



INTERNAL RULES OF THE INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION

(November 2015)

ARTICLE 1: General nature and objectives

The Intermediterranean Commission was created by a resolution of the General Assembly of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) passed on 13 October 1989.

The Intermediterranean Commission is part of CPMR and works under the authority of the CPMR Political Bureau.

ARTICLE 2: Composition

The Intermediterranean Commission is composed of the Presidents (or persons exercising an equivalent function) of member or associate member regions or authorities just below central government level.

ARTICLE 3: Participating Regions

Can be members of the Intermediterranean Commission:

- All member regions of the CPMR who, because of their geographic, economic or political situation are considered part of the Mediterranean area, and
- the sub-state regions and authorities of countries participating in the Euro-Mediterranean and/or the Union for the Mediterranean, associate members of the CPMR.

The member regions and associate members of the CPMR who wish to join the Intermediterranean Commission are expected to follow the following procedure:

- a. Applications must be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the Intermediterranean Commission, who will submit them for approval of the Political Bureau. The Political Bureau will decide by unanimity.
- b. The decision of the Political Bureau must be ratified by the Plenary Assembly.

All member Regions, associate members and observers of the CPMR may participate as observers in the work of the Intermediterranean Commission, after prior invitation from the Political Bureau, and under the conditions it establishes.

The Intermediterranean Commission Political Bureau may suspend the participation of a member of the Intermediterranean Commission unanimously. This suspension shall be ratified by the Intermediterranean Commission General Assembly with a majority of two thirds. The suspension must be justified. The non-payment of membership dues may constitute grounds for suspension.

This decision will then be submitted to the Political Bureau of the CPMR to rule on the continuity of the Region as a member of the CPMR and will return its decision to the CPMR Assembly.

ARTICLE 4: Objectives

To examine common issues and develop concrete Mediterranean interregional cooperation schemes to promote economic, scientific and cultural development by adopting appropriate measures, including:

- 1) To promote Euro-Mediterranean policy and the key role of regional authorities;
- 2) To promote a territorial approach to development across the whole Mediterranean basin;
- 3) To defend the specific interests of the Mediterranean regions in key European negotiations and within EU policies;
- 4) To identify and promote strategic cooperation projects on the main issues of concern to the Mediterranean area;
- 5) To pursue the development of closer links with Mediterranean networks and cooperation bodies.

ARTICLE 5: Bodies

The Commission is organised as follows:

- The President;
- The Bureau;
- The Executive Secretary;
- The Plenary Assembly.

ARTICLE 6: The President

The President is elected by the General Assembly of the Intermediterranean Commission from among its members for a term of two years, renewable only once. When the President is appointed, the Assembly shall also appoint a First Vice-President and 3 Vice-Presidents indicated by the Political Bureau members.

Four months before the end of the President's term of office, the Executive Secretary will submit a call for applications to the regions. All applications must be sent to the Executive Secretary at least **two months** before the end of the President's term, together with a brief letter of intent concerning the programme to be pursued by the Intermediterranean Commission. All applications received shall be sent to the Regions **one month** before the deadline at the latest.

The President supervises and coordinates the work of the Commission. He acts as a link between the Commission and the CPMR Political Bureau. In case of incapacity or resignation of the President, the First Vice-President shall serve as acting President. In case of resignation, a Call for Applications procedure shall be launched for the Presidency by the Secretariat of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission. If the first Vice-President is also unable, the office of President shall be exercised by the oldest Vice-President until a new President is elected.

ARTICLE 7: The Bureau

The members of the Political Bureau are elected by the Plenary Assembly for a period of two years, which may be renewed.

The composition of the Political Bureau, in line with the number of participating regions and Member States represented will be determined by applying the following calculation method:

- The Political Bureau is composed of up to half of the members Regions of the Intermediterranean Commission rounded up;
- Each member state is represented by at least one Region;
- The number of member regions in the Political Bureau for each state is calculated according to criteria which takes into account the number of IMC member regions by country (75%) and the population (25%);
- To translate these parameters into seats according to a proportionality test, we apply the Hondt rule.

- In addition, each national delegation of the Bureau (group of Regions represented for each Member State) may appoint an Alternate Member who could be called upon, exceptionally (at the beginning and/or during the mandate) to participate in certain meetings of the Bureau when one of the Full Members from the same State is unable to participate.

In the event of a tied vote, the President's vote will decide the matter.

