



# AAC FLASH INFO

December 2023 - February 2024

*All set for 2024 and  
continued cooperation!*



CPMR ATLANTIC ARC  
COMMISSION

## Introduction

Dear all,

In this new edition of the AAC Flash Info, we would like to update you on a variety of activities performed by the Atlantic Arc Commission from December 2023 to February 2024. The year 2024 will be a pivotal one with the incoming European elections. Together, let's move forward and achieve a greater prosperity in the Atlantic area! In this Flash Info, you will find highlights on the AAC Plenary session, the Hub Meetings, and other actions and news related to the Atlantic.

We wish you a pleasant reading!

*The Atlantic Arc Secretariat,  
Elise Wattrelot, AAC Executive Secretary  
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## IN THIS ISSUE

**ATLANTIC COOPERATION**

**MARITIME AFFAIRS**

**ACCESSIBILITY / ATTRACTIVITY**

**UPDATE ON AAC PROJECTS**

**UPDATE ON CPMR ACTIVITIES**

**FOCUS ON ALENTEJO**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**THE AAC IN THE PRESS**

# ATLANTIC COOPERATION

## THE ATLANTIC MACRO-REGION IN THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

The General Affairs Council, held on 12 December 2023 under the Spanish Presidency of the Council, has included an information point on the Atlantic Macro-Region. Spain and other interested Member States agreed to work under the Belgian presidency on the exploration of the Atlantic Macro-Region.



Credits: European Union

The AAC Member Regions have been working on the topic since 2018, with **key milestones**:

- **2020**: Adoption of an AAC Political Declaration on the Macro-Region
- **2021** : Trilateral declaration between Spain, France and Portugal agreeing to explore the creation of an Atlantic Macro-Region
- **2021**: European Parliament and CoR report in favour of creating an Atlantic Macro-Region
- **2023**: Adoption of the **Cardiff Declaration** at the AAC General Assembly, sketching the contours of a potential Macro-Region for the Atlantic.

In this context, the AAC will continue to discuss with Member States, the Commission and the Atlantic civil society to ensure that this project is fit to the current Atlantic challenges and work on the ground.

## THE ATLANTIC CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORTS THE EVOLUTION TOWARDS AN ATLANTIC MACRO-REGION

The AAC held its **Plenary Session** during the General Assembly of the CPMR, on 16 November 2023 in St Malo. Chaired by María Ángeles Elorza Zubiría, Secretary General for the EU & External Actions, Basque Government, the session involved key representatives of the Atlantic civil society to share their views on the Atlantic Macro-Region:

- Mr Pazos, Rector of **University of Cantabria**, currently leading **CRUSOE**, a network gathering Universities from Spain and Portugal, shared CRUSOE's interest to reinforce cooperation at the Atlantic level via a Macro-Region.
- The **Atlantic network of Chambers of Commerce**, born in June 2023 and represented by Mr Zudaire Arana, President of the Bilbao Chamber of commerce presented its **Declaration** in favour of an Atlantic Macro-Region to reinforce cooperation on connectivity and attractiveness.
- The **French Atlantic Economic and Social Committees**, "Les CESER de l'Atlantique" represented by Mr Girod, presented their **report** on the Macro-Region, stressing the importance of a reinforced cooperation on maritime issues as well as hinterland development.



Credits: Elodie Burillon / Région Bretagne



# ATLANTIC COOPERATION



Credits: European Union

## COMMISSIONER FERREIRA MEETS WITH ATLANTIC REGIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

**Lehendakari Urkullu**, President of the Basque Government, and of the AAC, met with **Commissioner Ferreira** in Brussels on 30 January 2024 to **ask for support for the creation of the Atlantic Macro-Region**. He presented the Macro-Region as a way to ensure the Atlantic area's influence in the distribution of rail investments and energy connections, now that Europe is looking to eastward enlargement.



Credits: Cámara de Comercio de Bilbao

Commissioner Ferreira also engaged in a dialogue with the **Atlantic Chambers of Commerce** which held a discussion on the Macro-Region during their Assembly on 2nd February in Oporto, where they **recalled their support to the Macro-Region**.

