



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS
EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

Paris, 8-9 December 2008

MEETING FILE

With the support of:

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COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS

EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

✓ for decision
for information

DRAFT AGENDA

Monday 8 December:

PARIS CITY HALL

Salle des Fêtes, 3 rue Lobau, 4th arrondissement

Documents No

- 14 h 00 Registration opens
- 14 h 30 Opening of the meeting
- ◇ Welcome by **Louis Le Pensec**, President of the AFCCRE, Vice-President of CEMR
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3. Address by **Bertrand Delanoë**, Mayor of Paris, President of United Cities and Local Governments

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4. The French Presidency of the Union – priorities and outcomes
- Contribution by a senior representative of the French government (*to be confirmed*)
5. Priorities of the 2009 Czech and Swedish EU Presidencies
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Tuesday 9 December:
ILE-DE-FRANCE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Hémicycle : 57, rue de Babylone, 7th Arrondissement

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13 h 00 Closing of the Policy Committee

Lunch, at the invitation of Jean-Paul Huchon, President of the Region Ile-de-France



**COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS**

EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

★ REYKJAVIK, 5 MAY 2008 ★

✓ for decision
for information**DRAFT LIST OF DECISIONS**

The Chair, First Vice-President Anders Knape, opened the Policy Committee meeting and transmitted the greetings of President Häupl who unfortunately was not able to attend the meeting.

Mr Halldor Halldorsson, President of the Association of Local Authorities in Iceland, Mayor of Isafjordur municipality, welcomed the participants and informed them about Iceland's system of local government.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of the list of decisions of the Stuttgart Policy Committee, 4 – 5 December 2008

The draft list of decisions, including the final Declarations on sustainable mobility and on the Treaty of Lisbon, was approved.

The Policy Committee elected Mr Pedro Castro-Vázquez (Mayor of Getafe, President of the FEMP) as a CEMR Vice-President, member of the Executive Bureau. The Committee noted the nomination by the FEMP of Mr Leon de la Riva (Mayor of Valladolid, Chair of the FEMP International Committee) as alternate to the Vice-President.

Mr Gabriel Alvarez Fernandez, Secretary-General of the FEMP, was elected by the Committee as CEMR Honorary Auditor.

The Committee noted the nominations to the Policy Committee received since the last meeting, including two nominations very recently received from the Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia.

The list of decisions of the meeting of Secretaries General and Directors held in Ljubljana on 19th March was noted.

3. Political debate on the draft Charter of Regional Democracy of the Congress of the Council of Europe

The Secretary General introduced the debate, giving information on the background to the Congress's draft Charter of Regional Democracy. He drew attention to the CEMR draft position attached to the report, as well as to some specific suggested drafting amendments to the Charter.

Mr Whitmore, as chair of the institutional committee of the Congress, explained the approach taken by the Congress, in seeking to provide a draft which, whilst setting out the important principles of regional democracy, could also be accepted by ministers.

Mr Skard, President of the Congress, also invited CEMR to express broad support for the draft Charter. He informed the Committee that members of the Congress still had the opportunity to propose amendments.

A wide-ranging debate ensued, in which some members expressed reservations about giving a CEMR position at this stage, when the text was not finalised, whilst others underlined the importance of such a Charter. Amongst other points, many speakers proposed that the Charter must avoid any implication of a hierarchical relationship between central, regional and local authorities. Those participating in the debate included Mr Bertrand, Mr Castro-Vázquez, Ms Dieckmann, Mr Pellegrini, Mr Porawski and Mr Reepalu.

The debate focused in particular on the issue of whether regional assemblies must be directly elected, as currently provided for in Article 14, or whether they could be composed of members chosen by the respective local authorities, as is currently the case in some countries (such members having been directly elected to the local authority). Amongst the members taking part in the debate, Mr Andersen argued in favour of the principle of directly elected assemblies, whilst Mr Pukkinen argued that this requirement should not be imposed via the Charter.

The Policy Committee voted by 26 to 14 against the mandatory requirement in Article 14 for regional assemblies to be directly elected, and that the CEMR position paper should be amended accordingly to delete the word "direct" in relation to the principle of democratic assemblies.

Also in relation to the draft CEMR position paper, Mr Hoffschulte proposed that there should be included a duty on regional authorities to promote the strengthening of local self-government, and that in this regard, the text should also refer to the new UN Habitat Guidelines on decentralisation.

The Policy Committee then voted, with 7 votes against and one abstention, to approve the draft CEMR position, with the inclusion of these amendments, and to forward it to the Congress.

4. Major European issues

4.1. Ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon

The Policy Committee took note of the state of play in relation to the ratification process of the Treaty of Lisbon. The Committee was informed that Denmark had recently ratified the Treaty.

4.2. Priorities of the forthcoming French Presidency of the European Union

Mr Bertrand outlined the priorities of the upcoming French presidency, including: migration, environment and sustainable development, energy, reform of the common agricultural policy, and Europe and the Mediterranean Region.

The Committee was informed by Mr Laurent about events being organised by the AFCCRE in connection with the French presidency.

Mr Vlasak, CEMR Executive President, then presented the priorities of the Czech Presidency in the first half of 2009 which is being organised under the motto “Europe without frontiers”.

5. Applications for membership

5.1. Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

5.2. Association of Municipalities and Towns of Republic of Srpska

The Chair took both membership applications together, pointing out that together, the two applicant associations represented the large majority of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Secretary General read a message from Ms Vesna Travljanin, Secretary General of the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, presenting her association, which was not able to send a representative to the meeting in Reykjavik.

Mr Radomir Kezunovic, President of the Association of Municipalities and Towns of the Republic of Srpska presented his association.

The Policy Committee unanimously agreed the request for CEMR membership, as full members, of

- The Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- The Association of Municipalities and Towns of Republic of Srpska.

6. Malmö General Assembly (22 – 24 April 2009)

Mr Reepalu, Mayor of Malmö, informed the Committee about the preparation of CEMR's next General Assembly in Malmö.

Ms Bougeard, supported by Ms Storelli, proposed that there should be a specific session on gender equality in the programme.

The Secretary General presented the latest draft outline programme, taking into account consultation with members and the host city. He proposed that the issue of gender equality should be integrated into the parallel sessions.

The Policy Committee noted the state of play in relation to the preparation of the General Assembly, and also noted the outline programme.

The Committee decided that 30th January 2009 should be the deadline for candidacies for the host city or region for CEMR's 25th General Assembly, due to take place in 2012.

7. Twinning

The Secretary General thanked Mr Knape, who had chaired CEMR's Twinning Network for many years, for his dedicated work. He informed the meeting that a call for nominations for the Chair of this network had been launched, the only candidate nominated being Mr Janusz Marszałek, the Mayor of Oświęcim, Poland.

Mr Porawski, Director of the Association of Polish Cities, presented the candidacy of Mr Marszałek, who also briefly addressed the meeting.

The Policy Committee unanimously elected Mr Marszałek as Chair of the Twinning Network.

The Committee took note of the work underway to create a twinning website, and of the twinning network meeting and seminar in Marseille, on 22nd June.

8. Debate: Strengthening the involvement of elected representatives within CEMR

The Secretary General presented the background to this ongoing debate within CEMR, and drew attention to the three broad options for the Committee to consider, which were set out in Annex A to the report.

A debate took place in which members considered the respective advantages of Options A and C, there being no support for Option B. Those participating in the debate included Mr Giannopoulos, Mr Gjesing, Ms Jorritsma, Mr Keymer, Mr Laurent, Mr Murray, Mr Pellegrini, Mr Reepalu, Mr Schuster and Mr Whitmore.

Mr Skard, Chair of CEMR's Financial Management Committee, asked for the financial implications of Option C to be given. A number of members expressed the view that, so far as possible, rapporteurs should be drawn from the members of the Policy Committee.

At the conclusion of the debate, the First Vice-President invited the members of the Committee to vote between Options A and C.

The Policy Committee then voted by a substantial majority in favour of Option C, the appointment of elected members as rapporteurs.

The Committee then considered Annex B, which set out possible policy areas for CEMR elected rapporteurs. On the proposal of Mr Schuster, under point 5 (employment and social policy) it was agreed to add economic development as a specific issue.

