



Local & Regional  
Europe

# Newsletter

October 2013

Dear colleagues,

*In October, I issued a press release to show our rejection of the report on the vote at the European Parliament on the 2014-2020 budget. Without an agreement between the Council and Parliament, our regions risk not receiving European funds within the framework of the cohesion policy programmes from now until the end of the year. An agreement was finally struck, and although unsatisfying, the funds will be distributed.*



*On the same subject, CEMR has also reacted to the compromises reached on the new cohesion policy for 2014-2020. Unfortunately, this new legislative package will suspend aid in states with a macroeconomic imbalance or excessive budgetary deficit. CEMR disagrees with this position, as it holds regions and municipalities hostage to decisions that do not fall within their capacities.*

*Finally, I have the pleasure to inform you that our international organisation, UCLG, has published its third report on local democracy and decentralisation. This study presents an overview of access to basic services and urbanisation in different regions of the world. Our branch contributed considerably to the chapter on Europe, which examines the question of multi-level governance in our region and underlines the importance of establishing a true partnership between the different levels of governance: local, regional, national and European.*

*This publication was launched during the 4<sup>th</sup> UCLG Congress in Rabat (Morocco), which resulted in the renewal of its decision-making bodies. Kadir Topbas, Mayor of Istanbul and President of the Union of Turkish Municipalities was re-elected President. Alain Juppé, President of AFCCRE and Mayor of Bordeaux, and Anne Hidalgo, First Deputy to the Mayor of Paris were named co-presidents of UCLG for the 2013-2016 term.*

*I wish you a good reading,*

*Best regards,*

*Frédéric Vallier  
CEMR Secretary General*

## Monthly highlights

### Personal data protection

#### New legal framework, new requirements for public administrations?

In order to more efficiently protect personal data, the European Commission has proposed a vast reform to its current legislation, which has been made obsolete by evolving technologies. Unfortunately, the amendments approved by Members of the European Parliament in October oppose the interests of our local and regional authorities. The amendments propose new techniques as well as a new technology to collect and manage personal data information, including that of local authorities.

To this end, we have sent our recommendations to the Parliament to make sure the new proposition of the directive recognises and takes into account the specific and non-commercial use of personal data by public administrations. We encourage you to continue spreading our message to your national representatives so as to influence the Council, who also seems to have several concerns regarding this proposition. Contact: [marlene.simeon@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:marlene.simeon@ccre-cemr.org)

### EU Budget 2014-2020

#### Reaction to the report on the vote on the EU Budget 2014-2020

Without the adoption of the budget at the plenary session in October, those regions expecting European funds within the framework of social cohesion programmes risk not receiving the funds in 2013. It is with these words that we have reacted to the postponement of the vote on the 2014-2020 budget. At a moment in which the economic crisis affects all Europeans and involves regions and cities in crisis exit policies, we expect a responsible attitude from the Parliament and the Council <sup>(i)</sup>. Contact: [frederic.vallier@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:frederic.vallier@ccre-cemr.org)

### Climate change

#### Local and regional authorities serve as models in climate protection

The Parliament adopted a new resolution <sup>(i)</sup> on 23 October, underlining “*the success of the Covenant of Mayors, which currently consists of nearly 5 000 local authorities, to exceed the targets set by the European Union regarding energy and climate change from now until 2020. (...) The enthusiasm and involvement of local European authorities should serve as a model of how to implement ambitious energy and climate policies on the international scale.*” This recognition is the result of several years of efforts by partners of the Covenant of Mayors, including CEMR. Contact: [marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org)

### Development

#### The European Parliament takes a step forward for local and regional authorities

In a report <sup>(i)</sup> adopted at the plenary session, Members of the European Parliament called on the Commission to *build strategic partnerships with associations and networks of local, regional, national and international authorities*. They also call upon the Commission to *facilitate the sharing of experiences and competences in the domains of sustainable development and good governance between local authorities within the Union and those in partner countries*. The contribution of PLATFORMA and of the CEMR has been decisive for the positioning of the European Parliament in favour of local and regional authorities. We hope, nonetheless, that the support for democracy and local governance will move beyond rhetoric in the next European programming period. Contact: [florent.resche-rigon@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:florent.resche-rigon@ccre-cemr.org) (PLATFORMA) et [maxime.ramon@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:maxime.ramon@ccre-cemr.org) (CEMR)

## In the think tank

### E-invoicing

#### The European directive for e-invoicing needs to be developed and tested before being used by local and regional government

A project within the framework of public procurement proposes establishing a European directive for e-invoicing. This project will help to facilitate the interoperability between existing systems at the national, regional or local level. Currently, a draft of the project is being debated at the Parliament, and amendments may still be added. We encourage you to send us your suggestions before 14 November [i](#). CEMR supports developing a common directive, but first calls for a large-scale test phase. In addition, we believe this directive should be applied differently in Member States, according to the size of the regional or local authority. Contact: [marlene.simeon@cce-cemr.org](mailto:marlene.simeon@cce-cemr.org)

### Post-2015 development agenda

#### Join the campaign for a “sustainable urbanisation” objective by the UN

In 2015, our national governments will define a list of 10-15 objectives that will guide sustainable development policies for 2015–2030. We encourage your participation in the campaign we are leading with UCLG to make “sustainable urbanisation” one of these objectives [i](#). The inclusion of such an objective will allow development stakeholders to gather around common priorities and to reinforce our capacities and resources to meet the challenge of sustainable urbanisation in Europe and abroad. How to participate? Send the completed form to [post-2015@uclg.org](mailto:post-2015@uclg.org) before 30 November 2013 (with [maxime.ramon@cce-cemr.org](mailto:maxime.ramon@cce-cemr.org) in copy). All forms will be delivered at a meeting at the UN in December. Contact: [maxime.ramon@cce-cemr.org](mailto:maxime.ramon@cce-cemr.org)

## Library

### Public services

#### GOLD III world report on decentralisation and local democracy

The GOLD III report [i](#) proposes an overview of public local services provision, local and regional democracy, and decentralisation across the world. A chapter dedicated to Europe highlights the question of multi-level governance, which cannot be applied in a linear way nor in a hierarchical way, but rather in a circular way, based on the partnership between levels. Contact: [angelika.poth-moegele@cce-cemr.org](mailto:angelika.poth-moegele@cce-cemr.org)