



# ATLANTIC ARC COMMISSION

---

## CONFERENCE OF ATLANTIC ARC CITIES



### **Preamble:**

The present context is marked by a triple economic, climate and social crisis that threatens the basis of the European project. Last events show the need for a stronger political will and for the implementation of reinforced cooperations between the different levels of governance.

European Union, very affected by this crisis, has recently launched an ambitious strategy, the 2020 strategy, that forecasts *“a new sustainable social market economy, a smarter and greener economy”*. Pursuant the subsidiarity principle, its implementation calls for the intervention of local and regional actors.

The Atlantic Arc is a maritime façade that not only relates the diverse European territories that compose it, but also that opens Europe to the rest of the world. Besides its peripheral location, that implies some difficulties, especially in accessibility terms, the Atlantic Area has various assets that should be promoted.

Above all, the Atlantic Arc is the result of a political will in service of the European project. From its creation, the Atlantic Arc Commission of CPMR (AAC) and the Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities (CAAC) are calling up for more significant territorial cohesion at a European level, through, in particular, the defence of an ambitious regional policy and the launching of an integrated maritime policy.

From now onwards, both networks plan to coordinate their efforts so as to promote an integrated strategy for the Atlantic, inspired by the Baltic and the Danubian models. For both organisations, this is the best way to foster exchanges and to improve life quality for citizens, in the prospective of a sustainable development of the Atlantic territories.

### **Principles:**

In this framework, gathered together for the first time in a joint General Assembly, both AAC and CAAC want to set a long term cooperation through this agreement. So, they:

1. Note that they work on the common goal of allowing Atlantic Arc communities to take an increasing active part in the development of their territories and in a sustainable and balanced European project. This shall be the frame for the promotion of an Integrated Strategy for the Atlantic Arc.
2. Remind the tight bonds that unite them since the creation of CAAC and that have been progressively developed during the last years, especially through an agreement signed in 2004 concerning common grounds on transnational Atlantic cooperation.
3. Wish to enhance the actions and the visibility of both networks through a coordinated action that would facilitate the implementation of the common goals.
4. Acknowledge the essential role of the Coordination Committee. Created by AAC, it serves as exchange and debate forum, as well as to coordinate initiatives undertaken by the different stakeholders: regional, urban, socio-professional, university representatives or agricultural chambers.

5. Take into account the proposal of CAAC General Assembly in Caen last June 2009 to give a boost to this relationship, in coherence to the San Sebastian Charter that in its chapter 5 reminds the need for a more open, more efficient and more ambitious cooperation in the Atlantic Arc.

### **Objectives:**

1. The promotion of the Atlantic interests so as to protect the Ocean, but also to cultivate its potential in a sustainable manner: protecting environment and biodiversity and fostering coastal resources as well as hinterland, improving accessibility for all territories.
2. The support for a substantial transnational Atlantic cooperation, more ambitious and more strategic so as to respond more efficiently to the challenges that Atlantic territories face. This cooperation shall be enhanced through political and technical coordination.
3. The promotion of a better understanding of the diversity of the communities that conform the Atlantic Area, the exchange of information and good practices between the members of the networks and their Secretariats. Joint working groups shall be set in the adequate subjects. These exchanges shall include the setting of common cooperation projects among the members of both organisations, from a prospective of coordination and synergies.
4. This agreement shall achieve a coordinated mobilisation for all the Atlantic stakeholders so as to actively participate in the debates on the future European policies, in particular on cohesion and maritime policies and other EU policies of common interest.
5. Close collaboration between both Secretariats so as to optimise available information and action means, by a Joint action plan to be agreed by the Presidencies of the Networks.