



Conseil des Communes et Régions d'Europe
Council of European Municipalities and Regions

Le Secrétaire Général

Mr Wolfgang Tiefensee
Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs
Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Bau und Stadtentwicklung
Invalidenstr. 44
10115 Berlin

Germany

Brussels, 22 May 2007

Informal Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion (24-25 May 2007, Leipzig)

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) – the European umbrella organisation of 50 national associations representing local and regional government in 36 countries – I would like to express our support for the German Presidency's initiative to dedicate the informal Ministerial Meeting in Leipzig on 24 and 25 May to sustainable urban development and territorial cohesion. We particularly welcome the open and constructive stakeholder dialogue that you and your ministry held during the preparation of the Territorial Agenda.

For the CEMR and its members, integrated urban and spatial development is a key element of a territorial cohesion policy. Even if the European Union has no regulatory competence in the field of urban and spatial planning, we welcome the increased attention to the territorial impact of the Union's policies.

CEMR supports the goals of the Leipzig meeting as set out by the German Presidency and sees them as an important continuation of the commitments taken at the Informal Ministerial Meeting in Bristol (2005) and in Rotterdam (2004). In this context, we would like to highlight the importance of building upon the valuable work that is already being undertaken at local and regional level to boost territorial cohesion.

As you may confirm from your experience as Lord mayor of Leipzig, local political leadership and democratically elected local governments play a crucial role in developing sustainable communities.

We trust that our attached response will contribute to your discussions in Leipzig, and we look forward to developing our cooperation with you and your European colleagues in the future implementation of the European Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter. We believe that it is only by working together in partnership that local, regional and national governments, supported by the EU institutions, will be able to address the challenges facing Europe today.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SSK Smith', written in a cursive style.

Jeremy Smith