

## Two months of CEMR activities

### December 2010

01/12 (Strasbourg): CEMR offered to coordinate a joint observatory network on the **impact of the financial and economic crisis** on the local and regional levels at the occasion of a meeting with the Council of Europe, its Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Local Government Initiative of the Open Society Institute (LGI-OSI). Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

06/12 (Brussels): **PLATFORMA** called upon the European institutions to improve the taking into account of local and regional authorities in the EU development policy. <sup>(i)</sup> This call was made at the occasion of the platform's high-level panel organised in the framework of the 2010 edition of the European Development Days (EDD). <sup>(i)</sup> Contact: laurent.chaboy@ccre-cemr.org

06/12 (Brussels): NALAS' Executive Director, with the support of CEMR, <sup>(i)</sup> called for the **extension of the Covenant of Mayors to the Western Balkans**, and notably through the opening of a dedicated Covenant office for the region. This call was made at the occasion of a meeting with the European Commission Directorate General for Development. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

06/12 (Mondorf-les-Bains): The Mayor of Stuttgart and President of CEMR's German section, **Wolfgang Schuster**, was elected **President of CEMR**. His presidency priorities include strengthening local democracy and the political voice of local and regional authorities and their representative associations, giving Europe a human face, and promoting international solidarity. <sup>(i)</sup> Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org

06/12 (Mondorf-les-Bains): CEMR saw the **renewal of its statutory bodies**, including the election of Aina Calvo Sastre, Mayor of Palma de Mallorca, member of the FEMP, and Annemarie Jorritsma, Mayor of Almere, President of VNG, as CEMR Co-Presidents. The complete list of newly elected executive presidents and vice-presidents is available on the CEMR website. <sup>(i)</sup> Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org

07/12 (Mondorf-les-Bains): CEMR's **Policy Committee** underlined the need to render the European partnership principle mandatory and have it include the local level. They also highlighted CEMR's hope to see growth replaced by development, and quantity by quality, so as not to limit EU priorities. Finally, a rule on the minimum representation of both genders in the Committee delegations was adopted. <sup>(i)</sup> Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org

13/12 (Cancun): CEMR welcomed the **United Nations climate decision** which recognises municipalities and regions as "governmental stakeholders", thereby considering local and regional authorities as main actors in the fight against climate change. CEMR also called for the elaboration of a new legally binding CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction agreement to replace the Kyoto protocol. <sup>(i)</sup> Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

14/12 (*Brussels*): CEMR and the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) called upon the European Council to support **sustainable employment measures** at the local and regional level to exit the crisis. They also highlighted the need for a strong social dimension, for increased training and skills-development, and for long-term investment in local and regional sectors. ⓘ Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@cce-cemr.org

21/12 (*Brussels*): CEMR launched a new study on the **status of local elected representatives in Europe**. The study provides an initial overview of the situation and summarises the conditions under which local representatives across Europe exercise their mandate. The publication is available in English and French. ⓘ Contact: boris.tonhauser@cce-cemr.org

### *January 2011*

06/01 (*Brussels*): The **Covenant of Mayors** Office's main tasks over the next three years will be to increase support for the delivery of results by signatory municipalities. Such was the main outcome of the Covenant's new contract kick-off meeting, in which CEMR participated. For its part, CEMR will continue managing relations with associations representing local and regional authorities. ⓘ Contact: marie.bullet@cce-cemr.org

13/01 (*Brussels*): CEMR launched its year-long initiative called "**Weekly Focus**" in the context of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary so as to showcase, on a weekly and country-by-country basis, its member associations, their activities, local and regional authorities in each country and any interesting initiatives or success stories. ⓘ Contact: emilie.melvin@cce-cemr.org

15/01 (*Brussels*): There is a need for a stronger cohesion policy for all regions, with a special focus on those lagging behind. There also exists a need for a legally binding partnership principle, which ensures the involvement of local and regional authorities, and for an integrated local development approach for all local authorities. Such are CEMR's key messages highlighted in its Policy Paper on the **Future of EU Cohesion Policy**, published following the 5<sup>th</sup> cohesion report. ⓘ Contact: marit.schweiker@cce-cemr.org

17/01 (*Brussels*): **PLATFORMA** calls upon the European Commission to regard local governance as a transversal priority of the EU development policy, in its response to the Commission Green Paper on "*EU development policy in support of inclusive growth and sustainable development - Increasing the impact of EU development policy*". ⓘ Contact: lucie.guillet@cce-cemr.org

19/01 (*Brussels*): CEMR President, Wolfgang Schuster, proposed to back the **Europe 2020 strategy** through the mobilisation of cities, regions and local actors. This proposal was made during an exchange with the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, who announced his full support for this commitment. The need to train local elected representatives and their administrations in European issues was also evoked by the two presidents. ⓘ Contact: marit.schweiker@cce-cemr.org

