



Marine and maritime innovation in the outermost regions - blue growth and smart specialisation

Number of workshop: 23

Timing: 10:00-11:30

Chair:

Rodrigo OLIVEIRA – Undersecretary for European Affairs and External Cooperation of the Regional Government of the Azores, on behalf of the President of the Conference of the Outermost Regions

Speakers:

- **Frédéric CADET** - Vice-President in charge of International Relations, Cooperation, Innovation and Research – Réunion Regional Council
- **Marimar VILLAGARCIA** – MaReS, PLOCAN Consortium - Canary Islands
- **Jean CRUSOL** – President of the Economic Affairs Commission - Martinique Regional Council
- **Jessica JULAN-AUBOURG** – Head of Service on Fisheries – Guadeloupe Regional Council
- **Frederico CARDIGOS** - Regional Director for Sea Affairs – Regional Government of the Azores
- **Bernhard FRIESS** - Director for the Atlantic, Outermost Regions and Arctic – European Commission

1. Three key messages

- For the Outermost Regions (ORs), the sea is a fundamental dimension of their culture and development.
- The classical challenges (insolation, climate change...) have to be further addressed, but at the same time new and very

promising opportunities have to be exploited, from renewable energy to seabed mining, transport hubs, biodiversity, aquaculture, etc.

- The European Integrated Maritime Policy can help to further promote these assets for the benefit of all the Union.

2. Summary of the interventions from the panel (1-2 pages)

Rodrigo OLIVEIRA

The maritime dimension must be added to the traditional perspective on the Outermost Regions (ORs) and highlights their importance and value. The exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of all the ORs are equivalent to the areas of the Mediterranean and the Baltic Sea combined. Blue growth in the ORs has a quadruple dimension: biological resources (fisheries, biotechnology, carbon sink...), mineral resources (underwater metals...), energy resources (wind, wave, methane hydrate deposits...) and platforms for science. ORs are also strategically located at the confluence or in the proximity of major ocean shipping routes. But the ORs have to act together to ensure that the knowledge and the added value of their assets also work to their benefit.

Europe has an important role to play in research and the sustainable exploitation of the sea, of particular interest for ORs, by outlining strategies and setting goals, supporting innovation and by allocating financial means to the regions. On their side, the regions have to help achieve a good balance between the centre and periphery of Europe. The Union needs to support good multilevel governance and decentralisation. Mr Oliveira concluded: 'The seas represent an ocean of opportunities for the ORs and open a path for the future of the whole of Europe.'

Frédéric CADET

The significance of the ORs is high for Europe, but it is even more the case when we look also at the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) of European Member States strategically spread in all world oceans with huge EEZ (from the world top: France n°2, Portugal n°8, Spain n°12).

La Réunion (France) is the only ORs located in the Indian Ocean. The Southern Indian Ocean Blue Book is implementing the 'Grenelle de la Mer' in La Réunion, with five strategic lines: Maritime governance; Economic development in the fishing and energy industries; Protection of the natural marine environment; Research and innovation in marine sciences; Government actions to defend France's sovereign interests in the region. It 'provides the basis for a number of mid- and long-term initiatives planned by the French public authorities in this part of the world'. The ocean is one of the main asset of La Réunion, in particular its large EEZ, hotspots of biodiversity for coastal and deep-sea ecosystems in the tropical zone, and a strategic maritime space. The Regional Council of La Réunion has developed a strategic vision, with the development of six key clusters for technological and economic development (biotechnologies, energy, sea-fishing and aquaculture, ICT, tourism and environment), and has set-up the 'Marine Innovative Platform', a partnership between research organisms, technical centres and economic actors. Both the clusters and the platform are delivering concrete marine projects of high relevance for La Réunion.

Marimar VILLAGARCIA

The MARES (MAcaronesian REsearch Strategy) has three main pillars: Madeira Tecnopolo (Madeira Technology and Science Park), the 'Fundo regional da ciencia e tecnologia' (regional fund for science and technology) and PLOCAN (Oceanic Platform of the

Canary Islands). PLOCAN is of particular interest for ocean related fields as it is a general marine science and technology mobilisation initiative that seeks to deliver international socio-economic business competitiveness derived from access to ocean space. The plan is to construct and operate an ocean platform with a group of experimentation facilities and laboratories, located on the border of the continental shelf. This will allow stable oceanic occupation as a base for operations and deep ocean access, using all kinds of vehicles, underwater machinery and instruments to observe, produce and take advantage of resources at depths at which, up until now, only fuel prospecting and extraction companies have been able to operate. In this context, some first proposals are currently being prepared, such as the H2OCEAN, MERMAID and TROPOS projects. TROPOS will explore possible designs for integration of renewable energy systems, aquaculture production, recreational activities and logistics in offshore locations, such as the Mediterranean, subtropical and tropical areas.

The size and the characteristics of the Macaronesian Archipelago (including: Azores, Canaries, Madeira) create many barriers to contributing to or competing effectively with the European Research Area (ERA) or in the international scientific context. NETBIOME (NETworking tropical and subtropical BIodiversity in OuterMost regions and territories of Europe in support of sustainable development) is an initiative to increase cooperation between the regions and territories of European Member States (France, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, UK). In the future, ORs should be more proactive in marine research.

