

Dear Colleagues,

As Vice-President of the CPMR for maritime affairs, and Councillor of Crete Region in Charge of International and EU Issues, I'm pleased to participate in this roundtable.

We are very glad to have this collaboration with SEARICA Intergroup.

My key message is that if we need a more effective and consistent European regulation, we need the contribution from the regions to engage more directly with citizens.

Let me quote three short examples :

1- The first one is Maritime Planning. To implement marine spatial plans, we have to take into account the regional planning strategy, which is directly affecting citizen's life.

2. The second is the Marine Framework Strategy Directive. The implementation of this directive is difficult. There is need for more political support. This support can come from more engagement of the citizens with the support of the regions.

3. The last example is maritime industries. There are many regulations in this field. But we would need a stronger political driver at European level to get more support from citizens. This driver can come from a stronger European strategy for maritime industrial employment. CPMR supported the LeaderShip 2020 strategy, which should be taken further.

Beyond words, CPMR is developing concrete actions in these three fields.

Dear Colleagues, in these difficult times for Europe, we need to work even more on the engagement with citizens.

Again, we welcome the fact that the Searica Intergroup is an open forum. So we fully encourage Mrs Gesine Meissner, MEP and Chair of the SEARICA Intergroup as well as Mrs Ulrike Rodust, MEP and Vice-Chair of the Intergroup, to keep on organizing this kind of open discussions.