Following a further discussion, the Committee then decided to set up a new committee or working group on governance and democracy issues, with an elected Chair/Vice-chairs, since in this important area of activity there is no current formal structure within CEMR. The subjects to be dealt with by this body would include local / regional government finances, institutional affairs, local and regional self-government and democracy, and aspects of public services.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would draw up a more detailed proposal in relation to the implementation of the above decisions, including draft terms of reference and financial implications, for consultation with members during the summer. A call for nominations of (co-)rapporteurs would be made to enable their election at the next meeting of the Policy Committee in December.

9. Towards the European Parliament elections: a Manifesto for local and regional government

The Secretary General informed the Committee of the proposal to draft a short manifesto for local and regional government for use in relation to the elections to the European Parliament in June 2009. The first draft would be circulated to the associations for comments, with a view to finalising it in the autumn.

Ms Dieckmann, Executive President, proposed that such a manifesto should also aim to demonstrate to citizens the value of voting in the election.

The Policy Committee approved the proposal to draw up such a manifesto on this basis.

10. Influencing EU legislation and policy – implementing the CEMR work programme

The Policy Committee took note of CEMR's activities on influencing EU law and policy, as set out in the overview report.

The Policy Committee approved the following responses of CEMR to consultations of the European Commission:

- CEMR's response to the consultation on the budget review / financial perspectives of the EU
- CEMR's response to the Green Paper on adaptation to climate change
- CEMR's response to the Green Paper on urban mobility
- CEMR's response to the consultation on the active inclusion of people furthest from the labour market
- CEMR's response to the consultation on the future of EU cohesion policy

11. European Charter for equality of women and men in local life

Ms Bougeard, Chair of the CEMR Women Elected Members Committee, reported on the final conference, held in Pisa on 20-21 February, of the project on the implementation of the Charter. She invited the national associations to support the future work on the Charter, and to promote the signing of the Charter by their members.

The Policy Committee ratified the final Declaration adopted at the closing of the Pisa conference.

12. Initiatives in south-east Europe

The Secretary General and Mr Weninger (Austrian Association of Cities) informed the Committee on the preparations for the Vienna conference of 6 -7 November 2008 on local government in south-east Europe, and invited member associations to be represented at the meeting. The Policy Committee took note of the preparations for this seminar.

The Secretary General also informed the Committee that the concept of cross-membership between NALAS and CEMR (as associate members of each other) will be discussed by NALAS later in May, and will be put into effect once agreed by NALAS.

As CEMR's work programme for 2008 includes the plan to open a dialogue with the Turkish local and regional authorities, Mr Zeybekci, Executive Board Member of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT) and Mayor of Denizli was invited by the Chair to address the Policy Committee. He expressed the wish of his association to become member of CEMR.

The Policy Committee gave mandate to CEMR's First Vice-President to develop dialogue with the UMT.

13. Upcoming conferences

The members of the Policy Committee took note of the following forthcoming conferences:

- Conference on changes in the organisation of local public services: the role of social dialogue, Brussels (3 June)
- City Diplomacy Conference, The Hague (11-13 June).
- Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean, including CEMR Twinning seminar, Marseille (22-23 June).
- World Water Congress, Vienna (Local Governments' Day, 9 September)
- Conference on governance with the European Parliament's Intergroup Urban-housing, Reims (15 September)
- European Information Society Conference (EISCO), Naples (25-27 September)
- Conference on changes in local and regional government structures, with Danish associations, Copenhagen (1 October)
- Poznan climate change conference (December)

Arising from discussion on the Marseille Forum, whilst emphasising the need for partnership with the Committee of the Regions (CoR), a number of members expressed concern that the CoR appeared to be widening the scope of its activities without appropriate consultation and co-ordination with national and European associations, in fields in which the latter had longstanding and legitimate records of activity.

14. Other Council of Europe Affairs

The Secretary General introduced the report, which gave information on the Congress's draft Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government, and on the European local government ministers' proposal for an additional Protocol on citizen participation at local level. The report provided an update on preparations for the European Local Democracy Week.

The Committee discussed a number of drafting issues in relation to the Congress's draft Protocol. Mr Hoffschulte proposed that the Protocol should include a reference to the UN Habitat Guidelines on decentralisation, and should incorporate the definitions of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality as now set out in the EU Treaty of Lisbon.

Members of the Policy Committee agreed that the term "higher authorities" indicated a hierarchical relationship and should be changed. Mr Skard proposed that "higher authorities" should be replaced by "national authorities" rather than "central authorities".

Mr Whitmore, as chair of the Institutional Affairs Committee, proposed to discuss with the Secretary General how best to proceed with CEMR's proposed amendments, given that the Congress has already adopted the text as it stands.

Subject to the above points, the Policy Committee agreed to express its support for the Congress's draft Protocol.

Taking note of the local government ministers' proposal for a new Protocol, the Committee endorsed the existing CEMR policy that the Charter should deal only with the central-local government relationship, and to inform the European ministers and the Congress accordingly.

Finally, the Committee decided to promote and facilitate the participation of their members in the European Local Democracy Week, and where appropriate to co-ordinate or organise national activities during the week (13 – 19 October).

15. Project proposal for a co-ordination platform for international co-operation

The Policy Committee took note of CEMR's project proposal to the European Commission, submitted on 2nd April, for a co-ordination platform of local and regional governments for international co-operation, under the new programme for non-state actors and local authorities.

16. UCLG affairs

Mr Bilsky, from the UCLG world secretariat, informed the Committee on the activities of UCLG in 2008. He explained why the date of the forthcoming Executive Bureau in Quito, Ecuador, had had to be changed recently. The Chair and other members expressed their concern at this late change, which caused significant difficulties for those due to attend. The Secretary General was asked to write to his counterpart in UCLG to express these concerns.

Concerning CEMR's support of strengthening the role of regions within UCLG, the Secretary General confirmed that he had already spoken to Ms Gateau, Secretary General of UCLG, on this matter, and would send a letter to her as previously agreed.

Mr Laboria, member of the Provincial Council of Barcelona, presented to the Committee the GOLD report on the state of decentralisation and local government across the world, a project which the Province had strongly supported. The Chair thanked Mr Laboria for his important contribution.

Ms Jorritsma invited the members of the Committee to support the work of the Municipal Alliance for Peace (MAP), which aims in particular to facilitate dialogue between the Israeli and Palestinian associations of local authorities. She explained proposals to formalize MAP's structure by establishing itself as a platform under UCLG auspices, with the creation of a legal entity. She confirmed that the MAP would be open to all relevant local government networks working to similar ends.

The Policy Committee noted the proposals in relation to the formalisation of MAP's structure.

17. World Affairs Committee

The Committee was informed that the next meeting of this Committee would take place on 4 June in Brussels, and the following one prior to the UCLG World Council meeting in Istanbul in late November.

18. Calendar of meetings

The Policy Committee took note of the calendar of main meetings in 2008 and 2009, and approved the proposals for CEMR statutory meetings. The Secretary General indicated that the Spring 2009 meeting of Secretaries General and Directors might be held in the Czech Republic.

Mr Bertrand, on behalf of the AFCCRE, warmly invited the Policy Committee to its next meeting, in Paris on 8 – 9 December.

* * *

The First Vice-President closed the Policy Committee meeting by thanking the Icelandic Association for its excellent organisation and hosting of the meeting.

**SECRETARIES GENERAL AND DIRECTORS MEETING
OF THE NATIONAL SECTIONS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS****★ MALMÖ, 29-30 SEPTEMBER 2008 ★**✓ for decision
for information**DRAFT LIST OF DECISIONS**

The Secretary General of CEMR opened the meeting welcoming the participants and thanking the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions for hosting the meeting, and the Mayor of Malmö for his city's warm welcome.

Ilmar Reepalu, Mayor of Malmö, took the floor to welcome the participants, and particularly to invite them to return to Malmö in April 2009 for the 24th General Assembly of CEMR.

Håkan Sörman, Chief Executive Officer of SALAR, addressed the participants and presented the situation of local democracy in Sweden.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

Mr Chaillou (AFCCRE) proposed adding a point to the draft agenda to debate relations with the Committee of the Regions (CoR), including in the context of initiatives relating to the Mediterranean.

The Secretary General informed the participants that the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities of Serbia were of the view that it was not appropriate to debate the issue of potential membership arrangements with the Association of Kosovo Municipalities at this stage.

