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Atlantic Networks together **to promote the good governance of the Atlantic Strategy**

Common position document of the AAC¹, the CAAC², the ATN³ and the AC3A⁴
(April 2013)

Within the framework of the process that began in 2008 in favour of adopting an integrated European strategy for the Atlantic Arc, the Atlantic Networks, key elements for the union between the Atlantic territories, the economic and social actors, citizens and European organisations, **share their proposals here in favour of the good governance of the Atlantic Strategy.**

After a year of consultations in the Atlantic Forum, it is worth highlighting that all the actors, regardless of their governance level, are in agreement regarding the goal to achieve: **generate sustainable growth and labour for the whole Atlantic Arc.**

The Atlantic Networks point out that the European calendar is favourable for the adoption of a European strategy for the Atlantic Region. The Irish Presidency during the first semester of 2013 is an extraordinary opportunity to politically take the Atlantic Macro-region project to the highest level of the European Union.

Within this context, the networks that for years have been constituted on the Atlantic facade are now calling out to the European Commission and the Leadership Group for a hasty mobilization in order to take advantage of their experience and knowledge and encourage the process for setting up the Atlantic Strategy. The Atlantic Arc's reality must not be overlooked. These networks, which are deeply rooted within the territories, constitute essential driving forces for an effective execution of the projects in the Atlantic territories. Their capacity to establish a direct and effective link between the territorial actors, whether public or private, will allow for a better adoption of the Strategy by citizens and the actors of the Atlantic Area. It is a question of strengthening the bottom-up dynamics that are essential for the development and execution of the Atlantic Strategy.

In the same way as the European Parliament, the Atlantic Networks want the Strategy to include a **permanent coordination platform** to make it possible to handle critical issues for the territories of the Atlantic Area on a daily basis. The workshops organised within the framework of the Forum have underlined certain problems through the opening of a specific consultation. We are convinced that these consultations must be developed in the long term and in collaboration with the actors directly involved in this strategy.

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¹ AAC: Atlantic Arc Commission-CPMA – www.arcatlantique.org

² CAAC: Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities - <http://www.atlanticcities.eu>

³ ATN: Atlantic Transnational Network - <http://rta-atn.eu/>

⁴ AC3A: Atlantic Arc City Association of Agriculture Chambers of Commerce - <http://www.ac3a.fr/AC3A.php>

The advantages linked to this model of governance that includes the Atlantic Networks are several:

1. **Strengthen the links with the reality** of the Atlantic territories and of the specific expectations of these territories in terms of priority investments.
2. **Offer daily and operative support** for the execution of the Atlantic Strategy with one single point of information to provide efficient and long term orientation regarding financing and adequate actors to the bearers of potential projects.
3. **Facilitate the adoption of European challenges** linked to the Atlantic Strategy regarding the territories by the economic and social actors as well as by all the citizens.
4. **Accentuate the integrated dimension** of the Atlantic Strategy by calling out to the Atlantic institutional and socio-professional networks to reinforce the transnational and multilevel view of the challenges that affect the Atlantic Area.
5. **Take advantage of that which already exists** thanks to the «memory» of the networks and their daily contact with the actors of the Atlantic Arc.

The Atlantic Networks, therefore, propose constituting the backbone of the future coordination platform with the support of the European Commission, which would in this manner benefit from the experience and knowledge of the Networks, and at the same time encourage a dialogue between the different actors and levels of governance.

The Atlantic Strategy must be put into operation immediately! The Atlantic Networks are ready to act in order to make this European Strategy a reality on site, but they especially want it to be a success for the European Union's credit.