## REGI COMMITTEE ASKS SUPPORT FOR THE ATLANTIC DURING THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY

The hearing of **Mr Elio Di Rupo**, Minister President of Wallonia, was organised by REGI Committee on 23 January 2024. As responsible for Cohesion Policy, Elio Di Rupo was questioned on his support to the emergence of the Atlantic Macro-Region, to which he answers he would be very **attentive to any development**.



Credits: European Union

In January, France has taken over the presidency of the Strategy for 2024. It has expressed its intention to operationalise the Strategy, engage more with Atlantic regional authorities and stakeholders, reinforce cooperation with non-EU partners, and ensure cross sea-basins strategies reflections. In particular, given that Portugal will lead the WestMed initiative, joint activities between the Atlantic Strategy and the WestMed will be organised throughout the year. Next meeting of the ASC will be held in March 2024. It will have a specific focus on Pillar II "Skills and Ocean Literacy" and cooperation with the UK. In this respect, the AAC Secretariat will present its Pilot Project "transatlantic cooperation scheme for the green recovery of the Atlantic area".

## MARITIME AFFAIRS



### THE AAC POSITION ON THE REGULATION ON PREVENTING PLASTIC PELLET LOSSES

The Atlantic area, as a gateway for maritime transport to Europe, has faced several **maritime incidents in the last years**. In December 2023, hundreds of thousands of plastic pellets have covered beaches in Galicia, Asturias and Cantabria after a container was lost by a merchant ship off the coast of Portugal. A year before, in January and February 2023, the same type of pollution from another container loss plagued the coasts of Brittany, Pays de la Loire and Normandy in France. In light of the ongoing negotiations on the **Regulation on Preventing Plastic Pellet Losses** to reduce microplastic pollution, the AAC Ocean Pollution Working Group decided to send a **letter to EU institutions** inviting them to **increase ambitions** to properly address this problem. **You can consult it [here](#).**

### THE AAC COLLECTS REGIONAL DATA ON DECARBONISATION OF THE FISHING FLEET

In December 2023, the AAC Fisheries and Aquaculture launched a **questionnaire to collect regional data on the decarbonisation of the fishing fleet**. So far, answers received showed that the average age of the Atlantic fleet is around 30 years old. The decarbonisation of the fleet requires important **investments** while **ensuring the sustainability of the fishing activity** in time. Modernising fishing boats for an improved energy efficiency is very challenging. On this basis, AAC will prepare a specific contribution to feed into the CPMR policy position to be voted in the CPMR General Assembly in October 2024. It should contribute to the discussions of the European Commission's Energy Transition Partnership into the discussions of the European Commission's Energy Transition Partnership.



### THE AAC TO BOOST FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGIES

During the last AAC Marine Renewable Energies Working Group meeting, the Basque Energy Agency presented an interesting example of pre-commercial **public procurement** to develop Marine Renewable Energy projects in the Atlantic. This example will serve as a basis for a more general **mapping of funding mechanisms** developed at regional level to **support the deployment of offshore renewable energies**. As recalled by AEE (Asociación Empresarial Eólica) during the meeting, floating offshore wind represents the most promising technology for the Atlantic area.



# ACCESSIBILITY AND ATTRACTIVITY

Proposals for amendments to the maps of the TEN-T:  
Atlantic Arc Commission



## TEN-T REGULATION: IMPORTANT IMPROVMENTS OF THE ATLANTIC ACCESSIBILITY

As expressed in various AAC Declarations, the **peripherality** of the Atlantic Area is a **remaining issue** impacting its attractiveness and capacity to engage fully in the green transition.