CEMR's Secretary General recommended maintaining the point on the meeting agenda in order to seek the views of the member associations. He underlined the secretariat's view that given the lack of a clear approach from the international community vis à vis the status of Kosovo, and the resulting issues in relation to statutory membership criteria of CEMR, it would not be appropriate for the Secretaries General and Directors to send any recommendation to the Policy Committee relating to the Kosovo association's membership request.

Ms Ehinger-Berling (SALAR) proposed adding a specific point to the agenda relating to relations with and possible membership of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey.

With these points taken into account, the draft agenda was adopted.

2.1. Approval of the draft list of decisions of Ljubljana meeting (19 March 2008)

The list of decisions from the Ljubljana meeting was approved.

2.2. For information, draft list of decisions of the Reykjavik Policy Committee meeting (5th May 2008)

The Secretaries General and Directors took note of the draft list of decisions of the Reykjavik Policy Committee.

3. Europe and CEMR in 2009 - exchange on proposals of the Secretariat General in preparation of the 2009 work programme

The Secretary General presented the first draft outline of CEMR's 2009 work programme.

Several participants, including Mr Pans (VNG), Mr Telakivi (AFLRA) and Mr Lorenzen (LGDK) complimented CEMR on the ambitious 2009 draft programme, and put forward different additional points and amendments relating to its further elaboration.

There was broad agreement to the following points raised by Mr Pans: that once the European Commission's work programme is finalised, CEMR's programme should be adapted where relevant; that the work programme should include the organisation of a seminar on the theme "trust in government" – the Secretary General proposed undertaking to approach this issue in partnership with a leading research group, Ipsos MORI or Gallup, for example; to add a focus in the outline programme on justice, safety and migration, which could be linked with the issue of the impact of asylum-seekers arriving in European local authorities, as proposed by Mr Chaillou (AFCCRE).

The participants further agreed to the importance of defining a clear local authority strategy on climate change, given the multiplication of events and initiatives being organised around this theme. It was agreed that CEMR should undertake to pursue work in this area with UCLG, and ICLEI as possible, and that the special session during the Malmö General Assembly should aim to send a unified message from local and regional government to the Copenhagen COP15, and prior to this, to the June local government climate conference also in Copenhagen.

Ms Perisic (ZELS) requested adding a point to the outline programme for CEMR to work with its members in south-east Europe to assist the associations with preparing EU integration, and it was agreed that CEMR should work in consultation with members in south-east Europe to organise initiatives of interest in 2009.

Mr Chaillou requested that clear priorities be established under the different work programme objectives, and that key issues such as cohesion and territorial policy should appear higher up the list. He further proposed that more detail should be added to Objective D on strengthening CEMR as an effective organisation.

Ms Saiz (UCLG) underlined the world organisation's wish to pursue good collaboration with the European section in 2009, in particular relating to the preparation of the GOLD report which will focus on municipal finances, the preparation for the 3rd World Congress, and on climate change.

It was agreed that the outline work programme for 2009 would be further developed to take into account these exchanges, and in order to be presented to the Policy Committee for adoption at the December meeting.

4.1. Realisation of the 2007 budget

The Secretary General indicated that CEMR's Financial Management Committee had met on 8th September and approved the realisation of CEMR's budget for 2007, which had been given a clean report by the professional auditors.

The Secretaries General and Directors took note of the information in the meeting report on 2007, and the Secretary General's information foreseeing a balanced outturn for the year 2008.

4.2. 2009 pre-draft budget

CEMR's Director of Finance and Administration indicated that the outline work programme for 2009 was at least as full as in previous years, and that it would therefore be important to ensure an adequate budget.

To offer options for facing the anticipated high level of inflation, in particular at present in Belgium – and thus on CEMR's budget – the Financial Management Committee put forward two proposals for the pre-draft 2009 budget. The secretariat indicated that of the two, option 2 would come closer to covering the expected level of inflation, and provide 10 000€ to enable the work of the political rapporteurs which the Policy Committee voted to set up at their meeting in Reykjavik.

Mr Pans (VNG) and Ms Ehinger-Berling (SALAR) proposed that for the CEMR budget, the secretariat should follow a general policy of correcting the amount of inflation once the real level is known in future. The Secretary General clarified that the 1st option with the 2.7% raise in membership fees was offered to provide the members with an option at less than inflation, and indicated that the idea of a new general policy on inflation-based increases would be put forward to the Financial Management Committee.

Following debate, a number of participants expressed broad support for Option 2, including Mr Pans, Ms Ehinger-Berling, Mr Leitermann (RGRE) and Mr Lorenzen (LGDK) who underlined in particular their support for effectively following up with the new political rapporteurs system. There was no specific support expressed for Option 1.

Mr Chaillou (AFCCRE) underlined that some associations would have particularly difficult budgetary situations in the coming year. He presented President Le Pensec's express wish to ensure respect of the compromise reached at CEMR's Bordeaux Policy Committee (2000) which provided that both the Paris and Brussels offices of the CEMR secretariat should be maintained, in financial conditions that would enable both to pursue their tasks effectively. The Secretary General considered that neither budgetary option put the Bordeaux compromise at risk, but recognised that the secretariat was under increasing pressure to participate in or be represented at an increasing number of events and actions.

The Secretaries General and Directors noted the information provided that fees from recent and potential new members' in the next year would not make a large difference in the budget, excepting the possibility of new membership in Turkey which could positively impact on CEMR's finances. It was also underlined that given the current global financial situation, no amount had been included in the draft budget relating to any possible accord with private sector partners for 2009.

It was recommended that both budget options be presented to the Policy Committee.

5.1. Malmö General Assembly, 22-24 April 2009: pre-draft programme

The Secretary General presented the pre-draft programme of the 24th General Assembly. Associations with ideas for interesting possible speakers still have the possibility of submitting these to the secretariat (the draft programme will need to be finalised in the near future). Participants underlined that it will be important to aim for a decent gender balance in the programme.

For the programme's structure, further possibilities could still be considered, such as a short session on the 21 years of the coming into effect of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, and a special celebration if, with the support of the national associations, the 1000th signature of CEMR's European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life is reached in time for the Malmö General Assembly.

Mr Nord (city of Malmö) presented information on the technical visits and social programme. A model of the film/photo montage that is due to be projected during the interlude on the first day of the Assembly was projected. CEMR's members were invited to send the organisers in Malmö photos that could be used for the final version, according to the specifications circulated during the meeting (to be sent shortly to all CEMR members).

He stated that a flexible approach would be sought concerning interpretation languages; the secretariat will contact national associations to reflect on specific parallel sessions of particular interest, and the related additional language possibilities (which will be considered within the budgetary limitations, and taking into account likely delegation sizes).

Mr Pinto (ANMP) indicated that there would probably be a large delegation participating in Malmö from Portugal. Ms Perisic (ZELS) indicated that local elections, due to be organised in March or April 2009, would limit the possibility of having a large delegation from her country. Mr Porawski (APC) considered that there would be a sizable Polish delegation.

5.2. Process for the designation of the host city/region for the 25th General Assembly

The Secretary General indicated that the call for proposals to host CEMR's 25th General Assembly had been launched in July 2008.

Mr Leitermann indicated that some larger German cities, including Frankfurt, had informally expressed interest. Ms Tsimikou (KEDKE) indicated the strong interest of Athens to submit a proposal. Mr Chaillou (AFCCRE) informed the participants about possible interest from the cities of Lyon and Lille.

6. Preparation for the next Policy Committee, Paris, 8-9 December

6.1. Pre-draft agenda

The French section confirmed that the city of Paris and the region Ile-de-France would be hosting the next meeting of the Policy Committee, in Paris on 8-9 December.

Participants considered that it could be interesting to organise a political debate relating to CEMR's work on the "charter" on good practice in consultation procedures, but agreed that the debate topic should be enlarged so as to be of broader interest to the Policy Committee.

With this point taken into account, the Secretaries General and Directors approved the pre-draft agenda for the next meeting of the Policy Committee.

6.2. Application for associate membership by the Local Government Management Services Board (Ireland)

The Secretary General presented the application received from the LGMSB.

The Secretaries General and Directors unanimously recommended that the Policy Committee approve the request for CEMR associate membership of the Local Government Management Services Board.

6.3. Application for membership by the Croatian County Association

Ms Perisic (ZELS) underlined her association's view that CEMR membership for the Croatian County Association would be a positive development for all parties concerned.

