

MEETING ON THE PACT OF ISLANDS FUTURE TOWARDS 2020

Draft agenda

1. Comments on the draft proposal
2. Discussion on the procedure for providing support to the Pact of Islands through funding of a post ISLE-PACT project (Timetable, follow-up, specifications, framework)
3. Discussion on the synergies with other budget lines and/or initiatives (e.g. Integrated Maritime Policy)
4. Discussion on the co-operation with other regional frameworks and schemes (CoM, Smart Cities, CoM Asia, ENPI, etc)

Summary of the proposal

The main scope of the June 21st meeting is to formulate a proposal to the Budget Committee of the European Parliament with regards to the support of the recently created Pact of Islands (Pol) for the period 2012-2015 through funding of a post ISLE-PACT project. The budget will cover mainly the expenses of the Technical and Scientific Secretary of the Pol, travel expenses of associated bodies, the remuneration of few external experts and the expenses of meetings, workshops and related events. The estimated budget for the 36 month project is 5M€, with 4M€ being the EC contribution (80%) and 1M€ (20%) from the islands and regions participating in the Pol.

Secondly, the meeting will focus on the identification of the best possible structure that would reflect the political actors (EP, EC, AGM of Mayors and CPMR) and its mission. As basis for the discussion, a possible structure could be:

- A Steering Committee with representatives from EC, EP and CPMR
- A Technical and Scientific Secretary (T&SS)

It could be split in two parts based possibly in different locations:

- One (TS) for the coordination and operational support (e.g reporting)
- One (SS) for the development of methodological and scientific tools (e.g indicators) for the SEAPs, the implementation of the actions/measures/projects, the monitoring
- The AGM of Mayors and Regional authorities

More specifically:

- The Steering Committee (SC) will set up priorities and directions according to the related European policies and framework programmes. The members of the SC will be the links between the Pact of Islands and the financial mechanisms.
- The role of the TS will be to organise meetings, to disseminate information, to undertake the reporting obligations of the members
- The role of the SS will be to assist the Pol members on methodological issues, to monitor the bankable projects, to contribute to the formulation of common proposals (including the associated workshops and consultation meetings), to work out for the cooperation with similar institutions and/or programmes and provide to the SC members with the necessary information.
- The role of AGM will be to discuss and approve political proposals (e.g new members and international cooperation)

Short Analysis

Regions and Island municipalities, through their active participation in structures such as the Islands Commission of CPMR, the Covenant of Mayors, the Pact of Islands etc can formulate concrete policy proposals regarding island mobilisation for tackling climate change that may go even beyond EU existing policies and measures.

The actions and initiatives on energy efficiency, the energy saving measures in buildings and infrastructures, the promotion of renewable energy, the further development of bio-energy and alternative fuels in transport and the upgrade of electricity grids, will support and boost local economies, will multiply employment opportunities and create new jobs, and will assist all island stakeholders to become familiar with innovative solutions for sustainable local development.

Furthermore, through the schemes presented above, as well as through voluntary agreements, the capacity of island regions to adopt and implement sustainable local planning and to take critical political decisions on specific quantitative targets will be significantly increased. What's more, island authorities will get closer to their local societies and new opportunities will emerge that will encourage dialogue and facilitate cooperation inspired by the concept "Think globally, act locally".

This European islands' co-operation can have the following priorities:

- The formulation of island specific energy and environment policy proposals to the CPMR and the European Commission for the enhancement of the regional energy policy for islands, in order to facilitate financial support for the development and implementation of island-scale projects based on sustainable planning and revolving funds - rather than once-off grant financing. By doing so island authorities can recycle financial resources in order to enhance and accelerate investments.
- The further enhancement of revolving of funds in order to gain access to complementary financing tools so that the implementation of projects would have a longer term horizon.
- The creation of capacity building structures for the staff of island authorities
- The gradual specialisation of islands in different technology sectors on the basis of each island's special characteristics and advantages, preferences and know-how available
- The co-operation with international organisations, such as IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency)
- The expansion of the Pact of Islands in neighboring to EU areas

The political framework of the Pact of Islands is given by the declaration of the CPMR Islands Commission's 31st General Assembly that took place in Saaremaa, Estonia, on the 19th and 20th May 2011. In the declaration, the 2011 Annual Conference of the CPMR Islands Commission asks the European Parliament to continue providing its support to European island communities by initiating a new Declaration in favour of the continuation of the Pact of Islands process with the view to achieving the EU 2020 sustainability objectives.

ANNEXES

1. THE ISLE PACT PROJECT (2010 – 2012)

The ISLE-PACT project is committed to developing Local Sustainable Energy Action Plans and a pipeline of bankable projects with the aim of meeting or exceeding the EU sustainability target of reducing CO₂ emissions by at least 20% by the year 2020. The project's duration is 30 months, 1 February 2010 – 31 July 2012. It is co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate General for Energy.

The project is expected to deliver important outputs from the on-going analysis and study of critical parameters of sustainable energy planning within the island regions that are represented in the consortium:

- Outer Hebrides of Scotland
- Gotland and partly the B7 islands, Sweden
- Samsø, Denmark
- Madeira and Azores, Portugal
- Canary and Balearic islands, Spain
- Sardinia, Italy
- Malta
- Cyprus
- Aegean islands and Crete, Greece

There are 13 months remaining till the end of the ISLE-PACT project and the main expected results briefly are:

1. The development of methodologies for the energy profiling of islands, CO₂ calculations, establishment of Sustainable Energy Actions Plans (SEAPs) and monitoring mechanisms
2. The formulation for each region of at least three bankable projects, so for the total more than thirty projects related with SEAPs and serving as models for other similar projects in the near future
3. The identification of appropriate financial tools, mechanisms and funding opportunities for the realisation of the above projects taking in account the specific character of the islands and their commitment to fulfil their obligations under the Covenant of Mayors and Pact of Islands initiatives
4. The involvement of the maximum of number of local and regional authorities in the above schemes and pushing them to participate actively
5. The creation of the pre-conditions to continue the islands cooperation beyond the 2012 and find collective support structures for tasks as:
 - Monitoring of ISEAPs
 - Monitoring of CO₂ emissions
 - Monitoring of implementation of Bankable Projects
 - Expansion of the bankable projects & financing tools

2. A PROPOSAL FOR THE PACT OF ISLANDS STRUCTURE

