



## One month of CEMR activities

**31/05-01/06 (Strasbourg):** CEMR participated in a meeting of a Council of Europe's committee of experts to discuss the committee's 2010–2013 work programme, closer **co-operation with the 2010 Belgian EU Presidency**, and an analytical tool for assessing the **degree of autonomy of first-tier local authorities**, which the committee recommended for wider pilot testing.<sup>i</sup> Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

**02/06 (Brussels):** Representatives and experts from CEMR's member associations participated in a meeting with the Social Protection Committee to discuss **Social Services of General Interest (SSGIs)**. The issue will be discussed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum on SSGIs, on 26 and 27 October in Brussels. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

**02-04/06 (Bamako):** **PLATFORMA** participated in the African Seminar held by the European Commission on the involvement of local authorities and civil society in EU **development policy**. The seminar brought together European institution representatives and some 80 African representatives, including Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of UCLG-Africa. Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre.org

**03/06 (Oslo):** CEMR's **Policy Committee**<sup>i</sup> adopted a resolution on the **financing of local and regional actions against climate change**.<sup>i</sup> It was also decided that CEMR would become a Covenant of Mayors supporting structure.<sup>i</sup> Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

**04/06 (Oslo):** CEMR's **Policy Committee** adopted a declaration entitled "*A common political effort to overcome the financial and economic crisis in Europe*", following a debate on institutional developments in Europe.<sup>i</sup> An exchange also took place on the **reflection process** on CEMR's future, and more specifically on the recently launched questionnaire<sup>i</sup> and the upcoming steps to be taken. Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre.org

**04/06 (Oslo):** CEMR's **Policy Committee** approved its policy paper on **public procurement**,<sup>i</sup> and its response to the consultation on the review of the **working time directive**.<sup>i</sup> It was also decided that CEMR would sign the **European Charter on development cooperation** in support of local governance.<sup>i</sup> Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org / laurent.chaboy@ccre.org

**07-08/06 (Oslo):** CEMR participated in a conference on **gender equality** notably hosted by its member association, the Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS). The focus was put on equality as a key to economic development and democracy. CEMR presented its work on gender equality as well as its European Charter for equality of women and men in local life.<sup>i</sup> Contact: manuella.portier@ccre.org

**07-08/06 (Brussels):** CEMR welcomes the Council of the EU's Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Committee's newly adopted compromise proposal on new rules for **patient rights in cross border healthcare**.<sup>i</sup> Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

**08/06 (Brussels):** CEMR participated in a conference organised by the Committee of the Regions on regions tackling **social exclusion**. CEMR presented good practices pertaining to inclusive labour markets preparing people for integration into the work force. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

**08/06 (Brussels):** CEMR moderated two parallel sessions on **inclusive citizenship in urban and rural areas** at the occasion of the Committee of the Regions Forum on Poverty. Projects and best practices in the field of social inclusion were presented at this occasion.<sup>i</sup> Contact: marit.schweiker@ccre-cemr.org

**14-15/06 (Sofia):** CEMR Secretary General, Frédéric Vallier, reiterated CEMR's support to actions undertaken by **NALAS** in working towards the recognition of local and regional autonomy in South-East Europe. A publication<sup>i</sup> containing good practices for **energy efficiency** and a declaration<sup>i</sup> guaranteeing the **independence of national associations** representing local and regional authorities were adopted.<sup>i</sup> Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

**15/06 (Sofia):** CEMR called for the **extension of the Covenant of Mayors to the Western Balkans** in a joint declaration adopted during the meeting of the presidents and directors of **NALAS**.<sup>i</sup> Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

**17-18/06 (Malta):** CEMR organised a seminar on **twinning** in partnership with the Local Councils' Association of Malta. This second edition, dedicated to Southern European and Balkan state representatives, discussed twinning as a vital instrument in bringing countries closer to the EU.<sup>i</sup> Contact: sandra.cecinarini@ccre.org / manuella.portier@ccre.org