28/01 (*Geneva*): CEMR celebrated the founding of its organisation and the **birth of the European municipal movement** with key figures from CEMR's past and present as well as political representatives from its member associations. The need for a reinforced partnership in the new European governance and CEMR's founding aims in today's context were notably discussed. ⓘ Contact: nina.holbrook@cce-cemr.org

31/01 (*Brussels and Paris*): All of the staff from CEMR's Secretariat General now have the same email domain name, be they based in Paris or Brussels. Thus, from now on, please type: **firstname.lastname@cce-cemr.org**. CEMR also apologises for any problems that may have arisen, as the Secretariat has also changed servers. Contact: dominique.arrestat@cce-cemr.org

31/01 (*Brussels*): CEMR called for a legally binding definition of the partnership principle in the future EU **cohesion policy** at the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Cohesion Forum, as voiced by Carola Gunnarsson, CEMR political rapporteur on territorial and cohesion policy and first Vice-President of SALAR. ⓘ Contact: marit.schweiker@cce-cemr.org

### *Ongoing activities*

CEMR is drafting a number of key messages in response to the recently published Europe 2020 flagship initiative "*European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion*". ⓘ The aim of these messages will be to highlight the importance of local and regional authorities as actors in reducing **poverty** and promoting **social inclusion**. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@cce-cemr.org

In the context of the European Social Dialogue, the Local and Regional Government Administration Committee, composed of CEMR and EPSU, has begun drafting common guidelines on the taking into account of social considerations in **public procurement** at the local and regional. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@cce-cemr.org

CEMR's Employers' Platform is preparing a response to the second-phase consultation on the **working time directive** (deadline: 28 February 2011). ⓘ This second stage notably focuses on minimum rest periods, on-call time, excessive working hours and reconciliation of work and family life. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@cce-cemr.org

CEMR is preparing a response to the consultation on the future EU financial instrument for the **environment**. ⓘ Contact: marie.bullet@cce-cemr.org

CEMR is finalising a joint CEMR-EUROCITIES statement on **access restriction schemes** in cities, ⓘ which will notably be promoted at a workshop organised by the European Commission on 2 March 2011. Contact: marie.bullet@cce-cemr.org

CEMR is participating in the organisation of a conference on the **Digital Agenda for Europe** going local, along with the Dutch region of Friesland and the European Commission Directorate General for Information Society and Media (INFSO), to take place in Brussels in April 2011. Contact: marit.schweiker@cce-cemr.org

CEMR is drafting a response to European Commission communication "*Towards a Single Market Act*", ⓘ which puts forward 50 initiatives to help re-launch the **internal market**. CEMR's special focus is on services of general interest (SGI) ⓘ and on public procurement. ⓘ Contact: marit.schweiker@cce-cemr.org

CEMR is organising its European congress on **twinning and citizenship**, to be held in Rybnik, Poland, in September 2011. In this context, CEMR organised a Steering Committee meeting with its Polish partners on 31 January 2011 in Paris. Contact: manuella.portier@cce-cemr.org

CEMR has begun coordinating the establishment of a joint observatory network on the **impact of the financial and economic crisis** at the local and regional levels. Contact: boris.tonhauser@cce-cemr.org

## CEMR's calendar<sup>1</sup>

03-04/02 (Brussels): CEMR Working Group on **Information Society and e-Government**. Contact: [marit.schweiker@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:marit.schweiker@ccre-cemr.org)

09/02 (Brussels): CEMR Committee on **Democracy and Governance**. Contact: [boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org)

09/02 (Brussels): Awards ceremony for the first European Local Authorities Competition (ELAC) on Good Practices on the Support for **Migrant Elders**.<sup>(i)</sup> Contact: [christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org)

25/02 (Brussels): CEMR Working Group on **Transport**. Contact: [marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org)

25-26/02 (Malaga): 2<sup>nd</sup> **Euro-Arab Cities** Forum.<sup>(i)</sup> Contact: [sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org)

## Other events

03/02 (Rouen): National conference on the implementation of the **European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life**, organised by CEMR's French section, l'AFCCRE.<sup>(i)</sup> Contact: [sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org) / [manuella.portier@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:manuella.portier@ccre-cemr.org)

22-23/02 (Brussels): ETUI-EPSU Conference on **austerity, economic governance reforms and social policies** in Europe. CEMR will notably speak at one of the conference workshops on public expenditure and the quality of public finances.<sup>(i)</sup> Contact: [christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org)

28/02 (Brussels): Conference on **Sharing Social Responsibility**, organised by the Council of Europe, in partnership with the European Commission. Contact: [christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org)

<sup>1</sup> CEMR's calendar is available on our website: [www.ccre.org](http://www.ccre.org)

