



DECLARATION

on local and municipal authorities to register in the Transparency Register

CEMR and its member associations are very worried that the European institutions put local and municipal authorities and their representative associations in the same category as any company with commercial interests or single-issue organisations without any democratic legitimacy.

The text of the *Interinstitutional agreement on the transparency register*¹, adopted by the European Parliament on 15 April 2014, is an alarming sign as it no longer excludes local and municipal authorities and their representative associations from the scope of the register.

The application of its provisions on local authorities and their representative organisations is a serious threat to exercise their democratic role. Local authorities are democratically organised; their leaders are elected and have the political mandate and legitimacy to represent the citizens of their communities. Their representative organisations follow the same logic and democratic principles; they gather the views of their members to express them at national and European level. This is their democratic political task and constitutes an important element of the multi-level governance model that the European Union promotes, and which is reflected in the respect of the fundamental structures, political and constitutional, regional and local self-government in article 4 (2) of the Lisbon Treaty.

Sub-national public authorities are part of the implementation process of EU-legislation at local level; this has been recognised in the previous texts of the interinstitutional agreement in 2008 and 2011, where they were excluded from the scope due to their role in carrying out tasks as provided for in the Treaties.

The Committee of the Regions has been established as a consultative body to the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council, which issues opinions on a number of issues that are provided for in the Treaties. Its members are nominated by the Member States and act in their individual role as local or regional politician.

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

1. Make a clear distinction between local and municipal authorities and their associations on the one side, and representatives of private businesses and single-issue organisations on the other side;
2. Recognise the democratic legitimacy of elected sub-national authorities and their representative associations;
3. Acknowledge their legitimacy to play an active role in the European multi-level governance system;
4. Take note that not all sub-national public authorities are represented by the Committee of the Regions, and that therefore national associations and their European umbrella organisation, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) play an important role;
5. Seriously consider the specific role of local and municipal authorities and suspend the application of paragraph 17 when drafting guidance and internal rules on the implementation of the interinstitutional agreement;
6. Include CEMR in the future consultation on the Transparency Register prior to the next revision of the interinstitutional agreement.

¹ 2014/2010(ACI)