THE MARITIME GEOGRAPHY OF THE EUROPEAN PENINSULAR

1. This article is an adapted short version of a paper prepared in the framework of an EU 7th Research Programme project EU4SEAS: EU’s Strategy on Maritime and Environmental Issues in the Four Seas; multilateral approaches in the Baltic, Black, Caspian and Mediterranean seas. Y. Henocque and X. Lafon. 2011


preparedness and response, and construction of port reception facilities for ships' wastes, a major concern in the four seas; • the impact of increasing urbanization and coastal development on marine coastal ecosystems, requiring capacity building in support of integrated coastal management; • conservation and management of marine and coastal ecosystems, including protected areas. Although over-exploitation or depletion of living marine resources, including fisheries, is a major concern, this aspect is mainly in the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations' hands; • monitoring, reporting and assessing the marine environment, to fill the need for more accurate and technical information.

**Working with other regional organisations**

Given the over-fishing in the three seas (UNCLOS does not apply to the Caspian Sea), it is essential to link the EU Common Fisheries Policy to their respective regional fisheries organisations.

**Security and good governance**

In the four seas, with a special emphasis on the Mediterranean, Black and Caspian seas, the European Parliament recommends that the EU can and should play a more active role in shaping their security environment through enhanced EU cooperation. Creating linkages between security and environment observation systems could be very beneficial to the development of appropriate strategies.

**GEF Partnerships**

The three seas, the Baltic, Mediterranean and Black seas, are considered as large marine ecosystems (LME). The GEF/LME approach makes it an important framework for consistent information for GEF/LME methodology of Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), followed by Strategic Action Plan (SAP) development which generates the strategy for each LME.

**Working with regions and macro-regions**

On many occasions, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) emphasized the peripheral Regions' capacity as outposts and the important role they can play in contributing to the EU Neighbourhood Policy at the EU's borders, which is the case of the four seas. Overall, the EU 2020 strategy, through possible macro-regions, will need to be built on a multi-scale or "nested" governance system.

**Some strategic recommendations**

These strategic recommendations concern the four European regional border seas mentioned above but their essence could well be considered in regard to other regional seas like the Sea of Japan, or on a larger scale, the South China Sea.

- Given their strategic importance at the boundaries of the EU, each of the four seas' strategy should be an integral part of the EU's broader foreign and security vision where security, good governance, energy, transport, environment, socio-economic and human development shall be considered as priority actions;  

- The development of synergies between the various EU policies that come into play in each of the four seas' strategy should be systematically promoted, particularly the Trans-European Transport and Energy Networks, the Structural Funds, the Environment policies including the agriculture and fisheries related ones, and the Research and Development Framework Programme;  

- Since the state of the four seas is highly dependent on the state of their coastal areas, there should be a clear operational link between the EU ICZM and its Integrated Maritime Policy as an essential building block for further work on maritime spatial planning in the double context of the EU Marine Strategy framework directive and the GEF Partnerships' initiatives, including its Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) main components;  

- As a component of the Integrated Maritime Policy and in close collaboration with the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) should be considered in each of the four seas' strategies on an equal footing with the other European basins, including provisions to encourage the riparian states outside the EU to comply as closely as possible with the principles of the CFP;  

- In the name of the European Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research, each regional sea should benefit from the establishment of a specific Marine and Maritime Research Forum as a forum for dialogue and partnership involving existing networks and all key partners in the marine and maritime research and industrial sectors;  

- Cross-border cooperation between regions should be enhanced using frameworks such as the European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) and structured networks supported by, among others, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) for developing multi-level forms of governance.

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10. CPMR. 2010. 38th General Assembly of the CPMR. Final Declaration and Resolutions.