



CEMR ACTIVITIES IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2012

SEPTEMBER

01/09: CEMR has released two **new publications**. The first, available in English, French, German and Spanish, presents CEMR's mission and its five new thematic domains. The second one, entitled *Local and Regional Governments in Europe – Structures and Competences*, outlines the organisation and functioning of municipalities and regions in 39 European countries. It is available in English and French. [i](#) Contact: emilie.melvin@cce-cemr.org

14/09: Dexia Crédit Local and CEMR published a note entitled "*Sub-national public finance in the European Union in 2011*", which analyses the **financial situation** of local and regional governments. The study shows that efforts led by local authorities to optimise earnings and to better control expenses helped consolidate the budgetary balance in the EU sub-national public sector. The note is available in English and French. [i](#) Contact: boris.tonhauser@cce-cemr.org

14/09 (*Brussels*): CEMR stressed the importance of community-led local development in the new **cohesion policy** as well as the need to reinforce provisions for partnerships between the local, regional and national levels. [i](#) Such was expressed by Angelika Poth-Mögele, CEMR director of policy, during a structured dialogue meeting held with representatives from the EU institutions, local and regional government associations, municipalities, regions, economic and social partners and civil society. Contact: alessandro.proia@cce-cemr.org

14/09 (*Brussels*): The CEMR "Energy efficiency" focus group met for the last time to analyse the final provisions of the directive on **energy efficiency**, adopted by the European Parliament on 4 October 2012. Participants welcomed the fact that the final text does not impose a binding annual target of 3% for the renovation of publicly owned buildings nor the obligation to purchase only goods or services with a high energy efficiency performance. [i](#) Contact: marie.bullet@cce-cemr.org

19/09 (*Brussels*): The CEMR "**Air quality**" focus group met for the first time to discuss its main objectives, the first of which is to produce a position paper that puts forward strong messages. Participants agreed that public health should be at the heart of the group's work. They also agreed that locally-led measures for issues such as vehicle emissions should be a priority when revising the European legislative text relative to air. Contact: marie.bullet@cce-cemr.org

20/09 (*Brussels*): Municipalities want to protect public health and offer a good-quality environment to their citizens, despite local investments being under pressure with the deepening of the economic and social crisis. Such was expressed by Marie Bullet, CEMR policy adviser for environmental issues, at the occasion of the final workshop of a project called Brokering Environmentally Sustainable **Sanitation** for Europe (BESSE), [i](#) in which CEMR's Italian section, the AICCRE, is actively involved. [i](#) Contact: marie.bullet@cce-cemr.org

20/09 (*Brussels*): The draft directive on **service concessions** is too detailed and contains many elements specific to public procurement. The CEMR “Service concessions” focus group thus formulated amendments with the aim of creating a lighter regime and more flexible rules. Further objectives include an increase in the thresholds for goods and services as well as the exclusion of specific sectors, such as civil protection, emergency response, hazard prevention, water, energy and social services. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

25/09 (*Cadiz*): The CEMR standing committee for **equality** and the national coordinators for equality-related issues from CEMR’s member associations gathered to discuss upcoming activities, including the work of the Observatory of the Charter for equality. A first draft of the Observatory website, which should be launched in January 2013, was presented at this occasion. It will provide users with information on equality and bring support to Charter signatories. Contact: johanna.tornstrom@ccre-cemr.org

26/09 (*Cadiz*): Local and regional authorities need to act. The time for speeches and statements is over and the time to talk to national governments has come. Such was declared by Patrizio Fiorilli, spokesperson for the EU budget and financial programming, invited to address CEMR’s **Policy Committee** members. The 2013 European Year of Citizens and the coordination of CEMR’s activities for 2013 in the framework of the European year were also discussed.  Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

26-28/09 (*Cadiz*): More interactive and innovative, the 25th **General Assembly** of European Municipalities and Regions brought together some 700 elected representatives and experts from 50 countries. The summaries and main outcomes of the different sessions are available on CEMR’s website.  Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

29/09 (*Cadiz*): Local and regional elected representatives adopted the **declaration of the 25th General Assembly** of European Municipalities and Regions. The text proposes a new approach to development, which relies on the ability of European territories to foster the right conditions for new growth. This growth needs to be sustainable and help create jobs via partnerships between political, economic and social stakeholders. The declaration is available in English, French, German, Italian, Romanian and Spanish.  Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

OCTOBER

01/10: A number of internal changes have been underway within the **CEMR Secretariat** throughout the course of October.  Moreover, the Policy Committee decided that the Paris and Brussels offices would progressively be reunited starting from March 2013. Contact: valerie.solle@ccre-cemr.org

