COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS
CONSEIL DES COMMUNES ET REGIONS D'EUROPE

THE FUTURE OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE

CEMR Conference

9th November 2006
9.30 – 17.30

Venue:

Mission of Norway to the EU
rue Archimède, 17
1000 Brussels

Conseil des Communes et Régions d'Europe • Council of European Municipalities and Regions
15 Rue de Richelieu F-75 001 Paris
tel : + 33 1 44 50 59 59
cemr@ccre.org - www.ccre.org
22 Rue d'Arlon B-1050 Bruxelles
Tel : + 32 2 511 74 77

Programme

The future of rural communities in Europe

9h00 – 9h30 **Registration**

9h30 – 11h00 **Plenary 1: What are the challenges facing rural areas in Europe today? What are the future trends that we need to respond to?**

Chair: Jeremy Smith, Secretary General, CEMR

- ***Louis Le Pensec***, President French section of CEMR (AFCCRE), Co-Chair CEMR Cohesion Policy Forum (FR)
- ***Nicola Crosta,*** Administrator, Rural Development Unit, Regional Competitiveness and Governance Division, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD
- ***Thijs Berman,*** Member of the European Parliament (NL)
- ***Antonis Constantinou,*** Director Rural Development Programmes, European Commission, Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development

11h00 – 11h15 **Coffee Break**

11h15 – 12h45 **Plenary 2: Visions for competitive rural communities of the future: what are the opportunities and the critical success factors?**

Chair: Roland Schäfer, Mayor of Bergkamen, President of German Association of Towns and Municipalities, DStGB (DE)

- ***Neil Ward,*** Director of Centre for Rural Economy, University of Newcastle upon Tyne (UK)
- ***Michele Pasca-Raymondo,*** Deputy Director General, European Commission Directorate General Regional policy
- ***Janne Antikainen,*** Finnish Ministry of the Interior on behalf of the Finnish Presidency (FI)
- ***Bernd Vögerle,*** Vice-President Austrian Association of Municipalities: employment in rural areas (AT)

12h45 – 14h00 **Lunch Break**

14h00 – 15h30 **Parallel Workshops: Good practice in building successful rural communities across Europe**

<u>Workshop 1:</u> Successful practice in diversifying rural economies and creating new employment opportunities *(Translation EN-DE-ES)*

Chair: Richard Parry Hughes, Leader of Gwynedd County Council, WLGA spokesperson on environment and planning (UK)

- ***Friedrich Scheerer***, Mayor of Mönchweiler, Head of Clearing Office 'New Media in Rural Areas', Baden-Württemberg (DE)
- ***Roger Kaliff,*** Mayor of Kalmar, President Commission for External Relations, Committee of the Regions (SE)
- ***Monserrat Domenech Borrull,*** Mayor of Caldes de Montbui (Barcelona), President of the Section of Municipalities with Thermal Waters, Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, FEMP (ES)
- ***Jiri Bytel,*** Mayor of Velká Hledsebe (CZ)

<u>Workshop 2:</u> New ways of delivering public services in rural communities *(Translation EN-FR)*

Chair: Olivier Bertrand**,** Mayor of Saint Sylvain Bellegarde, General Secretary of the French section of CEMR, AFCCRE (FR)

- ***Clare Greener*****,** Rural Policy Advisor, Shropshire County Council – UK Beacon 'Improving Rural Services: Empowering Communities' (UK)
- ***Emile Eicher*****,** Chairman of LEADER+ Group, Clerf-Vianden (LUX)
- ***May-Britt Nordli****,* Director of the Department of Democracy and Regional Development, Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (NOR)
- ***Martin Vogler,*** Regionalverband Südlicher Oberrhein, EU project PUSEMOR: new needs and innovative strategies for service delivery in sparsely populated mountain regions (DE)

15h30 – 15h45 **Coffee Break**

15h45 – 17h15 **<u>Plenary 3</u>: The European Policy Framework of the future – what support structures do we need to assist rural areas?**

Chair: Andrew Bowles, Member of Kent County Council, Chair of Rural Commission of the Local Government Association

- ***Jose Manuel Sousa Uva***, Director Rural Development Programmes, European Commission, Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development
- ***Thiemo W. Eser***, Luxembourg Ministry of Interior and Spatial Development, Responsible for European affairs: "Towards an EU Territorial Agenda: addressing rural areas"
- ***Jean-Pierre Vercruysse***; Coordinator European Citizen Panels on "What roles for rural areas in tomorrow's Europe?", European Association for Information on Local Development (AEIDL)
- ***François Dosé***, Deputy and Mayor of Commercy, Secretary General of the Association des Petites Villes de France

17h15– 17h30 **Concluding Remarks** ***Jeremy Smith,*** Secretary General, CEMR