In 2019, the AAC had anticipated the publication of the Commission's proposal on a new TEN-T Regulation gathering a series of proposals to ensure that territorial accessibility in the Atlantic is a key priority of the Regulation (read the **AAC Declaration**). The Declaration also included proposals to update the TEN-T maps. After a long period of negotiations, co-legislators reached an agreement on 18 December 2023 which includes some AAC positions:

- the **role of the European coordinators** has been **strengthened** and the alignment of national plans with the European objectives will be more constraining.
- the **gradual completion of the TEN-T networks** by 2030, 2040 and 2050

Six out of the seventeen amendments to the map proposed by the AAC have been included (see **Annex I**):

- Inclusion of part of the railway sections connecting the southern part of Spain and Portugal;
- Inclusion of the railway crossborder section between the regions of Galicia (ES) and Norte (PT) in the Extended Core network;
- Inclusion of the port of Santander (ES) to the Core network;
- Inclusion of the Rail Road Terminal of Basque Country Agglomeration (FR);
- Inclusion of the railway section Galway-Sligo (IE) in the comprehensive network;
- Inclusion of the port of Galway (IE) in the comprehensive network.

Next steps will be the entry into force of the TEN-T regulation in May 2024. Under the leadership of the Basque Country, the AAC Transport Working Group will monitor the **reflexion on TEN-T methodology, the Connecting Europe Facility budget**, and updates in the Atlantic corridor workplan.





# ACCESSIBILITY AND ATTRACTIVITY



## ATLANTIC SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AT THE HEART OF DISCUSSIONS AMONG REGIONS

When taking over the leadership of the Tourism and Culture Working group of the AAC, Cantabria Government put **sustainable tourism** as a **key topic** of discussion among regional authorities. A questionnaire was launched to harness the **experiences and practices of Atlantic Regions** which were then discussed on the occasion of the AAC Hub meetings on 31st January 2024.



In particular, Regions got to know more the **PISTA** project, presented by the University of Evora, boosting sustainable tourism in Alentejo via the dissemination of information and knowledge. Brittany Region also presented the specific territorial governance put in place to ensure the coordination of stakeholders towards a sustainable management of tourism. To further deepen these discussions, a seminar on Atlantic tourism will be organised in the second semester of 2024 in Santander. **Stay tune!**

## STRENGTHENING INNOVATIONS “MADE IN ATLANTIC” VIA COLLABORATIONS

The CCDR do Lisboa e Vale do Tejo took over the leadership of the AAC Innovation Working Group to cooperate along with their innovation stakeholders and develop a **catalogue of innovations ‘Made in Atlantic’**. To this end, a brainstorming session was organised during the Hub Meetings to have a basis of content for the future document. Another meeting will be held back to back with the AAC General Assembly to move forwards with the creation of the catalogue.

This action echoes the developments at EU level on R&I policies. On 8 December 2023, the Council approved **conclusions** which stresses the **need for a stronger role for local and regional authorities to strengthen competitive R&I ecosystems** and recalls the important role in promoting inter-regional cooperation and the exchange of best practices beyond national borders. In terms of future actions, conclusions consider to introduce measures to coordinate Union, national and regional initiatives to attract or retain talent and improve their R&I capacities.



## UPDATE ON CPMR ACTIVITIES

### CPMR CLIMATE GROUP UNVEILS CARBON SINK SUB- GROUP AND FUTURE ONLINE PLATFORM

During the recent CPMR Climate Working Group meeting in Brussels, regions proudly launched the **Carbon Sink Sub-Group**, epitomizing their commitment to climate action per the CPMR 2023-2025 roadmap. The Marche Region will lead this venture as Vice-Chair of the Working Group.

The sub-group aims at **analysing regional authorities' role in advancing EU blue and green carbon sink actions**, facilitating internal discourse on green and blue carbon challenges, focusing on policy priorities and access to funding.

