



**Local & Regional
Europe**

Newsletter

November & December 2013

Dear colleagues,

December was marked by the renewal of our political structures. With respect to our new rules on equality between men and women, 44% of elected members are women and 56% are men.

We welcome our newly elected representatives and, in particular, our new president, Annemarie Jorritsma, mayor of Almere (Netherlands) and president of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG). Her election during our Policy Committee in Prague, on 2 and 3 December 2013, is a milestone in CEMR's history. It is indeed the first time, since 1951, that our organisation is headed by a woman.



The Policy Committee also voted the adoption of a manifesto from local and regional governments in view of the upcoming European elections in May 2014. The text presents nine key messages to support and work alongside the European Union within the coming years. The manifesto will be widely disseminated and - hopefully - debated, both at local and European level.

Finally, members of the Policy Committee selected the host city for our upcoming General Assembly. In 2016, we hope to meet in Nicosia (Cyprus).

We take this opportunity to wish you success in your projects for 2014.

Enjoy the reading!

The CEMR secretariat

Monthly highlights

Cohesion Policy

Reaction to the European Parliament's vote on the new cohesion policy 2014-2020

We told members of the European Parliament in a communication, that the vote is a step in the right direction but several measures contradict the reality on the ground . This is the case of the principle of macro-conditionality, which envisages the possibility to suspend a percentage of aid in the case of excessive State budgetary deficit. This condition may make our municipalities and regions hostages to decisions over which they have no control. We welcome, however, that cohesion policy funding will be available from 2014. Contact: marlene.simeon@cce-cemr.org

www.ccre.org

Out with the old, in with the new!

User-friendly and armed with new tools and up-to-date technology, the CEMR website gets a new look . It offers several new features, including a 'news in brief' section that allows us to quickly react to important news and events, a directory in which you can search members associations, and an interactive map of Europe that provides several pieces of information about local and regional authorities as well as our member associations. Contact: pierre.vanderauwera@cce-cemr.org

Covenant of Mayors

The Commission renews its confidence in our ongoing commitment

The European Commission and the consortium of local authorities' networks, in which we participate, have renewed the contract funding the office of the Covenant of Mayors for the period 2014-2016. This new contract will allow us to support local government involved in this initiative to fight against climate change and implement policies for energy transition, for instance, through the organisation of workshops to strengthen the technical and financial capacity of municipalities and regions in this field. The success of the Convention is no stranger to the provision of greater financial means for actions on climate and energy for the period 2014-2020 (e.g., Structural Funds, LIFE + programme, Horizon 2020). It is a powerful argument in favour of greater involvement of local authorities in the European decision-making on climate and energy. Contact: marie.bullet@cce-cemr.org

Equality of women and men

CEMR wins a contract for carrying out a two-year project

We were selected by the European Commission to carry out a project enabling local and regional governments to better monitor the implementation of the European Charter for equality of women and men in local life. The project will start in January 2014 and will be conducted jointly with the Basque University in Spain and the Consultancy Agency GHK . Contact: johanna.tornstrom@cce-cemr.org

UN post-2015 Agenda

Our co-president calls in New York for "sustainable urbanisation" to become one of the future goals of sustainable development after 2015

Iñigo de la Serna represented the European section of UCLG at the meeting of the International Taskforce for the development post-2015 and Habitat III in New York . During this event were delivered about 160 letters from mayors and presidents of associations, including 40 in Europe, calling for the inclusion of a specific objective dedicated to a "sustainable urbanisation" in the post-2015 agenda. The inclusion of such an objective will allow us to gather development stakeholders around our priorities and to reinforce our capacities and resources to meet the challenge of sustainable urbanisation in Europe and abroad. It is still possible to send a letter of support for this goal (deadline: 6 January 2014). Contact: maxime.ramon@cce-cemr.org

Climate change

“Cities Day”: a significant step towards the climate summit in Paris in 2015

"The credibility of the climate agreement in 2015 will be based on the level of recognition of local and regional governments in the final text, as they are on the frontline of this battle." This was the message delivered by the spokesman on international negotiations on climate change of our global organisation UCLG, Ronan Dantec, during the historic first "Cities Day" [i](#), organised during the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Warsaw* (Poland) on 21 November 2013. This conference is a significant step towards the climate summit in Paris in 2015, where a universal and binding agreement should be signed. Contact: maxime.ramon@ccre-cemr.org

Climate

Ambitious climate and energy policies for 2030 constitute real opportunities for local economy

The European Union is rethinking a new framework for the “energy and climate” policies for 2030 which will have a direct impact on the direction of national, regional and local policies in the field of climate and energy. In this context we held a meeting between members of the European Parliament and CEMR locally elected representatives on 5 December [i](#). On this occasion, we passed on the message that ambitious policies in the field of energy and climate do not compete with the objectives of economic growth and competitiveness, but make them stronger. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

Policy Committee

Summary of decisions and debates of the CEMR Policy Committee meeting in Prague

A new presidency, a new committee of young local and regional elected representatives, a new status for CEMR and a declaration on Ukraine: the Policy Committee meeting, which gathered some 140 local and regional elected representatives on 2 and 3 December 2013 in Prague, was all about bringing in the new [i](#). A summary can be read on the CEMR website. Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

In the think tank

Public procurement

Come and join our new thematic network on public procurement and service concessions

We invite experts of our member associations to participate in our new thematic network on public procurement and service concessions. Early 2014, new directives on public procurement and on service concessions will be adopted and transposed within the Member States of the EU. Our thematic network will closely monitor the transposition of directives into national legislation and facilitate the exchange of information and experiences on their implementation. The first network meeting will take place on 5 February 2014 in Brussels. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

Library

Crisis and decentralisation

CEMR publishes new study on territorial reforms in Europe in times of crisis

The purpose of this publication is to provide a picture as complete as possible of the reforms that have been put in place since the beginning of the crisis. The study also aims to present an overview of the consequences of the crisis on local and regional autonomy in Europe. An opening analysis offers explanations as well as conclusions regarding decentralisation and current territorial reforms. The study also includes country sheets that provide specific information on the situation and reforms in 41 countries. The publication is available in English and French ⓘ. Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

Social dialogue

CEMR reacts to a Communication from the European Commission on the Social Dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union

Faced with a difficult economic recovery and persistent social disparities the European Commission proposed a series of ways to better monitor the social and employment situation in Europe. Among others, the Commission proposes the establishment of indicators (unemployment, rates of youth, inequality...). These could, for instance, allow governments to better identify opportunities for reform. As European social partner representing local and regional government as employers, we call the Commission to provide greater clarity on its intentions and consult local authorities before the implementation of these indicators ⓘ. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org