal during the second half of the calendar year, the membership due will be payable up to and including the end of the following year.

ARTICLE 3 : STATUTE

1. By agreement between the member regions, this Charter shall govern the operation of the Conference.
2. Legal and administrative services shall be provided for the Conference by an association under French law to be known as the « Administrative Council of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe» with its principal place of business in Brittany (F). The terms of reference of the association are strictly limited to administrative and management matters and they shall be carried out under the supervision of the Political Bureau which shall report to the Conference.

ARTICLE 4: ORGANISATION

The structure of the Conference shall be as follows:

- The General Assembly;
- The Political Bureau;
- The President;
- The Secretary General;
- The Geographical Commissions.

ARTICLE 5: THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. It brings together all the member regions.
2. It shall meet at least once a year. In order to avoid excessive costs each delegation of a member region shall be restricted to three (3) members maximum. Each delegation of member regions has only one vote.

3. It shall pronounce on the Political Bureau's activity report and financial report. It shall approve the Conference's guidelines and forward budget, presented by the Political Bureau. It shall adopt all the deliberations relating to the aims of the Conference.

ARTICLE 6: THE POLITICAL BUREAU

1. The Political Bureau is made up of:

- A full member and a substitute member nominated by the college of regions of each State within which C.P.M.R. has members. The nominations shall be ratified by the General Assembly.
- The Presidents of the Geographical Commissions and a representative of the ultra-peripheral regions. Each Geographical Commission shall nominate a substitute who will represent the President if he is unable to attend the Political Bureau.
- The President and the Treasurer of the Administrative Council, who are ex officio members of the Political Bureau.
- Former C.P.M.R. Presidents as long as they have a regional mandate.

2. The Political Bureau shall meet at least twice a year.

3. Each member of the Political Bureau shall be elected for a period of two years. The members shall be office-holding representatives of regional authorities. If a member loses his/her position within the regional authority, this implies ipso facto withdrawal from the Political Bureau, on which he/she shall be replaced. The member may be replaced before the end of his/her term of office by the regions of the country which elected him/her.

4. The Political Bureau proposes political guidelines for the Conference and implements the decisions adopted by the General Assembly. In this respect, it is also responsible for coordinating the work carried out between the member regions and in particular that of the Geographical Commission, in the light of the general objectives set by the Conference.

5. Owing to the fact that the Charter has provided for the substitution of full members of the Political Bureau by alternate members, instruments of proxy shall only be used in cases of absolute necessity.

ARTICLE 7: THE PRESIDENT

1. The Bureau shall elect from among its members the President of the Conference, for a two-year, renewable, term of office.

2. Only Presidents or Vice-Presidents of member regions, full members of the Political Bureau, may be elected. The call for candidatures for the position of President of the C.P.M.R. will be launched by the Secretary General within the member regions, four months before the end of the President's term of office. All candidatures must be sent to the Secretary General at least two months before the deadline, together with a curriculum vitae and a two-page declaration on C.P.M.R. strategy. All candidatures received will be sent to the member regions 15 days before the deadline at the latest.

3. The President represents C.P.M.R.

4. The Political Bureau shall elect a senior Vice-President and two Vice-Presidents.

ARTICLE 8: THE SECRETARY GENERAL

1. The Secretary General is appointed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Political Bureau.
2. The Secretary General is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Conference.
3. He/she is assisted by a group of Secretaries, made up of the Executive Secretaries of the various Geographical Commissions. He/she heads a General Secretariat which gives support in the tasks related to the mobilisation of resources required for the preparation and implementation of the guidelines of the Conference.
4. The Political Bureau, with the assistance of the Administrative Council, shall supervise the work of the Secretariat.
5. If the post of Secretary General becomes vacant, a public call for candidatures shall be established by the Political Bureau.

ARTICLE 9: THE GEOGRAPHICAL COMMISSIONS

1. The Geographical Commissions are set up by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Political Bureau.
2. Their aim shall be to facilitate decentralisation and carry out more efficiently work which applies to large geographical areas which share common interests. In this respect, each Commission has the right to initiate actions concerning the specific problems of the geographical area it represents, subject to keeping the Secretary General systematically informed. The Secretary General may refer to the President and the Political Bureau in the event of any action or decision taken that is contrary to the provisions of this Charter, or to the resolutions voted by the General Assembly or to the initiatives of the other Geographical Commissions. In this case, the President may decide to suspend the implementation of this initiative pending the decision of the Political Bureau.
3. Only regions that are members of C.P.M.R. may be members of a Geographical Commission.
4. Each Geographical Commission shall adopt an Internal Regulation in conformity with this Organisational Charter. The Regulations must be ratified by the C.P.M.R. Political Bureau.
5. The General Assembly recommends that each Geographical Commission shall elect its President in accordance with the same procedure used for the election of the President of the CPMR. Each Geographical Commission shall elect its own Bureau under the terms laid down in its Internal Regulation. Each Geographical Commission shall nominate an Executive Secretary to be responsible, under the authority of the President, for the coordination of activities. The appointment shall be made in conjunction with the Secretary General of the Conference, who shall be kept regularly informed. The President may also appoint a private secretary to assist him in his role as President.
6. Each Geographical Commission may levy a specific contribution in addition to the C.P.M.R. membership due.