Additionally, the CPMR Climate Working Group seeks to contribute to the CPMR's "**Online Knowledge Inventory**" (OKI) methodology for data and best practices identification and develop a strategic vision for lobbying at EU and national levels. This platform will be led by Andalucía Region, as Chair of the Working Group. Once operational, the OKI will **deliver a unified inventory encompassing Climate Action efforts**, providing information on projects, policies, and good practices. It will also operate as a platform for intervention sharing and collaboration among CPMR member regions. **Get in touch to hop aboard the subgroup and steer the future of the OKI's endeavours!**



### CPMR COHESION CORE GROUP MEETS WITH THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY



The CPMR Cohesion CORE Group meeting took place in Brussels on 23 February, in the presence of the **Belgian Presidency of the Council**. During the meeting, the Presidency recalled that Cohesion Policy is an **essential long-term investment instrument for strengthening the EU** with the Regions. The CPMR Members regions discussed on that occasion of two draft policy documents on the future of INTERREG, and the future of Cohesion policy, to be approved in the next CPMR Political Bureau in Patras, in March 2024.

In parallel, it is to be noted that the REGI Committee has developed an own initiative report on the implementation of Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 with recommendations for the future. The Indicative plenary sitting date is set on 11/03/24. **See report [here](#).**

## UPDATE ON OTHER CPMR FILES

### CLIMATE RESILIENCE: PAYS DE LA LOIRE'S EXPERIENCE PRESENTED AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On 21 February, the **SEArca Intergroup of the European Parliament** organised the discussion "Turning the tide: How to drive climate resilience in coastal and maritime infrastructure?" hosted by MEP Josianne Cutajar.

Among participants, Pays de la Loire presented the **Regional Observatory for Coastal Risks (OR2C)** which provides key information to support regional policy-making and territorial planning for climate adaptation, especially with regard to coastal spatial retreat. The CPMR Members also got the opportunity to discuss the EU support to coastal and maritime adaptation together with representatives from the EU Commission, European Investment Bank, European Environmental Agency and Climate-KIC. MEP Cutajar called for further and quicker support for a sustainable future of coastal and maritime communities. **What's next?** the SEArca Intergroup will hold its final conference on 7 March at the European Parliament and online.



### PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT ON THE NATURE RESTORATION LAW

On 9 November 2023, the co-legislators reached a provisional agreement on the Nature Restoration Law which was then approved in Plenary on 27 February 2024. It sets that EU countries must restore at least 30% of habitats in poor condition by 2030, 60% by 2040, and 90% by 2050. Co-legislators added exceptions measures for agricultural ecosystems and for renewable energy projects. EU countries should give priority to Natura 2000 areas until 2030. Member states will also have to adopt national restoration plans detailing how they intend to achieve these targets. Link to that the AAC Secretariat had developed a [technical paper](#) in February 2023 identifying interlinkages with various legislative files with territorial implications on coastal areas. It also highlighted the short timeframe for national plans to be developed in coordination with regional authorities. **Check out CPMR Manifesto's** specific message on NRL.

### PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT ON NET ZERO INDUSTRY ACT (NZIA)

On 6 February, the Council and the European Parliament reached a provisional agreement on the NZIA which aims at boosting the clean energy manufacturing capacities in the EU.

Among novelties, the Act plans to streamline rules on construction permit procedures ; create net-zero industrial valleys and skills academies; regulate public procurement on net-zero technologies. Interestingly, when member state designs an auction for the deployment of renewable energy technologies, they will be able to apply both pre-qualification and award criteria which are not price-related. For more information on CPMR messages on NZIA **check out CPMR Manifesto.**





## UPDATE ON AAC PROJECTS



The **'Transatlantic' pilot project**, funded by the European Parliament, kick started in January 2024 (read our [press article](#)). Under the leadership of the CPMR AAC, partners will work on **Green Marine Infrastructure** (ports, offshore renewable energies) and **Adaptation to Climate Change**. The main objective of the project is to develop cooperation

between EU Regions and non-EU Regions and stakeholders (clusters, universities, innovation SMEs).

→ Next step : **presentation** of the pilot project by the AAC Secretariat during the **Atlantic Strategy Committee** in March 2024, in Paris.

→ The AAC Secretariat is also working on a **Study on Decentralised Cooperation Agreements** between EU Regions and organisations from non-EU Atlantic area.

**FLORES** was featured during the CPMR Seminar on Offshore Renewable Energies organised on 16 November in St Malo, back to back with the CPMR 50th anniversary. It was the occasion to present the aim of the project to the CPMR Members and allow them to join the **Community of Users**.



