



One month of CEMR activities

06/02: CEMR has finalised the transfer of its **website technology** to open source, with the aim of facilitating the future evolution of its website. With the transition now complete, CEMR is working on developing a public and private section, integrating Web 2.0 technologies to notably facilitate the participation of experts and members in CEMR's policy work and to improve dialogue and communication with and between its member associations. Contact: pierre.vanderauwera@ccre-cemr.org

08/02 (Brussels): At the occasion of their study trip to Brussels, members of the **AFCCRE** management met with the staff of CEMR to discuss CEMR's work, relations with members and future activities. Contact: pierre.vanderauwera@ccre-cemr.org

09/02 (Webinar): The Intelligent Energy Europe programme's key eligibility criteria for receiving technical assistance for actions to mobilise local energy investments was outlined during a webinar (online seminar) organised by the **Covenant of Mayors**. The recently launched 2012 call for proposals⁽ⁱ⁾ was also presented during the first in a series of seminars, organised to assist Covenant signatories and stakeholders in moving from commitment to the implementation of their action plans.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: axelle.griffon@ccre-cemr.org

14/02 (Barcelona): The third report of the **Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralisation** (GOLD III), whose drafting was launched by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), will notably aim at taking inventory of the governance of public services. The report will also analyse how to organise and finance these services as well as the challenges local and regional authorities face today and tomorrow in this regard. CEMR, as European section of UCLG, along with its member associations, will be invited to support the drafting process. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

17/02 (Brussels): The **Public Services Employers' Forum** (PSEF), of which CEMR is a member, called upon national governments and the European Commission to recognise the adverse long-term effects of reducing investments and of the lack of recognition for public service obligations. This call, among others, was put forward in a joint declaration signed by Forum members in view of the upcoming Tripartite Social Summit, to be held on 1 March 2012.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

20/02 (Paris): CEMR has published its **White Paper For an Active European Citizenship**, which brings new perspectives to the debate on involving citizens in the European project in view of the 2014-2020 "Europe for Citizens" programme. The White Paper is the result of a reflection process involving stakeholders active in the fields of citizenship and town twinning, who identified the needs and expectations of municipalities, regions and their citizens, in order to come up with concrete solutions to current and upcoming challenges.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org

22/02 (*Brussels*): At the occasion of a meeting with representatives of the Danish EU presidency on the **energy efficiency** draft directive, CEMR voiced its opposition for the 3% annual rate of renovation of the total floor area owned by public bodies. Alexander De Roo, chair of the CEMR focus group on energy efficiency thus called on the presidency to take into account the concerns of local and regional authorities during negotiations with the European Parliament and European Commission. Contact: axelle.griffon@ccre-cemr.org

22/02 (*Brussels*): CEMR stressed the need to simplify the European Commission's proposal for a new directive on **public procurement**, which is currently composed of a staggering 69 articles and 246 pages. CEMR also asked that the European Parliament (EP) adopt a bold approach when preparing their amendments. Both points were voiced during a meeting with EP rapporteur on the new public procurement directive, Marc Tarabella, and member of European Parliament, Christel Schaldemose. ⁱ Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

28/02 (*Webinar*): The local and regional government sector needs to be made more attractive to both young and elderly workers in order to avoid labour shortages, encourage them to continue working and, more importantly, to diversify the range of skills available. Such was the main conclusion of a webinar (online seminar) on recruitment and retention with a special focus on youth and elderly employment, organised in the framework of the **social dialogue** project "*Future of the workplace*". ⁱ Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

28/02 (*New York*): Michelle Bachelet, executive director of the United Nations Entity for **Gender Equality** and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), declared her commitment to "*establishing a closer alliance with the global organisation of local governments, United Cities and Local Governments.*" Such was declared during an encounter with a delegation from UCLG's Standing Committee on Gender Equality and CEMR, the European section of UCLG. ⁱ Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org

28/02 (*Brussels*): While the results of the vote on the draft **energy efficiency** directive within the parliamentary committee for industry, research and energy (ITRE) is not in line with CEMR's position, ⁱ it is a step in the right direction. Indeed, CEMR welcomes the introduction of alternative approaches to the renovation of public-owned buildings and appreciates the inclusion of "*cost-effectiveness*" when it comes to public procurement. The next step is the negotiation process between the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the EU, the latter's positions being more in line with those of CEMR. ⁱ Contact: axelle.griffon@ccre-cemr.org

Ongoing activities

CEMR, the Assembly of European Regions (AER), the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and EUROCITIES are working on a draft joint initiative for the **Europe 2020 strategy** in collaboration with the European Commission Secretariat General. Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

PLATFORMA's secretariat, hosted by CEMR, is working on the network's new website, which is to become an information portal on decentralised cooperation, on funding opportunities for local and regional authorities in the field of development cooperation and on **PLATFORMA's** activities. The website will also include an extranet, which will allow for partners to exchange more frequently and to strengthen their collaboration. Contact: florent.resche-rigon@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR's calendar¹

08/03: Launch of the **Observatory on the European Charter for Equality** of Women and Men in Local Life, with the support of the Swedish national government and the City of Paris. The Observatory secretariat will be hosted by CEMR. Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org

12/03 (Frankfurt): Information session organised by **PLATFORMA** on European development policy, funding opportunities for local and regional authorities and PLATFORMA's activities. The session is to take place in the framework of an event on international cooperation organised by the German Association of Cities. Contact: florent.resche-rigon@ccre-cemr.org

14/03 (Brussels): Meeting of CEMR focus group on **local and regional government as employers**. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

15/03 (Brussels): Third workshop of the **social dialogue** project "Future of the workplace" on lifelong learning, training and skills development, organised by CEMR and the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU). Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

15/03 (Brussels): European **Social Dialogue** Committee working group meeting, organised by CEMR and EPSU. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

22-23/03 (Copenhagen): CEMR **Executive Bureau**, organised in the framework of the Danish EU presidency. Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org

21/03 (Brussels): Meeting of CEMR focus group on **public procurement**. Contact: angelika.poth-mogele@ccre-cemr.org

02/04 (Florence): Meeting of **PLATFORMA** members. Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org

02-03/04 (Florence): **PLATFORMA's** annual European Forum on "Development and participatory governance: Which multi-actor partnerships in Europe and in partner countries?".⁽ⁱ⁾ Registration is open until 20 March 2012.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org

Other events

08/03 (Copenhagen): Meeting of the Network of **Territorial Cooperation** Contact Points (NTCCP) organised in the framework of the Danish EU presidency.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

12/03 (Brussels): Seminar on the evaluation of European Commission support to **decentralisation** processes.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org

14-15/03 (Marseille): International conference of local and regional authorities on "Towards better **water governance: solutions of regional actors**". The conference is organised by the World Water Council in collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) in the framework of the World Water Forum.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org

14-15/03 (Copenhagen): **Urban Development** Group meeting,ⁱ which will notably discuss the Reference Framework for European Sustainable Cities and the next steps in its imminent dissemination phase.ⁱ Contact: angelika.poth-mogele@ccre-cemr.org

21-22/03 (Kiev): Workshop on **Social Dialogue** for Public Sector Employees, organised by the European Commission. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

22-23/03 (Copenhagen): 5th European Summit of Regions and Cities on "**The European urban fabric in the 21st century**", organised by the Committee of the Regions in collaboration with the City of Copenhagen and the Capital Region of Denmark.ⁱ Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

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