**21/06 (Brussels):** CEMR, as a recognised sectoral social partner, participated in the European Sectoral Social Dialogue Liaison Forum. The main theme of this meeting was the **Europe 2020 Strategy**, its subsequent follow up and flagship initiatives concerning employment and social inclusion. Other items discussed during this meeting pertained to the revision of the **working time directive** and the new strategy for the **Single Market**. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

**21/06 (Brussels):** Frédéric Vallier, co-chaired the follow-up Committee of the European **Charter on development cooperation** in support of local governance so as to discuss follow-up activities for the Charter, including its signing and promotion. Contact: laurent.chaboy@ccre.org

**21/06 (Brussels):** CEMR met the European Commission so as to discuss possibilities for cooperation and exploring constructive ways of working together in the framework of the new **Europe for Citizens programme**. Contact: sandra.cecinarini@ccre.org / manuella.portier@ccre.org

**22/06 (Toledo):** CEMR is to chair the working group responsible for the **European Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities**, as decided at an informal meeting of ministers for **urban development**. The Toledo Declaration<sup>i</sup> was also adopted during the meeting, during which CEMR was represented by CEMR first Vice-President, Anders Knape.<sup>i</sup> Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

**23/06 (Budapest):** CEMR's financial and economic experts participated in a meeting on the **impact of the economic downturn** on local government in cooperation with the Council of Europe and the Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative (OSI LGI).<sup>i</sup> Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

**29/06 (Brussels):** CEMR Vice-President, Wolfgang Schuster, met with the European Commission President and political representatives of associations representing local and regional authorities. The **Commission's 2010 work programme**, the **Europe 2020 Strategy, territorial cohesion** and the future of the **EU budget** were among the topics discussed. [\*i\*](#) Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

**30/06 (Brussels):** CEMR contributed to the European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public services (CEEP)'s conference on the anticipation of change in public services. Representatives from public service organisations discussed the possibility of creating a **Public Service Employers Forum** in order to promote the role **Services of General Interest**. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

**30/06 (Brussels):** CEMR provided input at the occasion of a debate with Committee of the Regions (CoR) rapporteur on the **European digital agenda**, Markku Markkula. Among the topics discussed was the strengthening of the role of local and regional authorities in the conception and implementation of the agenda. Contact: marit.schweiker@ccre-cemr.org

**30/06 (Brussels):** CEMR met with the directors of its three Belgian member associations, UVCW, VVSG and AVCRBC, so as to discuss in-depth cooperation between the Belgian government and associations representing local and regional authorities in the framework of the **Belgian EU Presidency**. [\*i\*](#) Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

### Ongoing activities

CEMR is preparing updates on relevant issues in the areas of **climate, transport, public services** and **procurement**, all of which are available on the CEMR extranet. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org / angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR is preparing a response to the consultation on the **European energy strategy** covering the 2011-2020 period. The consultation covers such issues as energy infrastructure and innovation, financing, energy efficiency and the protection of citizens. [\*i\*](#) Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

The CEMR focus group on rural development is preparing a policy position paper on the **future of rural development policy**. Contact: marit.schweiker@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR is currently identifying measures that can be taken at the local and regional level so as to put the seven flagship initiatives of the **Europe 2020 Strategy** into concrete action. [\*i\*](#) Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

### CEMR's calendar'

**02/07 (Brussels):** CEMR is invited to participate in a seminar organised by the European Commission Directorate General for Regional Policy (DG REGIO) on the **future of cohesion policy**. Contact: marit.schweiker@ccre-cemr.org

**06/07 (Brussels):** CEMR is invited to participate in a meeting with Committee of the Regions rapporteur, Michael Schneider, on the **Europe 2020 Strategy** and **cohesion policy**. Contact: marit.schweiker@ccre-cemr.org

*07/07 (Brussels):* CEMR is invited to participate in a EUROCITIES seminar on **innovation**. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

*12/07 (Brussels):* PLATFORMA is invited to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quadrilogue session. Among the topics to be discussed are the roles and added value of local authorities and civil society in **EU external cooperation**. Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre.org

*19-20/07 (Brussels):* CEMR is invited to participate in a conference organised by the European Commission Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) on the **future of the common agricultural policy** (CAP) post-2013. Contact: marit.schweiker@ccre-cemr.org

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

