

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

ON

## EUROPEAN STRAITS INITIATIVE

(ESI)



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**(ESI)**

WITH REGARD TO the geographical discontinuity of the local authorities on either side of Straits, increasingly concentrated economic and transportation flows – and therefore environmental risks – linked especially to the significant development of cross-border conurbations, means that the transformation of Straits into economic gateways substantially changes their overall dynamic.

WHEREAS the capacity of Straits to be relevant stakeholders in future development is not supported by any specific European developmental or financial instruments.

WITH REGARD TO the strong involvement of local authorities in European territorial cooperation programmes, amongst which INTERREG IV A, IV B and IV C, and the long experience of the parties concerned in cross border cooperation since 1992,

WHEREAS the general framework of those programmes does not meet the expectations of these local authorities whose particular circumstances are linked to their specific geographical situation bordering national and binational Straits,

WITH REGARD TO current territorial cohesion policy which is targeted on non-maritime and non-coastal areas,

WHEREAS Straits are both maritime and coastal areas with the characteristic of being separate hinterland territories sharing common maritime areas.

WITH REGARD to the integrated maritime policy, currently under review, which aims to integrate all aspects of coastal policies along the 70,000 km of European coastline,

WHEREAS the majority of coastal and territorial policies as regards economy, environment, migration, transport are focused on Straits which makes them privileged observatories and laboratories for the implementation of such policies.

THEREFORE

Several local authorities decided to come together

During summer 2009 Kent County Council (Kent) and the Conseil Général du Pas-de-Calais (Pas-de-Calais) invited local authorities (mostly NUTS 2 and 3 level) to express their interest in the issue.

During autumn 2009, Euregio Tallinn-Helsinki invited Pas-de-Calais for a European meeting at Rail Baltica in Tallinn, in presence of the European Commission.

It was then decided to organise a first technical meeting on 15 and 16 March 2010 in Arras (France) aimed at the development of a common project and to share views on the issues faced by Straits.

Following that, a second technical meeting took place on 27, 28 and 29 September in Messina (Italy). This technical meeting on the one hand integrated new partners, and on the other hand strengthened the wish of the parties to formalise an agreement.

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding agree on the following:

## **Article 1 – General aims**

This Memorandum of Understanding is aimed at:

- 1- Gaining recognition of the particular characteristics of European Straits within European policies and integrating these within European programmes and European Structural Funds for 2014-2020;
- 2- Working for the emergence of cooperation projects, either through INTERREG programmes or other European programmes, developing mutual cooperation and implementing common actions and projects, in order to promote economic development, coastal protection, transportation and logistics, intercultural working and tourism activities.

## **Article 2 – Implementation**

This Memorandum will be implemented through:

- the organisation of meetings with relevant European Union institutions and networks
- the submission of an INTERREG IV C bid in 2011, whose lead partner will be the Conseil Général du Pas-de-Calais
- any other relevant actions.

## **Article 3 – Management of the Memorandum**

This Memorandum will be managed by at least one annual meeting composed of the relevant representatives of each party.

Each meeting will establish the date and location of the following meeting.

## **Article 4 – Communication and dissemination**

Each party is responsible for sending this Memorandum of Understanding to relevant local, national and European authorities.

### **Article 5 – Ratification**

The present Memorandum is subject to ratification by each party.

### **Article 6 - Duration of the Memorandum of Understanding**

This Memorandum is of four years' duration following its signature and may be jointly renewed by the parties.

The Memorandum may be amended and modified by the parties by written amendment.

### **Article 7 – Principles**

The preambles form an integral part of this Memorandum.


The parties are free to enter into cooperation with third parties not involved in this Memorandum.

New parties may enter into the Memorandum with approval from the majority of the parties.

A party may withdraw its membership by sending a letter to the members of the partnership.

Read, approved and signed  
Calais, November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010

Dominique DUPILET  
Président du Département du Pas-de-Calais  
Membre honoraire du Parlement



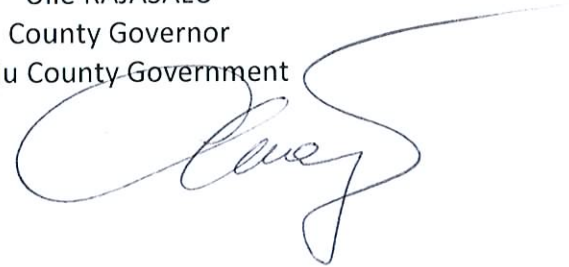
Alex KING  
Deputy Leader  
Kent County Council



Alessandra GIUDICI  
President  
Province of Sassari



Ülle RAJASALU  
County Governor  
Harju County-Government



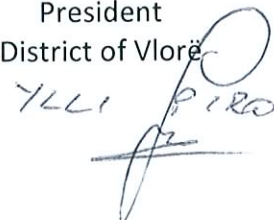
Christina KNOOKALA  
Director  
Kvarken Council



Send Erik HOVMAND  
Former-Minister – Vice president  
Fehmarn Belt Committee

Giampaolo D'ANGELO  
Responsible of the PMIBB  
EGTC project / Attorney  
Maddalena Park

Ylli PIRO  
President  
District of Vlorë



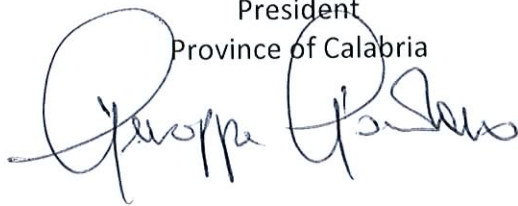
Francesco PACELLA  
Counsellor of Tourism policy  
Territorial marketing,  
Agriculture and maritime resources  
Province of Lecce



Antonino CARBONARO  
Chief of Cabinet of the President  
Province of Messina



Giuseppe GIORDANO  
President  
Province of Calabria



Pierre GHIONGA  
President  
Office de l'environnement de Corse

Luan MUCAJ  
Chairman  
District of Fier

Girolamo TURANO  
President  
Province of Trapani



Jari SAINIO  
Vice President of the Board  
UUsimaa Regional Council