The Secretaries General and Directors unanimously recommended that the Policy Committee approve the request for full CEMR membership of the Croatian County Association.

6.4. Request from the Association of Kosovo Municipalities for membership of CEMR

The Secretary General recalled the background of CEMR's relations with the Association of Kosovo Municipalities, which became an "invited organisation" to the work of CEMR in 2005, and with whom we have worked actively via our partnership with NALAS (within which the AKM is a member).

After debate, it was agreed unanimously that, as regards applications for full membership of CEMR, the statutes only permit this to be agreed in the case of associations from countries within membership of the Council of Europe, which is not the case at present in relation to Kosovo. It was agreed that CEMR should await the decisions of the international community in this regard.

There was further discussion on the issue of whether the AKM could become an associate member of CEMR; our statutes permit the admission of associate members which are national associations in States which are not yet members of the Council of Europe, provided that these follow the latter's democratic principles.

General agreement was reached, following this discussion, that it was premature to consider this matter, since the issue of what is or is not a "country" or "state" is still not clarified by the international community, and that CEMR should, in line with the principle of subsidiarity, also await clarification in this regard. The meeting underlined, however, the wish to maintain a positive co-operation with the AKM, as an invited organisation, and within the framework of our partnership with NALAS.

The Secretaries General and Directors agreed that the Secretary General should advise CEMR's President and First Vice-President of this meeting's view, with a view to informing the AMK that, at this stage, and pending any further relevant developments, CEMR's statutes do not permit us to proceed with an application for membership.

7. Procedure for the election of the Secretary General

The Secretary General presented the report, noting that there were three main issues to debate: the proposed procedure for the election of the next Secretary General, the proposed job description, and whether to maintain the term of office at six years (as currently provided in CEMR's statutes).

Broad debate followed, including contributions from Mr Andreasen (Danish Regions), Mr Chaillou and Mr Bertrand, Ms Ehinger-Berling (SALAR), Ms Erdal (NALRA), Mr Kitt (UK section), Mr Leitermann (RGRE), Mr Lorenzen (LGDK), Mr Pans (VNG), Mr Pinto (ANMP) and Ms Ruga (AICCRE).

Election procedure:

The secretariat's proposal on the election procedure was noted, and the Secretaries General and Directors recommended that the process should be submitted for formal political approval. Given the time schedule, and the late date of the next Policy Committee meeting, it was recommended to organise a meeting or e-meeting (as agendas and logistics would permit) of the Executive Bureau before December.

Once the position is advertised, the Secretaries General and Directors recommended setting up a panel for preliminary interviews. It was agreed that this would include (in their personal capacity) Mr Pans (VNG), Mr Porawski (APC), Mr Kitt (UK section), Mr Zaragoza (for AFCCRE), Ms Perisic (ZELS), Mr Weninger (Austria) and either Mr Di Giovan Paolo or Mr Bucci (AICCRE). The position of this panel would be consultative, and the political panel would have access to all applications.

The Secretaries General and Directors recommended that the second stage political interviewing panel should consist of the current office-holders of CEMR's Presidency (President, First Vice-President, Executive Presidents) and the Chair of the Financial Management Committee.

In the light of comments from representatives from southern Europe associations on the perceived lack of balance within a panel thus constituted, and given the fact that Mr Veltroni (who had been one of the Executive Presidents) has ceased to be involved in local or regional government, it was agreed to propose that a CEMR Vice-President from the associations from the south of Europe could be added to the panel. The relevant associations were invited to discuss the possibility of making a proposed nomination by consensus for this purpose.

For both the consultative and political interviewing panels, interview dates would be sought to suit all agendas, if possible. However, should a given member not be able to be present for interviewing, these positions should not be able to be delegated.

It was further proposed that the first (advisory) panel might include a CEMR staff representative.

It was agreed that the Secretary General should report on these recommendations to the President and First Vice-President.

Job description:

The Secretaries General and Directors took note of the job description proposed by the secretariat.

Term of office:

The Secretaries General and Directors recommended not seeking any statutory modification to the stipulated six-year term.

8. European Parliament elections: CEMR draft manifesto

The Secretary General indicated that the secretariat had started to prepare a draft manifesto for consultation with members, but that it was not yet sufficiently developed to be sent out for consultation. He explained that this initiative could be considered in two parts: the manifesto itself, and an accompanying call to the citizens to vote in June 2009.

The Secretaries General and Directors exchanged views on the manifesto and its proposed main headings. The Secretary General recalled that international meetings, including via twinning partnerships, could also be a positive way of promoting citizens' participation in the elections.

After the issue was raised by Mr Weninger (Austrian Association of Cities and Towns), it was agreed to add the heading “social dimension” to the list. On this basis, the Secretaries General and Directors agreed that the secretariat should complete the draft manifesto and circulate it to the members for views, so that the finalised draft could be submitted for formal approval by the Policy Committee in Paris.

9. Council of Europe: Local government ministers’ draft protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government

The Secretary General recalled the CEMR view that although the issue of citizen participation is very important, it should be addressed through an entirely separate instrument from the European Charter; the draft protocol would change the nature of the Charter, and, moreover, given its top-down approach, could serve as undesirable precedent for the future.

The Secretaries General and Directors noted that despite the concerns expressed, the Council of Europe (CoE) seemed minded to take the protocol forward, aiming for final approval in December 2008.

Participants, including Mr Pans and Ms Roussel (VNG), Ms Bjornsdottir (Icelandic Association of Local Authorities), Ms Colbach-Cruchten (SYVICOL), Mr Telakivi (AFLRA), debated what approach to take, each expressing concern at the CoE’s approach.

It was agreed that members should approach their delegates to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the CoE, as well as lobby members of the CDLR (CoE committee of ministerial representatives on local and regional government issues).

The Secretaries General and Directors requested that the Secretary General of CEMR write to the Secretary General of the Congress, relating the concerns expressed at this meeting. It was further agreed that the secretariat should produce a position paper, consisting of the recommendations to the Policy Committee from these debates, which could help the associations with their lobbying actions.

10. Policy work

10.1. & 10.2. Report on current policy issues - policy papers & responses to consultations

CEMR’s Director of Policy presented on work undertaken and recent issues relating to EU policy, particularly following the Reykjavik meeting of the Policy Committee in May.

An exchange followed during which the secretariat provided clarification on different issues, particularly relating to territorial policy issues. The Director of Policy was joined by Mr Chaillou and Mr Bertrand to encourage good participation at the forthcoming meeting in Ajaccio (France) on cohesion policy. Ms Roussel drew attention to the “Child in the City” conference taking place in Rotterdam.

It was agreed that the policy papers and responses to consultations summarised in the report should be put to the Policy Committee for ratification.

10.3. CEMR public services charter

The Secretary General indicated that progress on the draft charter on public services had been curtailed due to the secretariat’s heavy workload.

The Secretaries General and Directors debated the issue raised by Ms Verbruggen (IPO) of how to include regions in the text without vastly complicating its aims, and whether it was appropriate or not to continue to refer to this as a “charter” or as a code, for example.

The Secretaries General and Directors agreed that it was important to leave sufficient time to produce a good quality text. In light of this, it was recommended that the Policy Committee could debate the draft, which would be updated in preparation for the December meeting. The then finalised text could be publicly launched during the Malmö General Assembly in April.

10.4. CEMR charter of good practice on consultation

The Secretary General presented the draft charter on consultation practices for this first consultation with the members.

Mr Kitt (UK section) welcomed the draft, and proposed that this could be an interesting issue to be taken up by the new CEMR committee on democracy and governance. Participants proposed that a title other than “charter” should be found.

Mr Leitermann (RGRE) proposed including in the text a point to underline that representative associations of local and regional government were not simple lobbying structures, but rather specific and key elements to good governance. It was proposed that a new article be added, similar to the current article 9 on European Union legislation and policies, to cover consultation with national parliaments.

The Secretary General proposed considering a title such as “code of practice”, and would undertake to consider further a point raised by Mr Pans relating to article 2, i.e. whether “consultation should be defined by legislation and/or in a formal cooperation agreement”, or if some less formal language could be added to cover other types of non legislative accords, but which were nevertheless longstanding in nature.