ARTICLE 10: ORGANISATION OF THE DEBATES

1. The rights of regional delegations in the General Assemblies shall be subject to prior verification by the Secretariat of the Conference under the control of the Political Bureau.
2. The President of the Conference shall chair the sessions of the General Assembly, with the assistance of the Vice-Presidents and of the President of the host region.
3. Draft resolutions must be submitted to the General Secretariat one month and a half before the General Assembly. They will be translated into the working languages and sent to the member regions 15 days before the Assembly. Only draft resolutions adopted by the Geographical Commissions during their own General Assembly in the spring or during the meeting preceding the General Assembly may be presented after the deadline.
4. A resolutions redaction committee - composed of representatives from each Geographical Commission - will be constituted at the opening of the General Assembly. It will be in charge of receiving and coordinating amendments to the Final declaration and resolutions. These amendments, submitted by the end of the first working session at the latest, shall be translated into French and English and given out at the opening of the third working session, so as to be dealt with and adopted during the fourth working session.
5. A group of scrutineers shall be set up at the opening of the General Assembly. It shall be in charge of checking the vote counting.
6. During votes, each member region shall have one vote. Votes shall generally be taken by show of hands, but the President may decide to proceed to a roll-call vote in case of dispute.
7. When a draft resolution deals with an issue which is internal to the European Union, it may be requested that the right of vote be reserved solely to the regional authorities belonging to the Member States of the European Union. The President shall rule on this request. In the event of a disagreement on the matter, the question will be immediately put to the vote of the General Assembly.
8. In the event of disagreement on an important issue, the President may propose that the matter be remitted to a subsequent meeting or session in order to enable the Bureau and the rapporteur with, where appropriate, the assistance of a working group, to seek a solution acceptable to the parties.
9. Resolutions which have general implications (the Final Declaration of meetings in particular) and which are intended to be made public shall be adopted by a majority of two thirds of the members present. In such a case, if the vote is to be taken by show of hands, the number of regions present and having the right to vote must first be established.
10. If a substantial number of C.P.M.R. members consider that a particular decision runs contrary to the aims and objectives of the organisation, that is to say the defence of the interests of the Maritime Periphery, it is possible to exercise a suspensive veto. Such a demand must have the support of at least one-third of the paid-up member regions. The decision shall then be submitted to the Presidents of the C.P.M.R. Commissions (or their mandated representatives) and must be approved by a two-thirds majority.
11. Qualified persons, the list of which shall be fixed by the General Assembly, may also participate in the debates as advisers but may not vote.
12. In the absence of specific provisions (Internal Regulation) the debates of Commissions shall be subject to the same rules as the ones of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 11: FINANCING

1. The expenditure and income of the Conference are administrated by the Administrative Council which is set up for this purpose.

2. The Conference obtains its resources from:

- a. Compulsory dues from the member regions and associate members. These are fixed every year by the Conference during the budget vote. A minimum threshold is fixed each year for the smaller regions. The special provisions listed below shall apply to the poorest regions in terms of GDP and to associate members:
 - for regions of EU Member States with a GDP below 50% of the Community average, membership dues shall be equal to 50% of the fees normally payable. This provision shall take effect on the year following EU membership;
 - for regions of non-EU Member States (pre-accession countries and countries considered as "new neighbours") with a GDP below 30% of the Community average, membership dues shall be equal to 10% of the fees normally payable (this provision shall be updated regularly on the basis of the economic progress of these countries).

These provisions shall apply without prejudice to the provisions laid down in Article 1 points 2 and 3.

- b. Contributions towards the expenses of the network paid by observer regions (the amount of which is fixed each year by the Political Bureau);
- c. Possible research contracts by means of which resources can be topped up if need be;
- d. Voluntary dues from Local Authorities or bodies interested in the work of the Conference;
- e. Capital interest as shown in the annual statement of accounts.

3. The budget of the Conference, which includes all annual income and expenditure, shall consist of two parts:

- a. **The General Budget**, which covers the overall running costs of the Conference only;
- b. **Supplementary budgets**, covering expenses over and above the general resources of the Conference. The supplementary budgets are financed, either from supplementary dues fixed by the regions concerned (additional costs brought about by the operation of the Commissions or by specific actions in regard to a group of regions) or by research or assignment contracts concluded by the C.P.M.R. (with the EC for example). Funds, voted by the Conference, may also be transferred to the supplementary budgets from the general budget if the situation permits.

4. At least once a year the Conference shall hold a budgetary session to examine the financial situation and to take whatever decisions are necessary to ensure that adequate resources are available to carry out the Conference's action and study programme. To facilitate this task, the member regions shall inform the Secretary General of the financial contribution which they propose to make, if possible before the first of December of the year preceding the financial year concerned.

5. The permanent capital of the Conference shall be updated on a regular basis. A sum shall be set aside from the general budget to bring the said permanent capital to 60% at least of the general budget and to maintain it at that level in order to cover risks arising from the running of the Conference. This shall constitute the "Permanent Fund". Capital which exceeds this sum shall constitute a "reserve and intervention fund" administrated by the Political Bureau, in agreement with the Administrative Council of the Conference.

ARTICLE 12: COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

1. In order to encourage and facilitate active cooperation between the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions and other European organisations having aims of a comparable or complementary nature, the Conference may grant some of these organisations the status of "Associate Organisations" to the Conference. The Associate Organisations may appoint representatives to attend meetings of the Conference as observers.
2. The Political Bureau shall be authorised to enter into cooperation agreements with organisations whose aims are deemed to converge with the achievement of the objectives of the Conference.
3. Any agreement concluded with other organisations must be ratified by the C.P.M.R. General Assembly.