



Local & Regional
Europe

CEMR ACTIVITIES IN JUNE 2012

04/06 (Brussels): There is a strong need for knowledge transfer between generations in Europe's labour markets in order to enhance capacities and skills development. Such was the main conclusion of a conference on good governance and **active ageing**, organised by the European Commission. Participants, including CEMR, also discussed the current challenges of active ageing and looked at ways to cooperate by exchanging on good practices and increasing programmes to help both the young and elderly to stay in the labour market.  Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

05/06 (Brussels): The new CEMR thematic network on **intergenerational dialogue** held its first meeting parallel to the European Commission conference on good governance and active ageing. Participants discussed preferred fields for collaboration and exchange, such as integrating elderly workers into the labour market and improving knowledge transfer between senior and junior employees in public administration. Also discussed was the future "*Covenant for Demographic Change*", whereby local and regional authorities would commit to addressing the main challenges related to demographic change, in line with the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

06/06 (Brussels): The first meeting of the CEMR focus group on **international cooperation** saw participants exchange on the impacts of the crisis on national governments' commitment to development aid and to supporting decentralised cooperation. At this occasion, PLATFORMA presented its position on the European Commission's proposals for the 2014-2020 external cooperation instruments as well as its lobbying activities vis-à-vis the European Parliament. Also, on the eve of Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, CEMR presented UCLG's priorities, which include culture as a pillar for sustainable development and the issues of funding, governance and territorial cohesion. Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org

08/06 (Brussels): The European Commission has recognised local and regional authorities as key players in **waste management** and expressed an interest in increasing its cooperation with CEMR. Thus was discussed during a meeting with Julio García Burgués, head of the Waste Management Unit. In the short term, cooperation would involve the Commission informing local authorities on relevant workshops, raising awareness, and providing technical assistance in the coming months in the member states currently experiencing difficulties in the implementation of EU waste legislation. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

12/06: Registration for the **General Assembly of European Municipalities and Regions**, to take place in Cadiz, Spain, from 26 to 28 September 2012, is now open.  Participants who register before 1 August 2012 will benefit from the early bird fee. Moreover, the Congress website (www.cemr2012.eu) is available in English, French and Spanish. It includes practical information on the Congress (programme, hotel reservation information, excursions, etc.), a section dedicated to the latest news as well as a Twitter newsfeed allowing users to follow all happenings in real-time.  Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org

14/06 (Brussels): What answers can local and regional authorities expect to receive during CEMR's **General Assembly**? What should happen so that it can be considered a success? What sets this Congress apart from others? What is new in comparison to the previous

General Assembly held in Malmö in 2009? These questions and more have been addressed by CEMR secretary general, Frédéric Vallier, ahead of the General Assembly. [i](#) Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org

14/06 (Brussels): CEMR welcomes the agreement reached between the Council of the EU and the European Parliament on the proposal for a European directive on **energy efficiency**. Indeed, thanks notably to lobbying undertaken by CEMR's focus group, local and regional authorities are now excluded from having to reach the binding annual target for the renovation of publicly owned buildings. They are also exempt from having to purchase only products, services and buildings with high energy efficiency performance. [i](#) Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

18/06 (Brussels): CEMR's focus group on **cohesion policy** underlined the importance of the new delivery instruments for territorial development (community-led local development, integrated territorial investments and joint action plans). It also called for more clarity in the Common Provisions Regulation. These points were voiced during a discussion organised by European Parliament rapporteur on optimising the role of territorial development, Derek Vaughan, where CEMR participated as a panellist. [i](#) Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

19/06 (Brussels): CEMR calls on members of the European Parliament to put forward a simpler and more flexible procurement regime when tabling amendments for the new European directive on **public procurement**. Indeed, in a letter addressed to the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO), CEMR underlines that simplification would benefit both contracting authorities and enterprises, reducing the complexity and burdensome nature of procurement rules. [i](#) Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

20/06 (Brussels): UK government representatives met with CEMR at the invitation of LGA, expressing their shared views with regard to simplifying the draft EU directive on **public procurement**. Sally Collier, an executive director of the UK Cabinet Office, and Peter Bennett, the UK's lead policy official, stated that the new directive should not determine each and every aspect of how procurement should be run but rather provide a more flexible framework. This would leave member states with greater room to design procedures according to local and national objectives. [i](#) Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

20-22/06 (Rio de Janeiro): The final declaration of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development is generally-speaking considered to be disappointing due to the lack of multilateral agreements and commitments. However, CEMR welcomes the acknowledgement of the role that local and regional authorities play in **sustainable development**, present for the first time in a UN declaration. On this occasion, Anders Knape, CEMR executive president and president of SALAR, called for the setting-up of a true partnership between all spheres of governance in order to achieve the millenium development goals, and of the new sustainable development goals. Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org

