

Declaration of intent for intensifying cooperation in the Blue Economy at transatlantic level

ATLANTIC CROSS-SHORE: Creation of a Transatlantic Blue Hub

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1. SCOPE

Considering the historical relations between the different populations, cultures and nations within the Atlantic Area including non-EU Regions such as Wales and Québec;

Considering the different Atlantic networks, organisations and strategies as well as EU funding programmes that have structured and deepened the cooperation in the EU Atlantic area ;

Considering the changing global and regional geopolitical contexts, whereby the world order is restructuring, and new partnerships of cooperation need to be developed;

Considering the existing and future trade agreements between Canada and the EU and the UK and the EU;

Considering the need to reinforce the innovation and reindustrialisation of the regions within Europe within the framework of the Clean Industrial Deal and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals;

Considering the intentions of Atlantic Regional Authorities member of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) to enhance even more this cooperation between Atlantic regions (EU and non-EU), including outermost regions, and Atlantic socio-economic agents, in a macro-regional framework;

Considering also the development of an Irish Sea framework between UK and Irish Regions;

Considering the Transatlantic pilot project, supported by the European Parliament and the European Commission, launched in December 2023 for a 2-year timeframe, and implemented by CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission, Forum Oceano, CEIMAR, the Welsh and Québec Governments, to experiment a cooperation scheme at Transatlantic level between EU and non-EU Atlantic regions and their socio-economic agents in the field of maritime industries;

Considering that the Transatlantic pilot project has identified thanks to its multi-sectoral missions to Québec and Wales, new cooperation potentialities between Atlantic universities, clusters, SMEs, Ports and Regions in the field of blue economy such as green shipping, offshore and marine renewable energies, aquaculture and fisheries and cross-cutting themes such as AI, circular economy and adapting skills to business needs.



2. OBJECTIVES AND AMBITIONS

The objective and the ambition of this declaration of intent is to maintain a continued commitment from the participating core organisations in the activities of the TRANSATLANTIC Pilot Project and to enrich the cooperation between Atlantic EU and non-EU Regions.

Therefore, these core organisations, embedded in their socio-economic and institutional networks, will find pathways to build up on the results of the Pilot project and proactively maintain this cooperation in a short term and ensure their effects in the long term, in order to support the maritime recovery of the Atlantic regions:

- An attractive Atlantic area
- A sustainable and competitive Atlantic economy
- An inter-connected Atlantic area
- A communicative Atlantic area, in respect of all cultures and regional identities
- An Atlantic area resilient to climate change and preserving ecosystems
- A socially and culturally cohesive Atlantic Area favouring new partnerships at subnational levels.

3. PRIORITY ACTIONS

- a. Commit to maintain and intensify the contacts between organisations, enterprises, clusters, universities, ports and port communities that participated in the on-field missions of the Transatlantic pilot project via the support to this declaration of intent.
- b. Commit to share information related to the Atlantic Blue Economy on a permanent basis by nurturing a digital platform with research outcomes, business fairs and business offers, opportunities of collaboration between maritime test infrastructures, final results of Atlantic/international projects, funding opportunities and all relevant information that can contribute to reinforce Atlantic regions ecosystems within the scope of the Transatlantic Pilot Project.
- c. Agree to identify one contact person per support organisation to participate in regular meetings to advance on exchanging data and partnerships development identified during the transatlantic pilot project, such as:
 - The development of green shipping, including strategic commitment of the maritime industries and related research institutions, or
 - The strengthening of maritime skills in the Atlantic regions in line with the research and the need of maritime industries, or
 - The identification of the transnational supply chain opportunities in the maritime renewable energy and seafood sector, in line with related research and industry needs.



4. FUNDING

Joint efforts are taken by the partners in order to secure the funding in order to support and to strengthen the Atlantic synergies within the blue economy;

Joint efforts are made in order to open regional funding to support connections between partners identified during the transatlantic pilot project ; the funding of Agile Cymru, focusing on the creation of partnerships between different types of institutions, organisation or enterprises from Wales and other regions, is a low-threshold initiative that deserves to be followed in other regions of the Atlantic Ocean;

Horizon Europe, Erasmus+ calls and other EU programmes where non-EU regions can be associated will be assessed to support consortium development that have come to a more mature stage, insofar the maritime reality is valorised;

The signatories will explore the possibility to engage in discussion on the post 2027 Interreg programmes to facilitate Welsh and Québec stakeholders' participation.

5. TIMEFRAME

This Declaration shall take effect upon agreement by the Parties and will remain valid for an initial period of 2 years, after which it may be reviewed and renewed by mutual consent. The period starts one the month after the closing of the Transatlantic Pilot project.

6. NON-BINDING NATURE

This Declaration of Intent is not legally binding but reflects the shared commitment of the core Parties of the Transatlantic pilot project in order to pursue cooperative efforts in the development of the blue economy within the overall Atlantic region in good faith. This declaration of intent can be signed by any other institution, organisation or enterprise that is willing to commit to the ambitions and objectives of this declaration of intent and that can contribute to the realisation of the priority actions.

7. FOUNDING ORGANISATIONS

<p>CPMR ATLANTIC ARC COMMISSION</p>	
<p>CEIMAR</p>	



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Associated Partners

Québec

Forum Oceano	 FORUM OCEANO CLUSTER DA ECONOMIA DO MAR
Nation of Wales	 Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government
Province of Québec	Québec 

8. SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Ad Mare Solutions	 SOLUÇÕES AMBIENTAIS INTEGRADAS, Lda. AD MARE SOLUTIONS
Bilbao Port	 Bilbao PORT
Centre d'expertise en logistique portuaire	 CENTRE D'EXPERTISE EN LOGISTIQUE PORTUAIRE
Centre de recherche sur les biotechnologies marines	 crbm centre de recherche sur les biotechnologies marines
CEVAL	 CEVAL CONFEDERAÇÃO EMPRESARIAL DO ALTO MINHO
CIDCO	 CIDCO



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Associated Partners



<p>CRENEAU</p>	 <p>CRÉNEAU Ressources · Sciences Technologies Marines</p>
<p>Croisières du Saint-Laurent</p>	 <p>CROISIÈRES DU SAINT- LAURENT</p>
<p>Donegal County Council</p>	 <p>Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall Donegal County Council</p>
<p>Green Marine International</p>	 <p>GREEN MARINE INTERNATIONAL</p>
<p>Innovation Maritime</p>	 <p>INNOVATION MARITIME</p>
<p>INREST</p>	 <p>Inrest</p>
<p>La Vague Corporation d'innovation et de développement des Îles-de-la-Madeleine</p>	 <p>LA VAGUE Corporation d'innovation et de développement des Îles</p>
<p>MERINOV</p>	 <p>merinov réinventer la mer</p>
<p>MTE Instruments</p>	 <p>MTE Instruments</p>



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Québec

<p>Oceanriot</p>	
<p>Puerto de Avilés</p>	
<p>Puerto de Gijón</p>	
<p>Réseau Québec Maritime</p>	
<p>Réseau de recherche en économie circulaire du Québec</p>	
<p>Saint-Lawrence Economic Development Council</p>	
<p>Saint-Lawrence Global Observatory</p>	



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Québec



<p>S²AQUA</p>	
<p>SODIM</p>	
<p>Universidad de Huelva</p>	
<p>Universidad de Oviedo</p>	
<p>UQAR</p>	
<p>Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières</p>	
<p>Whale Seeker</p>	