

The Outermost Regions, a chance for Europe (Brussels, 3 December 2008)

Caption: On 3 December 2008, in Brussels, Danuta Hübner, European Commissioner responsible for Regional Policy, gives the opening address at the UPEC Conference (Union Économique des Régions Ultraperipheriques de l'Europe Communautaire), which concerns the issues facing the EU's outermost regions.

Source: European Commission. The Outermost Regions, a chance for Europe, 03.12.2008, .

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*Conference organized under the High Patronage of the French Presidency of the European Union
in association with the European Commission*

The Outermost Regions, a chance for Europe

Brussels, 3rd December 2008, 14:15-19:00

at the Committee of Regions, Jacques Delors Building
Room « JDE 52 », 5th floor
99-101 rue Belliard
1040 Brussels

The conference organized by UPEC gives the opportunity to uphold the dialogue already engaged by the French Presidency in regards to the main assets that the Outermost Regions can provide to the European Union. In a globalized world where notions of scarcity and safety are becoming a growing concern for political leaders all over the world (especially regarding biodiversity, raw materials, natural resources...), considering the effort deployed by their states and the EU for these regions, it is relevant to discuss how the EU can benefit from these regions. Owing to their significant natural resources and strategic location, the outermost regions represent a great potential for the EU (in terms of economy, science, geopolitics, cultural diversity and human resources) which deserves to be taken into account. Through a comprehensive overview of all the advantages provided by the Outermost Regions, the speakers will open a constructive dialogue to look into the future on how Europe should manage, appreciate and take advantage of its Outermost Regions.

Agenda

- 14:15 Welcome and registration
- 14:30 **Opening speech, Mrs. Danuta Hübner, European Commissioner responsible for the Regional Policy**
- 15:00 1st Topic: A major geostrategic issue, the Outermost Regions provide the EU with a global dimension
- First speech by Mr. François **RENE**, Research Director at the French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER) and 1st Vice President of the Scientific Committee on Aquaculture and of the General Council of Maritime Policy of the FAO
- 15:30 Questions

15:45 2nd Topic: The maritime domain of the EU, an invaluable source of wealth for Europe

Second speech by Mr. Alistair **LANE**, General Secretary of the European Aquaculture Society

16:15 Questions

16:30 3rd Topic: The forest, coral and oceanic heritage of the Outermost Regions, an essential resource for the world

Third speech by Mr. François **SIMARD**, advisor on fisheries and maritime affairs at the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN, global maritime program), and responsible for the oceanic space at the Center for Mediterranean Cooperation

17:00 Questions

17:15 4th Topic: A privileged access to space, a satellite lookout position and an economic and scientific advantage for Europe

Fourth speech by Mr. Antonio **GONZÁLEZ RAMOS**, Director of Spatial and satellite survey program, at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

17:45 Questions

18:00 **Intervention of, Mr. Paulino Rivero, Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of the Outermost regions and President of the Canary Islands**

18:30 **Closing speech by Mr. Yves Jégo, State Secretary for the French Overseas Territories, on behalf of the French Presidency of the EU**

19:30 **Cocktail** at the hotel SOFITEL BRUSSELS EUROPE (Place Jourdan 1, 1040-Bruxelles), where various specialities from these regions will be tasted

A package of products of the seven regions will be offer the participants at the end of the conference

Please confirm your presence, by the 25th November 2008



Azores Canary Guadeloupe Guyana Madeira Martinique Reunion Island

* *The list of experts could be subject to change in the coming weeks*

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