10.5. Setting up the new system of political rapporteurs and the committee on democracy and governance

The Secretaries General and Directors exchanged views on the secretariat’s proposals. It was clarified:

- (a) that the elected rapporteurs did not necessarily have to be Policy Committee members, though this would often make a helpful connection,
- (b) that the secretariat would be responsible for coordinating this work, and the links between possible multiple rapporteurs working in the same policy area.

It was clarified that associations nominating Chairs or Vice-Chairs for the new committee could be asked to help finance their elected representatives’ related travel, given the likely budget constraints discussed earlier in the meeting.

It was agreed that public services should be removed for the time being from the committee’s remit in the proposed terms of reference, to enable further consideration to take place on this point.

The Secretaries General and Directors recommended that the Secretary General seek the President’s approval so that the launch of the call for proposals for elected rapporteurs and the Chair/Vice-Chair of the new committee could be organised in due time for the next Policy Committee meeting.

11. Twinning and active European citizenship, including the CEMR twinning website

CEMR’s Head of press and communication presented the progress of the European part of CEMR’s new twinning website, which thanks to the contribution of the members already exists in some 15 languages, with several more still expected.

The date of the launch of the site was not firmly set, but due to take place in mid November 2008.

The Secretaries General and Directors took note of CEMR’s recent and forthcoming activities in the field of twinning and active European citizenship.

12. South-east Europe

Conference on local government of south-east Europe, relations with NALAS

The Secretary General presented information on the conference “*South-east Europe – meeting the challenges*” taking place in Vienna on 6-7 November, organised with the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, and in close partnership with NALAS.

The Secretaries General and Directors took note of the progressing relations of CEMR and NALAS, which have been strengthened through the process of mutual associate membership, undertaken earlier this year.

Relations with the Union of Municipalities of Turkey

The Secretary General drew attention to the memorandum of the First Vice-President on the recent meeting with leading representatives of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT), and indicated that the secretariat had received a formal application from the UMT for CEMR membership on 26th September. Copies of this application were circulated.

A number of speakers indicated that their association would be likely to support the request for membership of UMT, including Ms Ehinger-Berling (SALAR), Mr Grazulis (Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania), Ms Grzibovska (Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments), Mr Leitermann (RGRE), Mr Pans (VNG), Mr Riimaa (Association of Estonian Cities), Mr Telakivi (Finnish Association) and Mr Weninger (Austrian Association of Cities and Towns).

Mr Koromantzios (KEDKE) explained that there had not been time for adequate study and consultation in relation to the request, and requested that the necessary time be provided. This view was supported by a number of participants.

Participants requested further information on any implications relating to the world organisation, as Turkey is currently, for the purpose of UCLG membership, in another world region (Middle East and West Asia). It was proposed that this aspect should be discussed during the next meeting of the world affairs committee (21 October). The Secretary-General informed the meeting that at the recent meeting of our First Vice-President with the UMT, it was suggested that the UCLG position be kept as it is for a specific period, pending further discussions on the longer-term position.

The Secretaries General and Directors recommended that the question of membership for the UMT be put to the Executive Bureau, who could be informed of the application and of the views expressed in this meeting, and have the possibility to make a formal recommendation to the Policy Committee before their December meeting.

13. European co-ordination platform under the Non-state Actors and Local Authorities programme

The Secretaries General and Directors noted that the European Commission had approved CEMR’s application to set up a European Platform of local/regional authorities for development co-operation..

The Platform will be launched during the 2008 European Development Days (Strasbourg 15-17 November).

14. World Affairs Committee and United Cities and Local Governments

The Secretaries General and Directors noted that the next meeting of CEMR's world affairs committee is taking place on 21st October in Brussels.

Ms Saiz (UCLG) took the floor for a brief presentation on affairs of the world organisation. In particular, the European members were encouraged to come to a common position regarding the role of regions and perspectives for future relations with the world network of regions, FOGAR, so as to present a consensus view at the meetings in Istanbul (27-30 November).

15. New European Confederation of intermediate local authorities (CEPLI)

Whereas it was regretted that CEPLI seemed to have been set up with little dialogue or consultation with existing international networks of local/regional authorities, the Secretaries General and Directors noted that several members of CEMR had joined this new structure, and exchanged views on perspectives for future cooperation.

16. Relations with the Committee of the Regions

The Secretaries General and Directors discussed a number of recent CoR initiatives, as well as the overall relationship with the CoR. Some speakers considered that the CoR was not on occasion acting in a sufficient spirit of partnership with CEMR and other associations.

The Secretary General informed the meeting that, following the Mediterranean Forum of local and authorities in Marseille, and the announcement by the CoR that they would establish a new Assembly in relation to the Mediterranean, CEMR and UCLG had been somewhat involved by the CoR secretariat in the follow-up, with a view to ensuring that such an Assembly should also include representatives of relevant associations as well as the CoR itself.

Relating to other initiatives, including the "mission statement" which CoR's presidency is preparing, and new yearly meetings on decentralised cooperation amongst others, members expressed concern at the seeming lack of due consultation and partnership with national associations and the relevant European and international organisations.

It was agreed that the Secretary General should undertake consultation in this matter with other European associations to consider approaching the CoR with their joint perspective, and hope for improved partnership in future.

17. Conferences, events and matters arising

The Secretaries General and Directors took note of the outcomes of and preparations for the conferences and events presented in the meeting report.

The Secretary-General informed the meeting that, at the recent Venice conference on the Middle East, he had met Mr Rabinovitch, Deputy Director of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel and inter alia discussed the issue of membership and payment of fees. The Secretaries General and Directors took note of the current position in relation to ULAI's membership, which had recently been discussed by the Financial Management Committee.

18. Calendar of meetings

Ms Stegmannová (Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic) invited the participants to attend the next meeting of the Secretaries General and Directors, which the Czech association will be hosting in Prague on 19-20 February 2009.

Mr Leitermann (RGRE) indicated that the German section was keen to help CEMR celebrate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and would liaise with the secretariat to study possibilities, including potentially a Policy Committee meeting in late 2009.

Ms Simonsen (NALRA) informed the participants that the Norwegian association was pleased to be studying possibilities of hosting the CEMR Policy Committee in spring 2010.

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The Secretary General closed the meeting, thanking the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions for their good collaboration, as well as the colleagues from the city of Malmö for their excellent hosting of the meeting.



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS
EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

★ **PARIS, 8-9 DECEMBER 2008** ★

✓ for decision
for information

DRAFT CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE ON CONSULTATION

Draft decision

The members of the Policy Committee are invited to:

- ↪ approve the draft Code of Good Practice on Consultation
- ↪ refer it to the CEMR Committee on Democracy and Governance to take it forward

Last year, CEMR published a report on Consultation procedures within European states, based on information from our member associations in 35 countries.

As the study showed, in many countries practice on consultation of local and regional authorities falls short of what is desirable. Therefore, CEMR has included in its work programme for 2008 the drafting of a Charter of Good Practice in Consultation. Following consultation with members, it has been suggested that the document could be called a Code of Good Practice, rather than a Charter.

The Code aims, by defining an agreed, Europe-wide set of principles, to help associations of local and regional authorities in the discussions with their national government, and to convince the latter to adopt these principles.

The Policy Committee is invited to approve the attached Code of Good Practice on Consultation. The Committee may also wish to ask the new CEMR Committee on Democracy and Governance to consider the next steps in getting it disseminated and implemented, including via the Council of Europe.

★

CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE ON CONSULTATION

INTRODUCTION

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions, which brings together the national associations of local and regional government in 37 countries, is committed to the development of strong, democratic, efficient and responsive local and regional governments across the whole of our continent.

CEMR affirms that respect for the principles of subsidiarity and proximity constitutes an essential element of modern democratic good governance. Competences and tasks should be assigned to and carried out by the sphere or level of government closest to the citizen, which is effective for the purpose.

In order for local and regional self-government to work efficiently and effectively, timely and well-organised consultation by national or other relevant spheres of government is essential, whenever their proposals will have a significant impact on local and regional governments. We have identified four main areas (which may also overlap) in which consultation is of particular importance:

A. Proposals for changes in the system and structure of local and regional government.

These changes may sometimes relate to the provisions of the national Constitution or, more often, in legislation. This may include, for example, enforced changes in municipal boundaries, or mergers of municipalities. It goes without saying that consultation of local and regional authorities, and their associations, is imperative in these areas at an early stage.

