

One month of CEMR activities

01/02 (Brussels): CEMR and Dexia published "**Key Figures on Local and Regional Europe**", which presents a series of comparative indicators in the form of information sheets on the organisation and finances of local and regional authorities in the European Union in 2009. This edition is available in Dutch, English, French and Italian. ⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: pierre.vanderauwera@ccre-cemr.org

03/02 (Rouen): The City of Rouen, the Agglomeration Community of Rouen-Elbeuf-Austreberthe, the Department of Seine-Maritime and the Region of Haute-Normandie signed the European **Charter for Equality** of Women and Men in Local Life, ⁽ⁱ⁾ at the occasion of a conference organised by the AFCCRE. ⁽ⁱ⁾ The conference also allowed CEMR to exchange on ways to implement the Charter with the help of actors on the ground. Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org / manuella.portier@ccre-cemr.org

03-04/02 (Brussels): CEMR finalised its response ⁽ⁱ⁾ to the EU **e-Government** action plan at the occasion of a Working Group on Information Society and e-Government meeting, which also discussed ways to implement the Digital Local Agenda. Contact: marit.schweiker@ccre-cemr.org

04/02 (Brussels): Increasing the use of information technology can help simplify administrative procedures, boost efficiency and save a significant amount of time and work, as underlined in CEMR's response ⁽ⁱ⁾ to the European Commission consultation on expanding the use of **e-procurement**. ⁽ⁱ⁾ Other positions included the need to ensure the interoperability of different systems, open standards and technological neutrality. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

9/02 (Brussels): The cities of Edinburgh, Gelsenkirchen and Brussels are the first municipalities to have received an award for their local initiatives in the improvement of the quality of life of **migrant elders**, at the occasion of the European Local Authorities Competition (ELAC) awards ceremony, co-organised by CEMR. ⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

9-11/02 (Baku): The role that civil society and local and regional authorities from the EU's neighbouring countries can play in European development policy was discussed during a seminar, in which **PLATFORMA** participated, held in the framework of the structured dialogue on development policy. Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org

10/02 (Brussels): CEMR announced its **European Congress on Citizenship and Twinning**, to be held in Rybnik, Poland, from 29 September to 1 October 2011, at the occasion of a meeting with stakeholders involved in the "Europe for Citizens" programme. Programme priorities for 2012 and results of the online consultation on the future of "Europe for Citizens" (2014-2020) were also discussed. Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org / manuella.portier@ccre-cemr.org

14/02 (Brussels): The need to coordinate the future **EU financial instrument for the environment** with other EU funds, such as European structural funds, was underlined by CEMR in its response ⁽ⁱ⁾ to the consultation on this instrument, which will be a continuation of the LIFE+ programme. ⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

18/02 (Paris): CEMR has launched an **Economic Recovery Observatory**, bringing together main stakeholders who monitor aspects of the crisis and economic recovery at the local and regional levels. The observatory will aim at collecting data, tackling main recovery-related challenges, identifying key experts, as well as disseminating innovative solutions for recovery. ⓘ Contact: boris.tonhauser@cce-cemr.org

24-25/02 (Malaga): The need to build a new model of citizen participation and to reinforce local government and democracy in Arab municipalities was notably underlined in the **Euro-Arab Cities Forum's** final declaration. ⓘ Also highlighted was the participants' commitment to promote and develop municipal cooperation in issues such as financial instruments and urban management for sustainable development and municipal services. ⓘ Contact: sandra.ceciarini@cce-cemr.org

25/02 (Brussels): CEMR participated in the launching of an international think tank, whose mission will be to assist in the preparation of a handbook on **multilevel urban governance**, with a special focus on instruments for integrated urban development at all levels of government. Contact: boris.tonhauser@cce-cemr.org

28/02 (Brussels): CEMR calls for the recognition of local and regional self-government in the organisation of **public services**. This call was made in CEMR's response ⓘ to the European Commission communication "*Towards a Single Market Act*", ⓘ which also highlights the role local and regional authorities have to play in territorial cohesion and the need to ease the public procurement regulatory framework. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@cce-cemr.org

28/02 (Brussels): In its response ⓘ to the consultation on the review of the **working time** directive, ⓘ CEMR welcomes the European Commission's increased readiness to address the special requirements of continuous care in public services. It also welcomes the Commission's willingness to react to recent changes in society and the work place, as these require heightened flexibility and adaptability. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@cce-cemr.org

Ongoing activities

CEMR is preparing a response to the European Commission consultation on the modernisation of EU **public procurement**. ⓘ A focus group is preparing a first draft, which will be circulated amongst members of the CEMR Working Group on Public Services and Procurement in March 2011. Deadline for submission of the response: 18 April 2011. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@cce-cemr.org

CEMR is drafting a response to the European Commission consultation on **electronic identification, authentication and signatures**. ⓘ Deadline for submission of response: 15 April 2011. Contact: marit.schweiker@cce-cemr.org

CEMR has officially begun preparing its **25th General Assembly**, which is to take place from 26 to 28 September 2012 in Cádiz, Spain, with the signing of a formal agreement between CEMR President, Wolfgang Schuster, Mayor of Cádiz, Teófila Martínez, and a representative of the FEMP. A first outline of the programme is to be presented for debate by CEMR's member association secretaries general and directors at their next meeting in Belgrade, on 7 and 8 April 2011. ⓘ Contact: nina.holbrook@cce-cemr.org

CEMR's calendar¹

23/03 (Brussels): **Employers'** Platform. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

24/03 (Brussels): **Sectoral Social Dialogue** Committee Working Group, composed of CEMR and the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU). Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

29/03 (Brussels): "**PLATFORMA**-Two years of European action", before which a publication entitled "*Decentralised Development Cooperation – European Perspectives*" will be launched. ⓘ Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org

30/03 (Brussels): Steering Group on the **future of CEMR**. Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org / boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

Other events

10-11/03 (Sarajevo): **NEXPO 2011** ⓘ regional municipal fair, organised by NALAS, with a side event on the extension of the Covenant of Mayors to the Western Balkans. ⓘ Contact: emilie.melvin@ccre-cemr.org / marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

29-30/03 (Brussels): 2nd Assises on **Decentralised Cooperation**, organised by the Committee of the Regions and by the European Commission. ⓘ Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org / laurent.chaboy@ccre-cemr.org

¹ CEMR's calendar is available on our website: www.ccre.org

