



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 – 2014

Committee on Regional Development

2010/2040(INI)

27.7.2010

OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Transport and Tourism

on Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) – Evaluation of progress made and new challenges
(2010/2040(INI))

Rapporteur: Georgios Stavrakakis

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Regional Development calls on the Committee on Transport and Tourism, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Empowered by the reference to territorial cohesion in the TFEU, and with the aim of improving accessibility, considers it essential to continue to make the mobility of passengers and goods an integral part of internal market policy through the promotion of short sea shipping and maritime cabotage between territories and, at the same time, ensure better links between peripheral maritime regions, outermost regions and islands and mainland and economic centres; in the same context, points out that it is of crucial importance to deal with the difficulties facing island areas in the EU, in particular small island communities, with regard to the transport of persons and goods by supporting maritime links not adequately served by the market and by guaranteeing the same cost per kilometre for the transport of people, regardless of their location; calls for concrete measures for the outermost regions taking account of their distinctive features;
2. Recalls the particular vulnerability of coastal regions and islands to the impact of climate change; stresses that planning of all developments along the Community's extensive coastline, including its hinterland, must take into account the consequences of climate change; suggests that vulnerability to climate change be considered when shaping future regional policy in order not to jeopardise the implementation of the integrated maritime policy (IMP);
3. Draws attention to the need to enhance regional maritime cooperation within an integrated framework in order to strengthen maritime sectors, create sustainable economic growth and new jobs in maritime regions, deal with the negative effects of insularity, protect the maritime ecosystems, especially through research and maritime surveillance, and encourage the exchange and transfer of best practices; stresses in this context the contribution made by regional policy through its territorial cooperation objective; calls for a comprehensive and easily understood system of protection of coastal areas and seas to assist regional planning;
4. Stresses the need for coherence between maritime and terrestrial spatial planning that keeps in mind the ecosystem-based approach; notes that territorial cooperation is particularly important for the protection of cross-border sensitive marine areas;
5. Taking into account the fact that maritime regions, including coastal regions, islands and outermost regions, have their own specific characteristics which require specific solutions, stresses the need to encourage tailored local development strategies driven by a bottom-up consultation process and to discourage the 'one size fits all' approach; considers, therefore, that integrated maritime governance is essential in order to avoid any overlapping of competences between different levels of government and to enhance cooperation and dialogue with local and regional authorities, coastal communities, civil-society actors and other maritime stakeholders; against this background, favours the establishment and development of strategies for the EU's maritime macro-regions in the context of strategic approaches for regional maritime areas;

6. Nevertheless, as a way of tackling common problems, priorities and challenges in a larger geographical sphere, including different Member States, recommends the Commission, in the light of the EU2020 Strategy, to analyse the opportunity of promoting a ‘macro-regional’ approach based on objective 3 of the regulation on structural funds, which states that any ‘macro-regional’ strategy should be incorporated in the EU’s regional policy, resulting in a coordinated policy for the whole territory of the EU; highlights the need to analyse the added value of this strategy for the implementation of the objective of territorial cohesion within the territory of the Union; this should also be done for maritime policy, with a view to fostering development and to better implementation of EU maritime policy in coastal and outermost regions within a coherent, comprehensive strategy;
7. Draws attention to the particular importance of the maritime economy for those Member States with large Exclusive Economic Zones, and to the need to promote the development of maritime economic clusters and to boost their contribution to growth and employment under the EU2020 Strategy;
8. Proposes that cooperation be stepped up on islands/coastal issues and efforts made to map out a possible integrated approach to maritime policies and measures in order to promote their characteristics and priorities within the framework of the integrated maritime policy;
9. Supports the integration of the remote maritime regions and the islands into the ‘maritime highways’, in order to boost sustainable mobility, intermodality and the internal market; in this context, suggests the development of regional initiatives in the framework of the ‘motorways of the sea’ in European maritime areas of high importance in order to encourage the introduction of new intermodal maritime-based logistics chains in Europe and to enhance the development of maritime commerce; in the same framework, calls on the Commission to launch an impact assessment on the desirability of, and conditions for, establishing more ‘motorways of the sea’;
10. Given the risks to which coastal regions in particular are exposed, points out the importance of maritime safety measures, which require joint efforts encompassing maritime policy and measures and cooperation in other policy areas at EU level;
11. Calls on the Commission to place the outermost regions at the heart of the international dimension of maritime policy as outposts of the Union in their respective maritime areas, as set out in its Communication of 26 May 2004, on a stronger partnership for the outermost regions (COM(2004)0343) and to come forward with maritime regional strategies for the outermost regions; considers, therefore, that these territories could play a pivotal role in the international dimension of the integrated maritime policy (IMP) and calls on the Commission to incorporate a maritime dimension into its international agreements with regional sub-groups;
12. Recognises that an increase in the development of maritime energy production will cause pressure on the leisure, tourist, fishing and freight industries, and calls for cooperation between regions to protect these interests, with particular attention being paid to fishing, which has a special place in the maritime economy of coastal regions.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	13.7.2010
Result of final vote	+: 39 -: 1 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	François Alfonsi, Luís Paulo Alves, Charalampos Angourakis, Catherine Bearder, Victor Boştinaru, Zuzana Brzobohatá, John Bufton, Alain Cadec, Salvatore Caronna, Francesco De Angelis, Tamás Deutsch, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Danuta Maria Hübner, Filiz Hakaeva Hyusmenova, Seán Kelly, Evgeni Kirilov, Petru Constantin Luhan, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Riikka Manner, Iosif Matula, Erminia Mazzoni, Miroslav Mikolášik, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Franz Obermayr, Jan Olbrycht, Wojciech Michał Olejniczak, Markus Pieper, Monika Smolková, Georgios Stavrakakis, Csanád Szegedi, Nuno Teixeira, Michael Theurer, Michail Tremopoulos, Oldřich Vlasák, Kerstin Westphal, Hermann Winkler, Joachim Zeller
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Karima Delli, Ivars Godmanis, Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid, Vilja Savisaar, Elisabeth Schroedter