PREFACE

The Islands Commission of the C.P.M.R. is established with the aim of promoting exchanges and solidarity between the European islands, and organising the representation and defence of their interests in all areas, and in particular in their relations with the European Institutions.

Article 1 - PARTICIPATION

The island regions which are members or associate members of the C.P.M.R. participate in the Islands Commission of the C.P.M.R. as members.

The following may participate as observers:

- Islands under the administration of mainland regions which are members of the C.P.M.R.;
- European Islands not members of the C.P.M.R. which so request:

In this case, the Islands Commission will vote on acceptance of their participation, a two-thirds majority being required.

On the other hand:

- Organisations concerned by the work of the Islands Commission, the list of which is established by the Bureau.

Article 2 - PARTICIPATION IN VOTES

1. Only the member regions may vote.
2. However, only the member regions belonging to the E.C. may vote resolutions concerning the internal functioning of the Single Market.
3. In the event of disagreement on the content of a resolution, the President of the Islands Commission, after consultation with the members of the Bureau present, will decide whether or not the resolution concerns exclusively the internal functioning of the Single Market, and whether one or more of the regions not members of the E.C. may therefore vote.

Article 3 - ORGANISATION OF THE DEBATES

In the debates preceding the vote of the Final Declaration, as well as annex Declarations, the following are entitled to talk:

- Representatives mandated by regional delegations;
- At the discretion of the President, representatives of European Institutions, or advisers to the C.P.M.R. who wish to intervene to draw the attention of the Assembly to a particularly relevant point in the debated text.

Article 4 - ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND OF THE BUREAU

The elections of the President and of the Bureau will take place annually, following the procedure outlined below:

- The outgoing President gives up the chair.
- The Executive Secretary of the Commission asks the assembly if there are any nominations to the post of President of the Islands Commission.
Each nomination must be seconded by a region other than the region represented by the nominee.

- Once the nominations are known, a vote by show of hands will be taken.

However, if any one of the regions so requests, the vote will be by secret ballot. If there is more than one candidate, the vote will also be by secret ballot.

The candidate having obtained an absolute majority of the votes of the delegates present will be declared elected.

If there are more than two candidates, and none of them obtains an absolute majority in the first round of voting, a second vote will be taken in which the two candidates having received the largest number of votes will be presented.

- The President having been elected, the election of the Bureau will then take place.

Each national delegation, other than that of the new President, will nominate amongst its members a candidate to the post of Vice President of the Islands Commission.

The selections of each delegation will be announced, and ratified each in turn by the whole of the Commission in a show of hands vote.

**Article 5 - ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT**

In the case of the absence of the President during the period of his mandate, the outgoing President may ask one of the Vice Presidents to assume his functions.

In the event of the outgoing President being unable to follow this procedure, the Presidency will be assured by the most senior in age of the Vice Presidents.

**Article 6 - SECRETARIAT**

The Islands Commission has an Executive Secretary whose responsibility is to ensure the day-to-day organisation of its work and implementation of its decisions, within the framework of the Secretariat General of the C.P.M.R.

The nomination of the Executive Secretary of the Islands Commission must be ratified by a vote of all the member regions of the Islands Commission, at an annual Assembly. His mandate is automatically renewed by tacit approval. Any proposal concerning the replacement of the Executive Secretary of the Islands Commission must be included as an item on the Agenda approved by the Bureau.

The Executive Secretary of the Islands Commission assists the President in his task and acts under his authority.

**Article 7 - FINANCING**

Financial contributions specifically destined to the Islands Commission's budget (Over and above their subscription to the C.P.M.R.) are made by the member regions.

On a proposal from the Bureau, the Islands Commission will decide each year upon the amount of this contribution.

In the event of no proposal from the Bureau, the contribution made to the Islands Commission by each of the regions will be equivalent to the amount of the minimum subscription to the general budget of the C.P.M.R. for that same year.

The Bureau will also decide upon the amount of the contribution to expenses which may be charged to the observers, and will decide on possible exemptions in the cases of the latter having limited financial means.