



Marstrand Declaration

Adopted by the CPMR North Sea Commission Annual Business Meeting

25 June – Marstrand, Sweden

The regions of the CPMR North Sea Commission (NSC) met in Marstrand (Västra Götaland, SE) on the 25th of June 2019 for the 28th NSC Annual Business Meeting. On behalf of its members, the North Sea Commission wishes to convey the following messages:

We are entering a new era of European cooperation, an era which will be crucial in deciding what the Future of Europe can and should be. The geographical borders of the Union will change with the UK leaving the EU, which will put emphasis on how we cooperate on our European common goods in the North Sea Region.

With a new European Parliament and European Commission taking office this year there is an opportunity for European leaders to initiate a profound alteration of the way we run our societies and economies to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C, contribute to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure that EU policies and priorities are delivered in partnership with regional authorities.

To ensure a healthy North Sea and immediate action to tackle the climate emergency, the NSC:

1. **Urges** all levels of government to commit to accelerate actions to reduce marine litter by 2030. We depend on healthy oceans to survive. The ocean is the largest ecosystem on Earth, it is the planet's life support system.
2. **Calls on** the EU and national governments to commit to accelerate actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reach net zero emissions as soon as possible.
3. **Stresses** the need to facilitate for a speedy transition to a climate-neutral society and provide strong support to energy efficiency, renewable energy and emission cuts outside the energy sector. The North Sea Region's role as Europe's renewable energy hub can be even further

developed through technical and legislative harmonisation, interconnectors, and new energy solutions.

To ensure an ambitious agenda for Europe, the NSC:

4. **Urges** the EU to recognise the role of regions in reaching EU objectives. At a time when important current and emerging challenges are located at the borders of Europe, maritime regions are emerging as more strategic actors in this geopolitical context.
5. **Calls for** an ambitious EU strategy for 2030 responding to the Sustainable Development Goals as a coherent roadmap for Europe on the basis of the reflection paper: Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030. These challenges unite us globally and we must all contribute to reach the same goal.
6. **Stresses** that such a strategy should be based on common goals and guide the allocation of EU funding, especially in cohesion policy and the structural and investment funds to ensure effective implementation at regional level.

To ensure a strong North Sea cooperation in the Brexit era, the NSC:

7. **Urges** the EU and national governments to recognise that cooperation frameworks such as macroregional and sea-basin strategies are more relevant than ever in the North Sea Region and calls upon the EU institutions and member states to seriously consider such strategies. As long as a macroregional strategy is not adopted for the North Sea, the approval of a new Interreg North Sea Region Programme has to be open to solutions beyond macroregional strategies.
8. **Calls on** the EU to ensure that INTERREG programmes continue to support cooperation with non-EU countries and maintain the current strands. In this context it is of utmost importance to maintain a dedicated programme for the North Sea Region with sufficient resources to ensure a continued smooth cooperation between the regions in the EU, UK and Norway.
9. **Stresses** that the development of cooperation mechanisms with the UK nations and local authorities in the context of Brexit must be a priority and requests the EU and UK to agree on arrangements minimising the negative impacts for the North Sea Region.

The CPMR North Sea Commission

The CPMR North Sea Commission represents 32 regional authorities in Denmark, England, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Scotland and Sweden. We have been working since 1989 to create partnerships between our members and to promote the interests of the North Sea Region in Europe, specifically in the fields of marine resources, accessibility and sustainable transport, energy and climate change and prosperous and sustainable communities.

We are part of the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions, a leading regional interest organisation and think tank with 160 member regions across Europe.