



The Arc Manche Assembly

The Assembly comprises 5 French Regions and 7 British local authorities bordering the English Channel. The Arc Manche Assembly engages in dialogue, reflection and initiates proposals. The Assembly's two main objectives are:

- Representing the interests and the uniqueness of Arc Manche as a **coherent co-operation area in the European Union;**
 - **Strengthening the partnerships in the Channel area** by facilitating the setting-up of joint projects of varying sizes and with different categories of stakeholders.
- The Arc Manche Assembly has an Executive Committee and a

President and a Vice-President elected for two years (French and English and vice-versa). The Assembly organises an Arc Manche Conference each year, which is an opportunity for exchange and debate with stakeholders interested in contributing towards achieving the objectives of the Assembly and the development of Franco-British partnerships.

1. Région Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Région Picardie, Région Haute-Normandie, Région Basse-Normandie, Région Bretagne.

2. Kent County Council, Brighton & Hove City Council, West Sussex County Council, Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council, East Sussex County Council, Isle of Wight Council.

CONTACTS

Secretariat Arc Manche

Région Haute-Normandie

Hôtel de Région
5, rue Robert Schuman
BP 1129
76174 Rouen cedex 1
France
Tél. 0033 (0) 235 52 56 96
Fax 0033 (0) 235 52 57 65
arc-manche@cr-haute-normandie.fr

West Sussex County Council

County Hall
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RQ
United Kingdom
Tél. 0044 (0) 1243 756695
Fax 0044 (0) 1243 777697
europe-office@westsussex.gov.uk

www.arcmanche.com



Arc Manche, a common area, a shared future





Why Arc Manche?

The English Channel is one of the busiest maritime thoroughfares in the world and it has strong **characteristics:**

- a **gateway** to Europe;
- a **maritime canal** between the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea and the Baltic Sea;
- an area of interacting and overlapping economic,

environmental and logistical activities producing a **concentration of maritime opportunities and risks;**

- a vital thoroughfare for **high volumes** of people and goods;
- an area that promotes **European integration and exchange** between the UK, France and the rest of continental Europe.

Arc Manche, a geographical and political area in Europe

Arc Manche is a geographical area made up of the British and French territories bordering or in the English Channel. Since 2003 the Arc Manche is also a political project, strengthened in October 2005 by the creation of the Arc Manche Assembly.

What are the common issues on both sides of the Channel?

Arc Manche is concerned with and active on issues such as transport, port development and maritime safety, innovation, preservation

of natural and coastal environments, achieving a balance between economic and environmental interests and taking advantage of the position of the Channel in Europe.

Achievements and projects

The Arc Manche Assembly has been successful in calling for the eligibility of the whole Arc Manche area to be included in the next **Cross-border European Programme(s), which is a sign of its improved European recognition.** The aim of this programme is to promote and support common projects across borders.

Arc Manche is actively engaged in the debate on the creation of a **European Maritime Policy**, an issue of considerable importance on both sides of the Channel.