More info: <http://plocan.eu> ; <http://tropos.plocan.eu/> ; <http://www.netbiome.org/>

Jean CRUSOL

Maritime routes and logistical platforms are important challenges and opportunities for Martinique. The Greater Caribbean is strategically located between North and South America, between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and close to the Panama canal. In 2010, 7 million containers transited through the Panama Canal. In 2015, the canal will be extended and in 2025, 11 million containers are expected through the canal, while surrounding ports are saturated. The main logistic ports in the Caribbean are: Kingston, Rio Haina - Punta Causedo, Freeport, Cartagena, Port of Spain and Martinique. The port of Martinique is France's 5th port, but it is still relatively small compared to other Caribbean ports, with ~10 000 containers transhipped. There is an extension foreseen by 2015, to increase its role as transshipment port for the North – South America route, with a target of 220-300 000 containers transhipped. In a longer term perspective, another extension would transform it into a hub port in the Caribbean for transshipment between Caribbean – North – South America – Europe, with a capacity up to 1 million containers. The vision for Martinique is to become an active frontier of Europe, to turn the island culture again to what it once was: 'a maritime and forward looking culture'.

Jessica JULAN-AUBOURG

Guadeloupe is importing 5 times more food than it is exporting. One main challenge is therefore to improve food security by developing indigenous production. Fish consumption in Guadeloupe is amongst the highest in the world with an annual consumption of ~36 kg per inhabitant, with only half of it provided from the regional fishing sector. Aquaculture is very embryonic with only 11 producers, of which only 1 in the sea, working with 3 non non-indigenous species. Aquaculture development could increase local production, benefitting from the very favourable environment, and with positive

socio-economic effects expected. Therefore a 'Plan régional aquacole' and a 'Schema régional de développement de l'aquaculture marine' (SRDAM) have been approved. Furthermore, a specific structure for sea aquaculture has been developed that takes into account local constraints and specificities (including cyclones, small scale production, low cost and light maintenance...), in cooperation with OCEAN-SA (the pilot sea aquaculture producer), SYPAGUA (trade union of Guadeloupe aquaculture producers) and UAOM (Union des aquaculteurs d'Outmermer). The target is to have 10 sea producers by 2017 and a production of 200 tonnes annually. Taking into account its specificities, Guadeloupe has particular expectations for the new Common Fishery Policy (CFP) and the new EMFF (European Maritime and Fisheries Fund). ORs have certain derogations in the current CFP but wish for a specific approach for OR fisheries. Some concrete demands in this regard were shared.

Frederico CARDIGOS

The Azores is an autonomous region of Portugal with an autonomous government. Within the continental area, it is entitled to manage fisheries and environment issues, but is not allowed to deal with defence issues, and has shared responsibilities on the remaining topics. The region's environment is an important, rare and sensitive. A number of lessons learned can guide future actions:

- Fragile biodiversity -> Biodiversity law
- Consensus is needed -> Stimulate local communities to cooperate. As Gandhi said 'Everything you do for me but without me, you do against me.'
- Sustainable development is achievable -> Sustainable development must be included within the government programme and mirrored in regional laws.

- Invasive species -> Requires development of marine environmental monitoring programmes and immediate response.
- Science and scientists are useful -> Invest in science, involve scientists, share knowledge.
- Stimulate new uses of the sea -> Develop Maritime Spatial Planning.

The main objective of the Azorean Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) is to zone the uses in the maritime area of the archipelago, increasing the economic value of resources and minimizing conflicts, thus contributing to the sustainable development of the sea in an integrated manner. To help decision making, the value of the ocean needs to be estimated both for existing and emerging uses, also taking into account environmental and social aspects. More than zoning, the Azorean MSP aims to open spaces and suggest new uses, such as carbon capture (algae, deep sea), marine energies (wind and other sources), sea bottom resource exploration and extraction (minerals, methane hydrates...). Planning should provide a sustainable inspiration for new uses, resulting in new jobs and economic output.

Bernhard FRIESS

Outermost Regions always face difficulties, such as remoteness, insolation, climate change, etc... But at the same time have exceptional assets and potential because of the size of their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ), rich biodiversity, strategic locations for transport and for research labs, renewable energy and aquaculture potential, without forgetting traditional activities such as fisheries and tourism.

The Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) can contribute in various ways to the blue growth and smart specialisation of the Outermost Regions.

The European funding instruments, such as from the Cohesion and Social Funds Research and Innovation (FP7, Horizon 2020), the Maritime and Fisheries Funds (EFF, EMFF), are supporting and will further support projects for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. IMP can help to guide these funds in the right direction. For example, after the adoption of the Atlantic Strategy at the end of 2011, an Atlantic Forum has been set up to identify and promote actions and projects for sustainable growth and jobs in the Atlantic area, within existing budgets, legislation and structures. The Forum involves Atlantic Member States, coastal authorities and other stakeholders in a consultative process spread over 2012-2013 which will feed into the negotiations on Partnership Contracts and Operational Programmes prepared in the context of the Common Strategic Framework for the main European funds.

In the framework of the Atlantic Forum, and with the support of the European Commission, each Atlantic Member State will host a stakeholder consultation event in the period September 2012 to spring 2013, focusing each time on one or more of the challenges and opportunities for the Atlantic Ocean area. The first event will take place in Portugal, in the Azores (Horta, Island of Faial) on 21 September and will focus on the coastal and deep sea natural resources. I'm already looking forward very much to seeing the conclusions which should set us on course for realising new economic opportunities for our Atlantic coasts and outermost regions!

This is just one example of how the Integrated Maritime Policy can play a central role, as stimulator, facilitator and coordinator, to pave the way to sustainable growth and jobs in the European coastal regions, including the Outermost Regions.

3. Discussion: Key questions and messages from the floor, as well as responses given by the panellists. If possible please indicate names and organisations of persons intervening in the discussion.

No time was left for discussion

4. Please send us the presentations and speeches by speakers, and other documentation relevant for the workshop

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