21/06 (Brussels): Lending support to help strengthen local democracy and decentralisation is essential when aiding in the reconstruction of weakened states. Such was voiced by Sandra Ceciarini, CEMR director of citizenship and **international cooperation**, during a discussion on cooperation in fragile states organised by the European Commission. She also recalled the role of European local and regional authorities when it comes to awareness raising and mediation in a context of international crisis and to actions directed at their partners in the south before, during and after periods of conflict. Contact: florent.resche-rigon@ccre-cemr.org

21-22/06 (*Brussels*): Sustainable development is vital during times of reform both in theory and in practice. It should not be seen as separate from **social dialogue** but rather as a means of rendering the public sector more attractive and modern. Such was voiced by Angelika Poth-Mögele, CEMR policy director, during a discussion on public sector adjustments in Europe, organised by the International Labour Organisation and European Commission. On this occasion, European social partners presented their views on modernising and adjusting the public sector through strengthened social dialogue. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

28/06 (*Webinar*): The reality is that migrants do not have equal access to employment and career advancement in the local and regional government sector. However, the lack of statistics makes it difficult to judge the extent of the problem and to assess any progress made in this regard. This conclusion was reached at the occasion of an online **social dialogue** workshop on migration and mobility within local and regional government administration. Participants notably suggested drafting a European level joint statement on positive measures and policies led by social partners to recruit and retain migrant workers.  Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

Ongoing activities

In preparation for the **General Assembly of European Municipalities and Regions**, to be held in Cadiz, Spain from 26 to 28 September 2012, CEMR is translating the Congress programme into a number of languages with the help of its member associations. The programme is currently available in Bulgarian, English, French, Georgian, German, Greek, Polish, Romanian, Serbian and Spanish.  Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR is preparing its contribution to the Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralisation (GOLD III) report, whose drafting was launched by UCLG.  The report will notably analyse how **public services** are organised and financed as well as the challenges local and regional authorities are faced with in this regard. CEMR members are encouraged to gather information from their own members on the situation within their country and fill out the two questionnaires disseminated by CEMR in preparation for its contribution. The first questionnaire is directed at mayors  and the second at technicians, the deadline being set at 15 September 2012.  Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

The CEMR focus group on **cohesion policy** is preparing a number of key voting recommendations for the amendments to the draft directive presented by the members of the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development (REGI). These recommendations will primarily focus on the Common Provisions Regulation and on European regional development fund regulations.  The vote is to take place within the REGI Committee on 11 July 2012. Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR and the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) are organising the final conference of the **social dialogue** project "*Future of the workplace*", to be held in Prague, Czech Republic, on 15 October 2012. The event will take a look at the conclusions of the six workshops  and aim at developing a framework for action for local and regional authorities as employers. This will in turn feed into the work of the European Social Dialogue Committee. The deadline for registration is 30 July 2012.  Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR's calendar¹

JULY

10/07 (*Brussels*): Meeting of the CEMR focus group on **service concessions**. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

AUGUST

30/08 (*Brussels*): Meeting of the CEMR focus group on **public procurement**. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

SEPTEMBER

11/09 (*Brussels*): Meeting of the CEMR focus group on **local and regional government as employers**. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

12/09 (*Brussels*): Sixth workshop of the **social dialogue** project "*Future of the workplace*" on well-being and sustainable workplaces, organised by CEMR and the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU).⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

19/09 (*Brussels*): Meeting of the CEMR focus group on **air quality**. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

26/09 (*Cadiz*): CEMR **Policy Committee** meeting. Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org

26-28/09 (*Cadiz*): 25th **General Assembly of European Municipalities and Regions**, entitled "*Decentralisation, Democracy, Development: Innovation in 3D*", organised by CEMR in partnership with the FEMP and hosted by the City of Cadiz with support from the Province of Cadiz.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org

Other events

JULY

04-05/07 (*Brussels*): Action group on **age-friendly environments**, organised by the European Commission. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

10/07 (*Bruxelles*): Round table on the Smart Cities and Communities initiative, organised by the European Commission Directorate General for **Energy**. Annemarie Jorritsma, vice-president of CEMR and president of VNG, will participate on behalf of CEMR and present the expectations of local and regional authorities in this regard.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

16/07 (*Brussels*): Steering group meeting for the preparatory action called "*Partnership for Sustainable **Urban-Rural Development***", organised by the European Commission Directorate General for Regional Policy. Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

SEPTEMBER

04/09 (*Krynica*): International Economic Forum, organised by the Foundation Institute for Eastern Studies. Christina Dziewanska-Stringer, CEMR policy adviser on employment and social affairs, will present **youth unemployment** at this occasion.ⁱ Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

20/09 (*Brussels*): EU **Public Procurement** Forum, organised by Investing Business with Knowledge (IBC). Angelika Poth-Mögele, CEMR policy director, will chair the first panel discussion on new legislative proposals and their practical impact on European public procurement.ⁱ Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

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