B. Proposals for legislation which affect the competences or interests of local and regional authorities.

The competences of local and regional government are in each country laid down in legislation by the central government, and/or, in federal states, by the legislative regional government. Moreover, for countries within the European Union and the EEA (European Economic Area), the legislation of the European Union may also have profound implications for local and regional government, either directly or through its transposition into national laws.

In each of these cases, there will be a preliminary process, often informal at the start, and later formal, for consideration of draft legislation, followed by the actual process of Parliamentary scrutiny and decision-making. We affirm that local and regional government must be consulted at all of the preliminary stages of drafting legislation, commencing at the formative stage, and must have the right to put forward proposed amendments for consideration by the legislative assembly or assemblies.

C. *Proposals in relation to the finances of local and regional authorities.*

The question of financial resources is, of course, of central concern to local and regional governments everywhere. Central (or federal regional) authorities frequently make decisions on the allocation or distribution of resources, or make fiscal changes, or define borrowing powers, or change relevant accounting rules, which have a significant impact. These will often, inter alia, include decisions on annual general revenue grants to authorities, including the system and principles adopted for the distribution of finances under equalization schemes, as well as changes to the tax-raising powers of local / regional government, and/or to their right to receive a share of taxes raised by other spheres of government.

The issue of finances is often of particular importance, and lead to disagreement, in cases where completely new competences are delegated or assigned to local / regional authorities, which were previously the responsibility of central or another level of government. It is particularly important to ensure full consultation, based on the best factual information, to ensure that the correct level of resources is transferred. The same issue can arise in relation to new rules that apply and add to existing local / regional competences, e.g. strengthened environmental regulations, which impose new cost burdens on the implementing authority.

D. *Other non-legislative decisions which impact on individual authorities or a group of authorities.*

Central governments also make many important administrative decisions which have a great impact on one or more local or regional authorities, e.g. on the siting or route of a particular infrastructure project. In each case where the interests of a specific authority, or group of authorities, and/or their population, are significantly affected, then specific consultation of those concerned is essential.

In 2007, CEMR published a study of the consultation processes in operation in 35 European countries, based on information provided by the relevant national associations. This study shows that, whilst a few countries have well-developed, formally agreed processes for consultation on some or all of the above subjects, in many countries, practice falls well short of what is desirable. Even where some reasonable processes and practice exist, the system often has no legal basis and could be dispensed with, e.g. in the event of a change of government.

This short Code of Good Practice in Consultation has therefore been drafted with the intention of persuading governments across Europe to adopt and implement its principles, and as an instrument for the national associations of local and regional government to seek to help them in any discussions with their national governments. It takes into account the provisions already internationally agreed, or discussed, in particular in relation to the European Charter of Local Self-Government and other Council of Europe texts.

DRAFT /

CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE IN CONSULTATION

Adopted by the Policy Committee of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions on 8th December 2008 in Paris

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions, which represents the national associations of local and regional governments across Europe, has drawn up this Code in order to promote good practice in all countries in relation to consultation of local and regional authorities and in particular their representative associations

PREAMBLE

Considering that elected local and regional authorities, established within each country's constitutional framework, represent an essential foundation of the national and European systems of democracy and good governance, and are full partners in the overall governance of their country;

Reaffirming that the principles of subsidiarity, proportionality and proximity require that those authorities have the responsibility and ability for decisions and action on a wide range of competences in the interests of their territory and their population;

Emphasizing that, to carry out their tasks for their population in an efficient, effective and responsive manner, local and regional authorities require appropriate, well-adapted powers and resources;

Noting that in this regard the laws and decisions made by other spheres and levels of government can have profound consequences for local and regional authorities;

Drawing inspiration from the European Charter of Local Self-Government and other relevant texts of the Council of Europe, and of the Guidelines on Decentralization and the Strengthening of Local Authorities of UN Habitat;

Convinced that timely, formal and effective procedures for consultation of local and regional authorities, and in particular of their representative national associations, are essential to enable those authorities to carry out their tasks and responsibilities to best effect;

Declaring that good quality consultation should be based on the principle of partnership and mutual respect between the different spheres of government, and should include effective negotiations on important relevant issues;

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions has agreed on the following Code of Good Practice in Consultation:

Article 1 – the scope of consultation

- (1) Local and regional governments have the right to be consulted by the relevant authorities in due time and in an appropriate way in the planning and decision-making processes on all affairs, decisions and legislation which significantly affect them.
- (2) “The relevant authorities” in this Code means the national authority or, where appropriate, another governmental authority (e.g. the regional government in federal states) which has responsibility for proposing or deciding on the relevant matters.

Article 2 – formal guarantee of the right to consultation

The right of local and regional governments to be consulted should be enshrined in the constitution or in law, or by long-standing arrangement, universally recognized, which has similar force. A formalised framework for consultation should be defined by legislation and/or in a formal cooperation agreement which has effect independently of a particular government, if possible by agreement with all major political parties.

Article 3 – the partners for consultation

- (1) The relevant national, and if appropriate the regional, representative association or associations should be consulted by the relevant authorities on all matters which affect their members generally, or which affect a group of those members.
- (2) Where the matter in question affects or relates (only or in particular) to a single authority or a small number of authorities, they should be consulted individually; the representative association should also be consulted if the issue is of wider interest or concern, or if the individual authorities so request.

Article 4 – the purposes of consultation

- (1) The overall purpose of an effective system of consultation of local and regional governments, as set out in this Code, is to improve the quality and effectiveness of decision-making by all levels of government, working together in the public interest.
- (2) In addition, such a system of consultation aims:
 - to ensure that the relevant authorities (which may be a government or other public decision-maker) is aware of the likely impact upon local and regional governments of their decisions or legislative acts
 - to ensure fairness, equality of treatment and transparency in the relations between the relevant authorities and the local and regional governments, for example in relation to systems of financial grants or equalisation
 - to promote the development of effective local and regional self-government
 - to facilitate an ethos of co-operation and partnership between the different spheres of government

Article 5 – the main subjects of consultation

Consultation between the relevant authorities and the local and regional governments should take place on all significant issues that fall within Article 1(1), and in particular:

- (a) proposals for changes in the system and structure of local and regional government, including constitutional and legislative changes, e.g. compulsory mergers of municipalities, boundary changes etc.
- (b) proposals for legislation which affect the competences or interests of local and regional authorities
- (c) proposals in relation to the financing and resources of local and regional authorities, e.g. decisions on annual general grants to local governments, on the system and principles to be adopted for the equalisation and redistribution of resources, on relevant fiscal changes which may affect the resources of local or regional governments, on limitations on capital or revenue expenditure or budgets, on borrowing, or on significant changes in accountancy rules
- (d) other non-legislative decisions which impact on individual authorities or a group of authorities, e.g. administrative decisions on the siting or route of important infrastructure developments.

Article 6 – the stages of consultation

- (1) Consultation should take place at each of the main stages of formulation of a relevant proposal or policy which has or may have a significant effect on some or all local or regional governments.
- (2) Consultation (including informal consultation) should normally commence at the initial, formative stage of any proposal, so that the initial formal proposal to be put forward may already properly take into account the likely impact upon local and regional governments.
- (3) Local and regional governments should be consulted properly, in a timely manner, at all formal stages of decision-making in relation to a proposal or decision, and have sufficient opportunity and time to make a reasoned written response and put forward any counter-proposals or suggested changes to the draft proposal.
- (4) Local and regional governments should have the right to propose amendments to legislation which affects their competences or interests.
- (5) Local and regional governments should also be consulted in relation to the follow-up and evaluation of relevant laws and decisions.

Article 7 – access to information

- (1) Local and regional governments should have free access to the information and documents available to the relevant authorities which directly relate to a matter or proposal which is the subject of consultation; any limitations e.g. on grounds of confidentiality or national security must be narrowly defined and specifically justified.

- (2) Local and regional governments should, on request, make available to the relevant authorities the information and documents which relate to the matter or proposal, on which they rely in putting forward their comments, representations or counter-proposals.

