



Gijón 2010
European Maritime Day
Stakeholder Conference, 18-21 May
<http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeday>



“An integrated Atlantic strategy, a necessity for the EU” (5.5), 9.00 – 10.45

Chair: **Julie Gourden**, Director at CPMR responsible for Cohesion Policy, interregional cooperation and follow-up of the Atlantic Arc Commission.

Speakers:

- **Mrs Muriel Jozeau-Marigné**, Councillor in charge of coastal areas - Basse-Normandie Region/Presidency of the Atlantic Arc Commission
- **Luisa Rodriguez Lucas**, OSPAR Deputy Secretary
- **Luis Valente de Oliveira**, European Coordinator on the Motorways of the Seas
- **Francisco González Buendía**, Councillor in charge of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructures, Principado de Asturias
- **José Sota Verdión**, Councillor in charge of Industry and Technological development of Cantabria Region
- **Teresa Molina Schmid**, General Subdirectorate, State Secretary for the EU, Spanish Government
- **Bruno Thenail**, Coordinator of the Interreg IVA France-England CAMIS project
- **Eddy Hartog**, Head of Unit, Maritime Policy for the Arctic & Atlantic Ocean & Outermost Region in DG Mare

1. Three key messages

- A strategy for the Atlantic Area would help to address **common challenges** for Atlantic territories such as transport, environment and marine energies in an integrated manner. These challenges require a **coordinated response** from EU, national, regional and local authorities.
- The Atlantic is now on the EU agenda. The **EU Commission** will launch a consultation on the Atlantic, to prepare a communication which should be adopted during the first quarter of 2011. With regard to Member States, the Spanish government will propose that the conclusions of the next **European Council** should include an invitation to the European Commission to prepare an EU strategy for the Atlantic Region by June 2011.
- The speakers stressed some conditions to make sure that this strategy will bring an added value: **launch a wide consultation** among stakeholders to agree on the

key challenges for Atlantic territories, **focus on a limited number of topics** to ensure effective actions will be set up for the benefit of citizens and **set up an effective multilevel system of governance** to draw up and implement the strategy.

2. Summary of presentations by the panel (1-2 pages)

Mrs Muriel Jozeau-Marigné introduced the workshop by reminding the audience of the initiatives developed by the Atlantic Arc Commission to promote the idea of a strategy for the Atlantic Arc. In particular, she stressed the reasons which should justify this EU strategy: better address the challenges for Atlantic coastal territories, set up more effective governance mechanisms and prepare the future EU policies.

Luisa Rodriguez Lucas: after introducing [OSPAR's](#) organisation and objectives, she presented the current activities of her organisation. Among other responsibilities, OSPAR is in charge of implementing the [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#), which is the environmental pillar of the EU integrated maritime policy. The organisation develops tools such Quality Status Reports¹ to monitor the health status of the sea and make recommendations to Member States.

Luis Valente de Oliveira concentrated his presentation on the factors which could favour the emergence of new motorways of the sea (MOS), and especially the role of ports. He insisted on the importance of the interconnection of the MOS with other types of transport, which is a key condition for the profitability of a line. Therefore, a strong effort would be required to improve the ports' interconnectivity with rail and road transport. He believes that an EU Strategy for the Atlantic Region would be useful to coordinate the important required efforts to improve the intermodality of ports.

Francisco González Buendía, echoing Mr. Valente de Oliveira's speech, explained that the new Motorway of the Sea between Gijón and Saint-Nazaire should be operational in the coming months. He then gave an overview of the different initiatives developed by the Principality of Asturias to implement the EU integrated maritime policy. Among other things, he presented the Asturian coastal plan, the [Marea strategy](#), the actions developed by the regional government in terms of maritime safety, economic development and training.

José Sota Verdión, who was invited to speak on renewable marine energies, presented the conclusions of the [seminar](#) organised by the Government of Cantabria in partnership with the Atlantic Arc Commission and CPMR on 15-16th April. Three main topics were addressed during the seminar: first of all, José Sota gave an overview of the state of the art of renewable marine energies and described the obstacles which prevent their development (technological, legal and administrative, social and environmental

¹ Quality Status Reports examine all aspects of human influence on the sea, including contaminants, nutrient pollution and radioactive substances and the effects of human activities such as the offshore oil and gas industry, offshore wind farms, maritime transport, and fisheries. An evaluation will be made of the effectiveness of the policies being taken for the protection of the marine environment and priorities for future action will be identified, http://www.ospar.org/content/content.asp?menu=00890301390000_000000_000000

acceptability). He also underlined the strong potential of the Atlantic seafront in this area which would need to be supported. He concluded by stressing the need for a coordinated effort to be undertaken by the EU, national and regional authorities to encourage R&D investment, and also to remove the persistent barriers to the development of renewable marine energies. In this respect, a strategy for the Atlantic Area would bring a strong impetus.

Teresa Molina Schmid reaffirmed the support of the Spanish government for an integrated strategy for the Atlantic Region and explained that this idea would be proposed as a part of the conclusions of the EU Council due to take place on 17-18 June.

Bruno Thenail presented the [CAMIS project](#) which is aimed at developing the integrated maritime policy in the Channel area through concrete co-operation between stakeholders (cluster development, transport & maritime safety and resource centre), and the development of innovative tools of governance such as a cross-border transport framework, networking between local authorities to address maritime pollution, cross-border maritime cluster development and workforce development.

Eddy Hartog presented the work programme of the EU Commission regarding the Atlantic Ocean. He announced that a Communication should be adopted during the first quarter of 2011 on the Atlantic Arc. To prepare this document, a consultation will be launched during the summer, starting at the beginning of July. Among the main challenges for this area, Eddy Hartog mentioned a coherent economic development (blue jobs, cross-border dimension), the sustainability of maritime activities (in line with MFSD - Marine knowledge, MSP), connectivity (transport, energy grid, high speed internet), the human dimension (maritime heritage, employment) and maritime governance (multi-tier interaction, cross-border co-operation, International dimension).

3. Links to presentations and speeches by speakers, and other documentation relevant for the workshop

- **Muriel Jozeau-Marigné: Introductory speech**
- **Luisa Rodriguez Lucas: [Presentation](#)**
- **José Sota Verdi3n: Speech**
- **Bruno Thenail: [Presentation](#):**
- **Eddy Hartog: [Presentation](#)**

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