03/10: United Cities and Local Governments (**UCLG**) has launched its new website, www.uclg.org, a year prior to its World Congress to be held in Rabat, Morocco. All of its publications, newsletters, reports and articles are available on the website and can be downloaded, printed, sent by email or shared via social networks, including Facebook and Twitter.  Contact: pierre.vanderauwera@ccre-cemr.org

04/10 (*Brussels*): CEMR’s main objectives for the new directive on **public procurement**, which are simplification and flexibility, have not yet been reached. Heide Rühle, member of European Parliament and shadow rapporteur for the parliamentary committee on the internal market and consumer protection (IMCO), has informed CEMR’s focus group that the negotiations between the different political groups have become increasingly difficult. CEMR

will thus try and meet with the committee's main actors to present its position. ⁱ Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

09/10 (Brussels): Local and regional authorities call on the European Parliament, rapporteurs on the new cohesion regulations and the Cyprus EU presidency to ensure that the partnership principle is truly strengthened in the upcoming negotiations on **cohesion policy**. This call was issued during the main workshop of the 2012 Open Days, organised by the CEMR and a number of its national member associations. ⁱ Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

10/10 (Brussels): The negotiations on **cohesion policy** and **innovation** in municipalities and regions are among the top priorities of the new CEMR "Sustainable territorial and local development" thematic platform. The platform met for the first time in order to establish a calendar and objectives for the coming months. A meeting has notably been organised early December with members of European Parliament to discuss the future of cohesion policy in the framework of negotiations on the multi-annual financial framework. ⁱ Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

15/10 (Prague): In today's European social, economic and political crisis-ridden context, local and regional authorities as employers and trade unions have committed to strengthening the European sectoral **social dialogue** in the local and regional government sector. This commitment has been translated into a series of 12 recommendations, which are to form a European framework for action in key areas, identified during a final conference of the project "Future of the workplace". ⁱ The project conclusions ⁱ and a summary of the conference debates ⁱ are available on the CEMR website. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

18/10 (Brussels): The budget allocated to **public services** must be examined very carefully as their contribution can have a direct or indirect impact on Europe's future infrastructures. Such was the message underlined in a declaration adopted by CEMR and the other partners of the Public Services Employers' Forum ahead of the tripartite social summit on 18 October 2012. The text underlines the importance of thinking long-term when it comes to planning for the future of public services. ⁱ Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

18/10 (Antalya): The www.twinning.org ⁱ website is now available in Turkish. This new version was launched during a conference on **town twinning** in Turkey and the EU, organised by the Union of Municipalities of Turkey and the European Commission. CEMR was represented by Dave Wilcox, vice-president of the CEMR "Governance and citizenship" committee. Contact: pierre.mace@ccre-cemr.org

Ongoing activities

In the framework of the 2012 European Year for **Active Ageing**, CEMR, EUROCIITIES and AGE, the European platform for the elderly, launched a questionnaire that will help set local and regional priorities in the fields of demographic change, youth participation and active ageing. CEMR invites its member associations to respond to the questionnaire, which is available in English, ⁱ French ⁱ and Italian, ⁱ before 15 November 2012. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

The 3rd Global Observatory on **Local Democracy** and **Decentralisation** (GOLD III) report, conducted in collaboration with our member associations, continues to progress. After having received the national questionnaires and summaries, CEMR has entered a new phase: the drafting of country fact sheets by experts Pierre Bauby and Mihaela Similie. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR calendar¹

14/11 (*Brussels*): CEMR workshop on **lobbying**. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

14/11 (*Brussels*): Meeting of the **secretaries general and directors** of CEMR's member associations. Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

15/11 (*Brussels*): Meeting of the CEMR **technical cooperation platform** in the framework of the meeting of the secretaries general and directors of CEMR's member associations. Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

20/11 (*Brussels*): First meeting of the CEMR "**Water**" focus group. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

Other events

06/11 (*Nicosia*): Informal meeting of the ministers for **cohesion policy** of the 27 EU member states. CEMR will be represented by Carola Gunnarsson, president of the CEMR "Sustainable territorial and local development" thematic platform and vice-president of its Swedish association, SALAR.  Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

13/11 (*Brussels*): Awards ceremony of the 2012 European Year on **Active Ageing** and Solidarity across Generations.  Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

20/11 (*Brussels*): Thematic seminar on the role of local and regional authorities in creating an **age-friendly** European Union, organised by the AGE platform.  Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

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