



Commission des Iles ▶ Islands Commission ▶ Ö-kommissionen ▶ Επιτροπή των Νησιών  
Comisión de las Islas ▶ Comissão das Ilhas ▶ Commissione delle Isole  
Saarte Komisjon ▶ Kummissjoni ta'Gúejjer ▶ Ø Kommission

Rennes, 22 March 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached the conclusions of the seminar on island transport, jointly organised by the CPMR Islands Commission and Bornholms Regionskommune that took place in Bornholm (DK) on 18 & 19 February 2010.

These conclusions were presented on 16 March to the **European Commissioner in charge of Transport, Mr Kallas** on the occasion of the visit organised by the B7 Islands (the 7 islands of the Baltic Sea).

During this talk, Commissioner Kallas said that he was broadly in favour regarding giving "more flexibility" to the rules on the imposition of public service constraints on international maritime routes to or from islands. However, he doubted that EU TEN-T money would be able to provide assistance for that purpose through the Motorways of the Sea funding, since the TEN-T budget was very small in comparison with the EU's huge needs in terms of transport infrastructures.

He said he was in favour of extending the maximum duration of public service contracts, but he thought that 12 years was somewhat long, except perhaps in exceptional cases.

Concerning the explicit possibility of using Structural Funds to finance the purchase of vessels to ensure public service missions with islands (the eligibility of such expenditure has sometimes been called into question), the Commissioner has indicated that he had no objection for ferries being financed by the SF and he would discuss this with his colleague in DG Regio.

Furthermore, Commissioner Kallas has been petitioned by the representative of Åland concerning the issue of the impact on shipping on the legislation to reduce sulphur and nitrogen emissions. The conditions of application of this measure are likely to increase substantially the cost of shipping for EU companies (for EU-flagged vessels). Mr Kallas said that though he understood the problem, little could be done about it, partly because this is an IMO issue.

Finally, please note that this issue will be presented by the Government of the Åland Islands on the occasion of our next annual conference that will take place in the Azores.

Yours sincerely,

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CPMR Islands Commission Executive Secretary



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