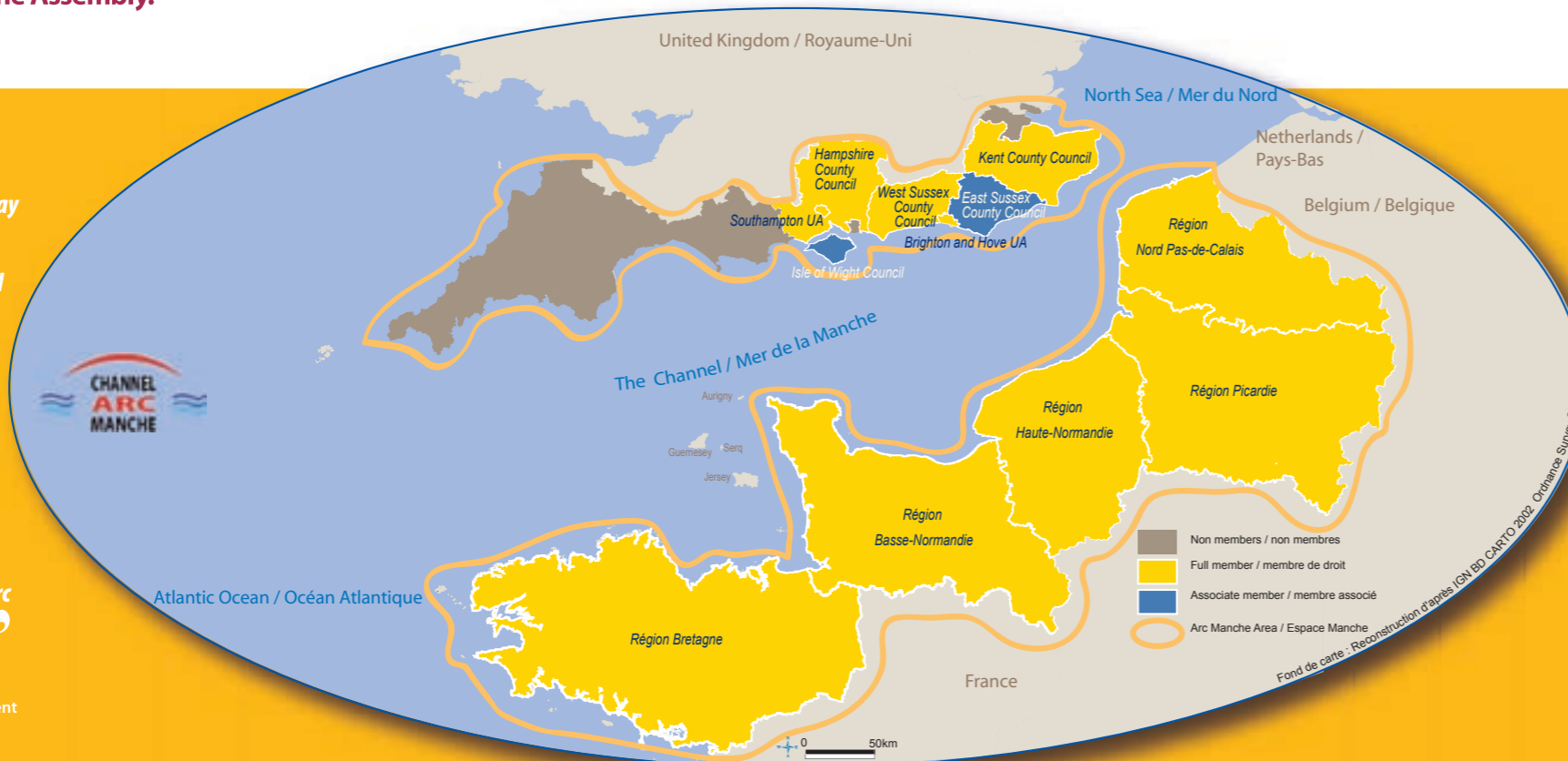
The **Espace Manche Development Initiative (EMDI)** (2004-2007) has been the Arc Manche's main ongoing project. The EMDI project's central aim is to increase Franco-British co-operation within the Channel area. The concrete outcomes of the project will

be the creation of a database of relevant information on the Channel area (statistics, maps...), production of a Strategic Vision, and implementation of pilot actions on five themes (tourism, maritime safety and transport intermodality, fisheries and fishing resources, research and development, and integrated coastal zone management). More information available at www.emdi.certic.unicaen.fr



“ *The big issues facing the world today do not always take account of territorial and administrative borders. The need is for the relevant areas to seek suitable responses and implement policies – a modern day solution is the Arc Manche Assembly* ”

Alain Le Vern
et Brad Watson,
president and vice-president
of Arc Manche Assembly



Arc Manche Facts and figures

- ▶ Coastline length : 5,500 km
- ▶ 19,220,000 inhabitants in 2002, of which 7,162,000 on the British side and 12,058,000 on the French side
- ▶ GDP of the area: 395,200 million euros in 2002
- ▶ 33.8 millions of tourists in 2004
- ▶ Between 500 and 600 vessel movements through the Channel every day
- ▶ 1,000 fishing vessels movements recorded every day
- ▶ 275 million tons of dangerous products are transported every year on the Channel