Article 8 – the formal procedures for consultation

- (1) Without prejudice to the importance of effective informal processes, there should always be a formal procedure for consultation between the relevant authorities and local and regional governments; these procedures may differ according to the type of subject-matter, provided the principles set out above are adhered to.
- (2) Formal procedures for consultation should be defined in or under legislation, or (where this provides a system satisfactory to all parties) by a consensus agreement which is treated as binding by all concerned; in the latter case, it should normally have the explicit support of all major political parties, to ensure that it is applied by successive governments.
- (3) Formal procedures should always include provision for meetings and dialogue between the most senior representatives of the relevant authorities and of the representative associations of local and regional government.
- (4) Consultation procedures should not in any case be limited to the ministers or ministry responsible for local or regional government, but should include all ministries whose proposals and decisions have a significant impact on local and regional governments in the discharge of their tasks and competences.

Article 9 – European Union legislation and policies

- (1) Local and regional governments should be consulted by the relevant authorities, in a timely manner and at all key stages, on proposals for European Union legislation and policies which would have a significant impact on them.
- (2) The principles set out in the above Articles shall apply equally to European Union matters as they do to domestic matters. The formal procedure for consultation on European Union matters may differ from the general procedure, to reflect the specific timescales and nature of the issues.
- (3) The fact that there has been consultation on European Union legislation at an earlier stage in no way diminishes the need for proper consultation at the point of proposals to transpose the EU legislation into domestic law.
- (4) This Article applies in particular to local and regional governments of member states of the European Union or EEA-EFTA countries; it could also apply, as appropriate, in relation to accession states, and other European states who may wish in future to join the European Union
- (5) This Article is without prejudice to the separate duty of the EU institutions to consult local and regional governments, and their representative associations, on all matters which may affect their competences or interests.

Article 10 – other European and international policies and decisions

Local and regional governments should be consulted by the relevant authorities on all other policy proposals of European and international institutions which may have a significant interest for, or impact on, local and regional governments, e.g. other EU policies or financial opportunities, relevant Council of Europe instruments and policies, or relevant treaties or texts to be adopted within the UN system.

Article 11 – consultations undertaken by national or regional Parliaments

- (1) The principles and provisions of this Code should apply equally to consultations undertaken on the initiative of national or regional Parliaments, with any necessary modifications to reflect the specific character of such consultation.
- (2) In particular, local and regional governments should be consulted by the relevant Parliament on any issues it is considering which may have a significant interest for, or impact on, local and regional governments.



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS

EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

✓ for decision
for information

REPORT OF THE CEMR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - MEMBERS IN ARREARS WITH THE SETTLEMENT OF THE FEES

1. The Financial Management Committee met in Brussels on 8 September 2008, to discuss all CEMR financial issues.

At this occasion, the Committee decided to draw the attention of the Policy Committee to the situation of two member Associations of CEMR who have not paid their membership fees for over two consecutive years: the Association of Municipalities of Slovenia and the Union of Local Authorities in Israel (ULAI).

The Association of Municipalities of Slovenia has settled no membership fees for over two full years. The association has not responded to CEMR's reminders since 2006, and did not participate in the meeting of the Secretaries General which took place in Ljubljana in March 2008.

The Union of Local Authorities in Israel (ULAI) settled no membership fee in 2005 and settled only a symbolic fee in 2006 (788 € settled to CEMR). Subsequently, ULAI proposed to settle 2 000 € for 2007 and 5 000 € for 2008. The Financial Management Committee agreed to this proposal. However, no settlement has been received.

2. The members of the Executive Bureau have agreed to submit this matter to the Policy Committee.

Draft decision

Should no settlement be received before the date of the meeting of the Policy Committee, the Policy Committee is invited to approve:

- ↪ the exclusion of the Association of Municipalities of Slovenia.
- ↪ the suspension of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel (ULAI).

3. CEMR Statutes (Article VII) indicate that Members shall be liable to temporary suspension or to dismissal if, without the specific agreement of the Policy Committee, they have not paid their membership fees for two consecutive years, and that the Policy Committee shall decide on suspensions and dismissals on the recommendation of the Executive Bureau.
4. CEMR Rules of Procedure (Article I.1.7) indicate that an association or section that has become liable to suspension or dismissal shall receive prior notification if the process is to be undertaken, and explanation of the reasons involved. It should therefore be allowed sufficient time to provide its reaction to the Policy Committee.
5. On 15 September 2008, a letter was sent to the Association of Municipalities of Slovenia, indicating that if its situation regarding membership fees to CEMR was not regularised, the Policy Committee would be invited to decide on the exclusion of the Association. No answer to this letter was received by CEMR.

In light of this, the Financial Management Committee had proposed the exclusion the Association of Municipalities of Slovenia.

6. A similar letter was also sent on 15 September 2008 to the Union of Local Authorities in Israel (ULAI). Since then, Mr Avi Rabinovitch, Deputy Director General of ULAI, asked to raise the issue of the municipal elections in Israel (11 November 2008), explaining that, as a consequence, he will only be able to debate this issue in January-February 2009, once the new leaders of ULAI have been elected.

Under the hypothesis that the situation of ULAI's membership fees was not regularised, the Financial Management Committee had proposed the exclusion of the Association.

Pending a definitive answer to be received from ULAI in the first months of 2009, and should no settlement be received by the date of the meeting of the Policy Committee (8-9 December 2008), it is proposed that the Policy Committee approves the suspension of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel.



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS

EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

✓ for decision
for information

REALISATION OF THE 2007 BUDGET

This document presents the realisation of the budget 2007.

It complements the certification document of the accounts for 2007 by the firm Deloitte, professional auditors of CEMR, who have provided a clean report, which is in the accompanying documents.

The accounts found hereafter were audited by the Honorary Auditors of CEMR on 26 June 2008, and debated by the Financial Management Committee, which met in Brussels on 8 September 2008. They were also presented to the Secretaries General and Directors of member associations in Malmö on 29-30 September 2008.

The members of the Financial Management Committee decided to propose to the Policy Committee to carry over the results of the period, a surplus of 1.852,05 Euro and to give discharge to the President and Secretary General for the year 2007.

Draft decision

The members of the Policy Committee are invited to:

- ⇒ Take note of and debate this document;
- ⇒ Decide to carry over once again the results of the period, that is surplus of 1.852,05 Euro;
- ⇒ Give discharge to the President and Secretary General for the year 2007.

REALISATION OF THE BUDGET 2007 CEMR AND CONTRACTS

2006

2007

ACTUAL CEMR	ACTUAL CONTR.	ACTUAL TOTAL		BUDGET CEMR	ACTUAL CEMR	ACTUAL CONTR.	ACTUAL TOTAL
WORKING INCOME							
1 812 375		1 812 375	Affiliation fees 2007	1 959 000	1 884 879		1 884 879
-274 771		-274 771	Transfers to UCLG	-300 000	-306 114		-306 114
1 537 604		1 537 604	Net affiliation fees 2007	1 659 000	1 578 765		1 578 765
154 941		154 941	Affil. fees received previous year		117 827		117 827
-2 900		-2 900	Transfers to UCLG		-28 710		-28 710
1 689 645		1 689 645	Net affiliation fees	1 659 000	1 667 882		1 667 882
210 535		210 535	EC grant	250 000	210 000		210 000
	168 418	168 418	EC contracts			226 738	226 738
	22 250	22 250	Contracts co-financing			202 280	202 280
19 508		19 508	Other contracts		23 750		23 750
35 220		35 220	General Assembly	10 000			
-17 632		-17 632	Other working income	52 000	33 452		33 452
97 862		97 862	Release of provision				
18 000		18 000	Exceptional income				
40 605		40 605	Income from previous years				
2 093 742	190 668	2 284 411	TOTAL	1 971 000	1 935 083	429 018	2 364 101
WORKING EXPENDITURE							
1 380 053	71 947	1 452 000	Salaries + social charges	1 290 000	1 332 136	142 786	1 474 922
154 993		154 993	Rent and service charges	190 000	187 929		187 929
			Moving costs		17 063		17 063
175 542	15 051	190 593	Other office costs	243 000	184 073	2 857	186 930
68 842		68 842	Fees		6 698	16 771	23 469
101 791	28 566	130 356	Interpretation and meeting costs	70 000	62 331	103 164	165 495
110 603	74 272	184 875	Travel costs	70 000	85 826	107 462	193 288
98 900	3 311	102 211	Publications/communication	75 000	63 442	46 854	110 296
3 158		3 158	Research/studies				
0		0	Community contracts			2 002	2 002
9 927		9 927	Depreciation	17 000	15 217		15 217
			Provisions	20 000			
			Exceptional charges				
2 103 808	193 146	2 296 954	TOTAL	1 975 000	1 954 715	421 896	2 376 611
-10 066	-2 478	-12 544	WORKING INCOME / EXP.	-4 000	-19 632	7 122	-12 510
FINANCIAL INCOME							
15 465		15 465	Exchange rate earnings				
15 465		15 465	Income short-term investment	10 000	24 049		24 049
			TOTAL	10 000	24 049		24 049
FINANCIAL CHARGES							
54		54	Exchange rate losses				
6 820		6 820	Banking and financial charges	6 000	9 687		9 687
6 874		6 874	TOTAL	6 000	9 687		9 687
8 591		8 591	FINANCIAL RESULT	4 000	14 362		14 362
2 109 207	190 668	2 299 875	TOTAL INCOME	1 981 000	1 959 132	429 018	2 388 150
2 110 682	193 146	2 303 828	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1 981 000	1 964 401	421 896	2 386 298
-1 475	-2 478	-3 953	TOTAL		-5 269	7 122	1 852

REALISATION OF THE 2007 BUDGET

The period of 2007 closed with a surplus of 1.852,05 €, corresponding to a deficit of 5.269,46 € for CEMR's own budget and a surplus of 7.121,51 € for EC contracts.