The Bureau meets at the invitation of the President or at the initiative of a majority of its members.

In the event of a major requirement or particular need, and if the reasons are explained, the President may propose, at his initiative or at the request of a member of the Bureau, the written adoption of a decision between two Bureau meetings. In such an event, he will email the draft decision to all Bureau members, asking for a reply within 15 days. If no reply is received by the deadline, the proposal is considered approved by the Member. In the event of amendment(s), the amended version is sent to Members of the Bureau for final approval within 5 working days. If no reply is received in this period, the proposal shall be deemed approved by the Member.

The tasks of the Bureau:

- To propose topics for the Commission to work on,
- To determine working methods,
- To monitor the work undertaken by the Commission,
- To propose Commission meetings;
- To propose which resolutions to submit to the CPMR General Assembly and to adopt political resolutions between General Assemblies.

ARTICLE 8: The Secretariat of the Commission

The Secretariat is made up of a collaborator in charge of political issues, who can be appointed if necessary by the President, an Executive Secretary and an Assistant. The Secretariat is based in Rennes at the head office of the CPMR.

The Bureau appoints an Executive Secretary following a recruitment procedure under French law managed by the CPMR Secretary General. A representative of the President of the Commission shall be involved with the panel that will manage the procedure. In the event that the Executive Secretary shall be hosted by a Region, the Region shall bear the costs of the office overheads and operation.

The Executive Secretary reports to the Plenary Assembly and the Bureau. He organises the work of the Commission in accordance with its provisions and liaises with the Secretary General of the CPMR.

The Executive Secretary shall provide the Bureau members with an annual action plan along with a forecast budget.

The Executive Secretary acts as moderator during speeches made in working meetings and is responsible for drafting the minutes of each meeting.

ARTICLE 9: The Plenary Assembly

The Plenary Assembly is composed of the Presidents (or persons exercising an equivalent function) of member and associate member Regions and sub-state authorities, or by political representatives who have been given a mandate to represent the Presidents.

ARTICLE 10: Meetings of the Plenary Meeting

The Commission meets in Plenary Assembly at least once a year at the invitation of President, at his/her initiative or at the initiative of a majority of its members or at the initiative of a majority of the members of the Bureau.

At the end of each meeting, a decision is made on the date and place of the following meeting, at the prior invitation of one of the member regions. This region is responsible for organising the meeting and covering the costs.

The minutes of the meeting are sent to all members of the Commission as soon as possible by the Intermediterranean Commission Secretariat.

The meeting agenda is set by the President, further to a proposal by the Bureau. Any initiatives and suggestions made by the regions are then taken into account.

ARTICLE 11: Agreements

Agreements and resolutions are adopted by an absolute majority of the members attending each meeting.

ARTICLE 12: Working groups

The permanent working groups are designed to help provide input for the discussions and positions of the Commission with regard to priority issues for its member Regions.

The ad-hoc working groups fulfil the same objectives as permanent working groups but meet a specific need for a limited time in order to respond as closely as possible to the latest developments in the EU agenda.

Each working group is chaired by one or more member Region that shall draw up terms of reference specifying the aims, operating rules and actions to be implemented by the group. The Bureau shall approve the creation of a group and the termination of its work when the members deem that the objectives have been achieved or there is no longer any interest in continuing.

ARTICLE 13: Financial management

The Commission shall have the following resources available to ensure it is properly managed:

- a) A contribution from the Regions, in the form of an annual fixed payment, the amount of which shall be decided annually by the Commission;
- b) Possible contributions from the CPMR;
- c) Contributions via the Commission's active participation in EU initiatives such as projects, programmes, open tenders, etc.

The Political Bureau can take the decision to involve the Commission in European projects of interest to the Commission itself, on a proposal from one or more member Regions, presented to the Executive Secretary. Participation may not be accepted unless all Regions of the Commission have been given prior notification and unless financial coverage is guaranteed with the funds available to the Commission (verified by the Executive Secretary). Where appropriate, reference may be made to the procedure laid down in Article 7. Any participation in a project is decided and prepared in time to meet deadlines, informing the CPMR Secretary General who shall decide on behalf of the IMC-CPMR.

The contributions from the Regions and European Union funding is paid into a special account in Rennes (France) managed by the Secretary General of the CPMR.

The Region which hosts the meetings of the Bureau and the Commission shall bear the costs of the organisation and simultaneous interpretation.