**FLORES**  
Offshore Renewable Energies  
partnership in the Pact for Skills

The Community of Users should support members to **monitor the results** of the projects and use them for their own work on skills in the offshore renewable energies. **What's next?** The **General Assembly of the OREskills Consortium** will take place on 20 March 2024 in Brussels. The AAC Secretariat will support the partnership on the future **Recommendations on How to overcome the barriers to the creation of durable partnerships when it comes to training on ORE**.



**SMARTDEC**. Focusing on the decarbonisation of the Atlantic fleet, this Interreg Atlantic Area project will have kick-off in Brussels on 6 March 2024, back to back with BlueInvest Conference. As the **leader of WP5** focusing on the **uptake of the project outputs by regional authorities and EU institutions**, the AAC Secretariat will organise a series of **workshops** with AAC Regions and support their reflexion on **policy recommendations** on how to increase, finance and develop decarbonisation options for vessels based on Atlantic needs.



**BlueMissionAA** project's Annual Event was held in Cascais, Portugal, on 29 and 30 November to advance on the workplan after one year of implementation. The AAC will support the development of **Recommendations for further alignment between RIS3 and the Ocean Mission objectives**. A draft document will be shared with AAC Members over the course of 2024. The expected release is planned after the CPMR General Assembly in October 2024.

## FOCUS ON AN ATLANTIC REGION: ALENTEJO



### *Let's get to know Alentejo!*

AAC Flash Info aims at giving the floor to its Member Regions, to express their views on their priority topics in the framework of the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission.

This month, we interviewed CCDR Alentejo I.P.'s President, Mr António Ceia da Silva, who took up this position since October 2020. Prior to this, Mr Ceia da Silva has occupied various positions in the tourism sector, holding a PhD in Tourism from the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning. He was president of the São Mamede Tourism Authority from 1995 to 2008. He has also been a Member of the Portuguese Parliament from 2005 to 2008.

### **After 35 years of Alentejo being involved in the AAC and as a new year is starting, what are the priorities of your Region for 2024?**

As the President of CCDR Alentejo, I.P. the priorities for 2024 would focus on highlighting the significant progress achieved and the ongoing strategies that are shaping the future of our region.

Over the years, our region has demonstrated a remarkable ability to adapt and evolve, while staying true to its rich cultural and environmental heritage. An example of this is the ongoing second phase of infrastructure of the **Regional Technology Transfer System**, which represents a significant contribution to strengthening the region's competitive advantages.

In parallel, we are focused on virtuously interacting with the dynamics of new business locations observed in the region, especially in emerging sectors such as **aeronautics, renewable energies, and transport logistics**. We are actively seeking the knowledge and services that these new business dynamics can offer, aiming to leverage regional development.

Moreover, we are integrating innovative responses to the needs of knowledge and economic application related to **climate change mitigation and adaptation**, and the implementation of a **circular economy model**.

In summary, our vision for 2024 is of a region that not only responds to current changes and challenges but also leads with innovation and sustainability.

### **Given the EU opportunities to develop regional cooperation on key sectors, in which innovative areas would Alentejo cooperate with Atlantic Regions?**

Given our rich heritage and forward-looking approach, we see immense potential in sectors like **bioeconomy, energy, and tourism**. These areas not only resonate with our regional strengths but also offer significant leverage for joint projects.

- Bioeconomy presents a unique opportunity to explore sustainable use of biological resources, turning them into valuable products ranging from food to bioenergy.
- In energy, our focus is on renewable sources and energy transition, aligning with sustainability goals and energy efficiency.
- Tourism is another vital area where we aim to collaborate. Our region's rich cultural and natural heritage provides a perfect canvas for developing sustainable tourism practices. It not only attracts tourists but also preserves our heritage for future generations. Together with the cultural and creative ecosystem, which constitutes a fundamental instrument for development and has a potential for aggregation between Arts, Culture and Heritage, conditions are favourable to strengthening the attractiveness of the territory.

