



## **CEMR Declaration on the European Commission's Better Regulation Package "Better law-making needs local input!"**

**CEMR and its member associations call upon the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the European Union to:**

1. Reaffirm their commitment to a European multi-level governance model, which is built on active and constructive cooperation between the different levels of governance.
2. Consider the further development of this governance concept into a governance in partnership' model, whereby all levels of government, EU, national, regional and local, work together to find common solutions on policies and legislation where they share legal competences.
3. Recognise local authorities *"as public institutions with legal personality, component of the State structure, below the level of central government and accountable to citizens, encompassing different tiers of government"* as stated in the Council conclusions on local authorities in cooperation, as well as the need for local and regional authorities to have a more preeminent role as per the partnership principle introduced in the EU cohesion policy. Reflecting article 4 of the Treaty on EU, respecting regional and local self-government, Protocol 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, and Protocol 26 on services of general interest.
4. Include local and regional government via its representative bodies such as the national associations and CEMR, at all stages of the policy cycle. This should be from the start when policy options are assessed and impact assessments of both new and existing legislation are being undertaken, through to the preparation and negotiation of the proposal as far as the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the legislation. Their expertise can be useful to assess the potential costs, as well as the administrative and regulatory dimension of new legislation, which is often severely lacking in the Commission's contracted out studies, ultimately undermining the effectiveness of EU legislation.
5. Revoke the need for national associations of local and regional governments to register in the EU [Transparency Register](#) within the Inter-institutional Agreement on Transparency, for the sake of Better Regulation. They perform an institutional role, often recognised by national constitutional or legal provisions, to articulate and represent the views of local government at national, European and international level. Local politicians are directly elected by citizens and legitimate actors in the European governance system; they cannot be put in the same category as commercial lobbyists or single-issue interest groups.
6. The local and regional representation to the REFIT Platform cannot be limited to a single representative of the Committee of the Regions. Instead CEMR advocates that just like the expert groups of the Commission in which CEMR participates representing local and regional government, it should be open to a transparent selection procedure via an open call for expressions of interests.
7. Strengthen and further develop territorial impact assessments, not only as part of the integrated guidelines "toolbox", but also as a core element of the Better Regulation Guidelines. The EU Urban Agenda and other initiatives such as RURBAN, the mid-term review of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Territorial Agenda 2020 have the potential to introduce such an approach and providing a working method of partnership with cities and municipalities.