Finally, the fields of **circular economy** and **digitalization** are crucial. They align with Alentejo's specialization strategy and are relevant in other territories, particularly within Euroregions.

## FOCUS ON AN ATLANTIC REGION: ALENTEJO

The Region has invested in renewable resources and the transition to circular economy models that value the territory and promote territorial cohesion.

The **Port of Sines**, a key industrial and logistics area, combines heavy infrastructure with productive capabilities and expertise in the **automation of shipping** and freight processes. It is deeply integrated into the national, European, and global economy, marking a significant aspect of the region's economy internationalization. It also benefits from excellent natural conditions for maritime access and continues on a path of investment. Notable developments include the expansion of Terminal XXI, the new Vasco da Gama terminal, and the Port Tech Cluster. These projects are pivotal in knowledge transfer, **new refineries**, **transatlantic cables**, and hubs for **renewable gases** production, like **green hydrogen**, using photovoltaic energy.

Alentejo's coast also offers favourable conditions for innovation in traditional sectors of the blue economy such as **aquaculture**. In summary, leveraging the unique advantages of the Port of Sines and the rich maritime resources of our coastline, Alentejo is well-positioned to lead in the Blue Economy.

**The Region's strong heritage must now adapt to develop sustainable tourism practices. In view of Évora as the European Capital of Culture 2027, what types of actions are implemented in CCDR Alentejo to ensure a sustainable tourism?**

The candidacy of Évora as the European Capital of Culture in 2027 underlines the importance of revaluing the relationships between regional urban centres and their surrounding territories.

This initiative goes beyond mere cultural programming, promoting the region's heritage in relation to **natural capital**, **urban amenities**, **collective services**, and **digital connectivity**.

Our strategic commitment to sustainable tourism growth by 2027 encompasses **identifying new products/services** and **strategic destinations** necessary to enhance Alentejo's role in national tourism development. This includes **enriching tourism products and experiences**, aligning the development of tourism in the region with urban and social development. Additionally, addressing the issue of double seasonality (both annual and weekly) is crucial to **positively impact employment opportunities** in the region.

**The transformation of ports has been at the core of the AAC activities lately via its participation in the AspBAN project. In this respect, could you tell us how is the Region adapting to the new challenges of ports decarbonation and digitalisation?**

The Alentejo region is actively engaging in the transformation of ports, a key focus of the Atlantic Arc Commission. Our approach to these challenges is two-pronged, focusing on both **decarbonization** and **digitalization** of our port infrastructures.

Led by the port of Sines, the strategic initiatives in the Decarbonization of Ports are aimed at **reducing the carbon footprint of port operations**. This includes investing in green energy solutions, such as, solar and wind energy to power port activities. We also want to support the exploration of innovative technologies for cleaner and more efficient fuel alternatives for shipping and logistics operations. The goal is to create a sustainable model for port operations that aligns with broader environmental goals and EU directives on carbon neutrality.

On the digital front, we consider of extreme importance to implement advanced technologies to enhance the efficiency and security of port operations. This includes the **integration of IoT** (Internet of Things) solutions for real-time monitoring and management of port activities, the use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) for predictive maintenance and logistics optimization, and blockchain technology for secure and transparent supply chain management.

These efforts are part of a broader regional development strategy that aims to position Alentejo as a leader in sustainable and smart port operations.





## FOCUS ON AN ATLANTIC REGION: ALENTEJO

**Developing an Atlantic Blue and Green Transport Corridor has been one of the key challenges of the AAC in the last years. Now that the TEN-T negotiations are over, what does Alentejo expect for the coming year?**

The completion of the TEN-T negotiations marks a significant milestone in our efforts to develop an Atlantic Blue and Green Transport Corridor. This development has been one of the key challenges of the Atlantic Arc Commission in recent years. For Alentejo, the coming year is expected to be a period of significant progress and opportunity.

Our primary expectation is to see further advancement in the **integration of sustainable transport modes** within the region. The Blue and Green Transport Corridor initiative is not just about enhancing physical infrastructure; it's also about fostering a more sustainable and efficient transport system, which includes maritime, road, and rail.

Our expectations for the coming year, especially in the aftermath of the TEN-T negotiations, are further augmented by our engagement with the Atlantic Arc Commission. Alentejo's involvement in this broader regional collaboration aligns with our commitment to sustainable and efficient transport systems.

In summary, the coming year for Alentejo is seen as a pivotal time to capitalize on these new opportunities and frameworks. Our focus will be on continuing to build a **sustainable, resilient, and interconnected region**, aligned with the broader goals of the European Union and the needs of our local communities.

**The General Affairs Council, held on 12 December 2023, opened the possibility of the work at EU level to create an Atlantic Macro-Region. What are your expectations about this process?**

We have high expectations for this process and its potential to bring about positive change and opportunities for Alentejo. First and foremost, we anticipate that the establishment of an Atlantic Macro-Region will provide a framework for **enhanced cooperation** and collaboration among Atlantic regions within the European Union, sharing best practices and leveraging collective strengths to address common challenges such as **climate change, economic disparities, and sustainable development**.

Furthermore, we expect that the creation of an Atlantic Macro-Region will lead to **increased visibility and recognition** of the unique characteristics and potential of our region on the European stage. This recognition can open doors to additional funding opportunities, investment, and support for projects and initiatives that contribute to the economic, social, and environmental well-being of Alentejo. Overall, our expectations are optimistic, and we look forward to actively participating in the process and shape a brighter and more prosperous future for our region and its inhabitants.

**Is there any other information you would like to share with AAC Regions?**

As President of CCDR Alentejo, I.P. I would like to take this opportunity to share that we are **eager to explore further collaboration opportunities with other AAC Regions**, particularly in areas related to sustainable development, innovation, and economic growth.

Alentejo boasts a diverse range of strengths, including a rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, and a skilled workforce. We believe that by leveraging these strengths through strategic partnerships and collaborative projects, we can **unlock new opportunities** for sustainable development and prosperity. I am confident that by working together, AAC Regions can harness their collective potential to achieve shared goals and create a brighter future for all.

Therefore, I extend a warm invitation to representatives of the AAC Regions to join us in Sines for the **Atlantic Arc Commission's General Assembly on April 9th and 10th, 2024**. This gathering will provide an excellent opportunity to continue our collaboration efforts and strengthen our partnerships for the benefit of our regions.

*Thank you very much President Ceia da Silva for your welcome in Sines!*





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### CPMR/ AAC EVENTS

**5 March 2024, Valencia, Spain.** CPMR Migration Seminar

**6 March 2024, Brussels, Belgium.** Kick Off meeting of SMARTDEC project

**21-22 March 2024, Patras, Greece.** CPMR Political Bureau

**9-10 April 2024, Sines, Portugal.** AAC General Assembly

**16 May 2024, tbc.** CPMR Transport and Energy seminar

**11-13 June 2024, Brussels, Belgium.** AAC Marine Renewable Energies Working Group back to back with the EU Sustainable Energy Week (tbc)

**11-12 June 2024, Shkodër, Albania.** CPMR Political Bureau

**2-4 October 2024, Gozo, Malta.** CPMR General Assembly and AAC Plenary meeting

**25 October 2024, Santander, Spain.** AAC Tourism WG (tbc)

**4-8 November 2024, Québec, Canada:** AAC on-field visit (tbc)

### EXTERNAL EVENTS

**4-5 March 2024, Brussels, Belgium.** Annual Forum of the Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters"

**7 March 2024, Brussels, Belgium.** BlueInvest Day

**18 March 2024, Paris, France.** Atlantic Strategy Committee

**18-19 March 2024, Mons, Belgium.** EU Regions & Cities Summit

**20-22 March 2024, Bilbao, Spain,** WindEurope Conference

**2-5 April 2024, Brussels, Belgium,** Connecting Europe Days

**30-31 May 2024, Svendborg, Denmark.** European Maritime Days

**6-9 June 2024, European Parliament** elections

**12-13 June 2024, Brussels, Belgium.** EU Macro-Regions Week & EU Sustainable Energy week

**12-14 June 2024, Nantes, France.** OCEANEXT 2024 Conference

**26-28 June 2024, Nantes, France.** SEANERGY event & ASC meeting

**3-7 July 2024, Bajo Guadania, Portugal.** Atlantic Games 2024

**15-17 October 2024, Brest, France.** SEATEC week & ASC meeting

**19-20 November 2024, Bordeaux, France.** National Conference on the Economy of the Sea & Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference (tbc)



# THE CPMR ATLANTIC ARC REGIONS IN THE PRESS

**50e conférence des Régions Périphériques et Maritime, à Saint-Malo, du 15 au 17 novembre**

15/11/2023, Le Télégramme

**Loïc Chesnais-Girard élu nouveau président des régions périphériques et maritimes européennes**

15/11/2023, Région Bretagne

**El Presidente De Cámarabilbao Expone Ante La Comisión Arco Atlántico El Rol De Las Cámaras Para Contribuir Al Desarrollo De La Región**

16/11/2023, Cámarabilbao

**Cámaras del Arco Atlántico destacan su posición "inmejorable" de cara a la construcción de la macrorregión atlántica**

16/11/2023, Europa Press

**Navarra defiende crear la macrorregión del Arco Atlántico como un entorno de oportunidades para las energías renovables**

16/11/2023, Noticias Navarra

**El Presidente de CámaraBilbao expone ante la Comisión Arco Atlántico el rol de las Cámaras para contribuir al desarrollo de la Región**

16/11/2023, Cámara Bilbao

**Régions maritimes d'Europe: la Bretagne prend la barre**

17/11/2023, Le Télégramme

**Galicia begins working to create a large common front between the European regions and the United Kingdom, where the fishing sector is strategic**

19/11/2023, SmallCapNews

**El rector de la UC, Ángel Pazos, presenta la red CRUSOE en la 51ª Asamblea de la Conferencia de las Regiones Marítimas Periféricas**

20/11/2023, Noticias Universidad de Cantabria

**Joaquín Almunia aboga en Cámarabilbao por ampliar los fondos Next Generation**

21/11/2023, El Canal

**Ollo defiende convertir la Comisión del Arco Atlántico en macrorregión**

23/11/2023, Noticias de Navarra

**El Gobierno de Cantabria urge una reunión con el nuevo ministro de Transportes para impulsar las inversiones comprometidas en conexiones ferroviarias**

11/12/2023, Gobierno de Cantabria

**La UE retrasa la creación de la Macrorregión del Arco Atlántico de la que forma parte Euskadi**

11/12/2023, Las Provincias

**Villares se reúne en Bruselas con representantes de la Breña Francesa para defender la importancia de la pesca**

16/11/2023, Europa Press

**Galicia y Breña presionan para que Europa apueste por la soberanía alimentaria**

12/12/2023, La Voz de Galicia

**La Unión Europea aborda la propuesta de Macrorregión Atlántica**

12/12/2023, Deia

**Urkullu presiona a Sanchez y consigue que Europa impulse la Macrorregión del Arco Atlántico**

13/12/2023, El Correo

**El Gobierno vasco califica de "hito" que la UE trabaje ya por la Macrorregión Atlántica**

14/12/2023, Deia

**Quelle place pour les régions maritimes dans la politique européenne de cohésion ?**

21/12/2023, Toute l'Europe

**La Macrorregión Atlántica se presentará el 2 de febrero en Oporto**

17/01/2024, La Voz de Asturias

**Le Québec représenté à l'Assemblée générale de la CRPM à Saint-Malo**

26/01/2024, Québec Actualités

**El Lehendakari constata en Bruselas que Euskadi es una comunidad "conocida y reconocida en Europa"**

30/01/2024, Euskadi

**Cámaras de Comercio del Arco Atlántico se reúnen en Oporto para ahondar en la colaboración interregional**

02/02/2024, Europa Press Pais Vasco

**Câmaras de comércio do Norte de Portugal, Galiza e Sul de França querem criar macrorregião**

02/02/2024, Sapo