The total resources in 2007 of CEMR's own budget went from 1.981.000 € (voted budget) to 1.964.401 € (actual), mainly due to the sudden reduction by 40 000€ of the operating grant.

The results of the various budgetary items may be analysed as follows:

◆ INCOME

- ◆ The amount of the **OPERATING GRANT** transferred by the EC for 2007 decreased by 40.000 € from what had been in the voted budget: from 250.000 € to 210.000 €
However, unbudgeted income from membership fees (see below page 5) and a decrease in overheads have compensated the loss under this budget item.
- ◆ **OTHER CONTRACTS** (23.750 €) corresponds to a settlement of some 18.000 € from the United Nations in the context of the Millennium Campaign and to a settlement of some 5.500 € for the preparation of the Warsaw Conference for municipal energy managers.
- ◆ In accordance with the relevant agreement between CEMR and the host city, **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** income will be settled as of 2008.
- ◆ **FINANCIAL REVENUE** (24.049 €) represents the remuneration of investments divested during the financial year. In addition, there are some latent potential capital gains in relation to ongoing investment which are not included in the financial year's result, amounting to some 68.852 €.
- ◆ Income from **EC CONTRACTS** (429.018 €) includes more than 120.000 € from CEMR members as co-financing and relates mainly to the Charter for equality of women and men in local life (77.500 €), the twinning conference in Rhodes (30.531 €) and the social dialogue contract (12.416€). This also includes income from registration fees for the twinning conference in Rhodes (81.833 €).

◆ EXPENDITURE

- ◆ The items **SALARIES AND SOCIAL CHARGES** (1.332.136 € in total, contracts excluded) showed an increase of some 42.000 €, namely due to recruitments on short-term basis for specific activities.
- ◆ The item **OFFICE RENT** (187.929 €) is slightly lower than what was in the voted budget, due to the fact that no payment for rent of the new offices in Brussels was required for the 1st quarter of 2007.
- ◆ **MOVING COSTS** (17.063 €) represent a one-off cost.
- ◆ The items **OTHER OFFICE COSTS plus FEES** (190.771 € in total) are significantly lower than the voted budget of 243.000 €.
- ◆ The items **MEETING AND INTERPRETATION COSTS, TRAVEL COSTS and COMMUNICATION / PUBLICATIONS** for a total of 211.599 €, represent the cost of CEMR activities. This total is in line with the voted budget of 215.000 €.
- ◆ The item **DEPRECIATION** (15.217 €) includes the investments linked to the move of the Brussels office.
- ◆ It was not necessary to enter any **PROVISIONS** for the financial year 2007.

2007 MEMBERSHIP FEES

CEMR MEMBERSHIP FEES

The tables hereafter show that the members of CEMR settled, during the financial year of 2007, 1.667.882 Euro. This amount is slightly higher than the amount in the budget (1.659.000 €).

The tables also show that the Albanian Association of Municipalities, the Maltese Association of Local Councils and the Association of Municipalities of Slovenia settled no membership fees in 2007, despite reminders dated 19th November 2007.

Further to the Financial Management Committee's debates of 3rd September 2007, written exchanges were engaged with the Union of Local Authorities in Israel, on 24th September, 25th September and 21st December 2007. To date, however, the Union of Local Authorities in Israel has settled no membership fee.

Moreover, the NAMRB and ANMP have only settled a part of their 2007 membership fees, and were also sent reminders on 19th November 2007. In addition, the ANMP was also reminded on the occasion of the UCLG World Congress in Jeju (October 2007).

CEMR's Swiss association, which settled a part of its membership fee, benefits from a special arrangement with CEMR, taking into account the association's limited budget.

AICCRE settled the outstanding amount of its 2007 membership fee in February 2008, and the Association of Polish Counties settled the outstanding amount of its 2007 membership fee in May 2008.

MEMBERSHIP FEES TO UCLG

The net sum of membership fees received for UCLG via CEMR amounted to 334.824 Euro (of which 28.710 Euros represent fees from 2006 settled in 2007), compared to 277.671 Euros in 2006 and 308.906 Euros in 2005.

BUDGETARY COMPARISON

	CEMR	UCLG	TOTAL
I BUDGET			
VOTED MEMBERSHIP FEES	1 748 000	379 000	2 127 000
PROVISIONS	-89 000	-79 000	-168 000
NET BUDGET FOR 2007	1 659 000	300 000	1 959 000
II RECEIVED			
MEMBERSHIP FEES RECEIVED FOR 2007	1 567 957	304 700	1 872 657
MEMBERSHIP FEES RECEIVED FOR 2006	89 117	28 710	117 827
TOTAL RECEIVED IN 2007	1 667 882	334 824	2 002 706
III COMPARISON OF BUDGETED AND RECEIVED FEES			
FEES RECEIVED MINUS FEES BUDGETED	8 882	34 824	43 706
PERCENT RECEIVED	100.54%	111.61%	102.23%

MEMBERSHIP FEES : CEMR 2007
COTISATIONS : CCRE 2007

		TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL CALLED	TOTAL RECEIVED	BALANCE FOR 2007
		BUDGET TOTAL	APPELE	TOTAL RECU	SOLDE 2007
AL	Albanian Association of Municipalities	628	628		628
AT	Österreichischer Städtebund	26 249	26 249	26 249	
	Österreichischer Gemeindebund	26 249	26 249	26 249	
BE	Union des Villes et Communes Belges	63 793	63 793	63 793	
BG	NAMRB	10 671	10 671	7 115	3 556
CH	Association Suisse du CCRE	27 061	27 061	13 523	13 538
CY	Union of Cyprus Municipalities	3 138	3 138	3 138	
CZ	Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic	21 341	21 341	21 341	
DE	Deutscher Landkreistag	24 977	24 977	24 977	
	Deutscher Städtetag	59 044	59 044	59 044	
	Städte und Gemeindebund	29 659	29 659	29 659	
	Rat der Gemeinden und Regionen Europas	126 263	126 263	126 263	
DK	Local Government Denmark	17 427	17 427	17 424	
	Danish Regions	17 427	17 427	17 427	
EE	Association of Estonian Cities	1 068	1 068	1 068	
	Association of Municipalities of Estonia	1 066	1 066	1 066	
ES	Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias	150 705	150 705	150 704	
FI	Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities	30 331	30 331	30 331	
FR	Association des Maires de France	16 158			
	Association Française pour le CCRE	200 118	200 118	200 118	
GR	Central Union of Greek Municipalities and Communities	47 249	47 249	47 249	
HU	Hungarian Associations	21 341	21 341	21 341	
IE	Institute of Public Administration	2 040	2 040	2 040	
IL	Union of Local Authorities in Israel	27 466	27 466		27 466
IS	Association of Local Authorities in Iceland	1 969	1 969	1 969	
IT	AICCRE	206 331	206 331	137 554	68 777
LT	Association of local authorities in Lithuania	6 402	6 402	6 402	
LU	Association des Villes et Communes Luxemb.	5 101	5 101	5 101	
LV	Union of local and Regional Governmnts of Latvia	4 268	4 268	4 268	
MK	As. of units of local self -gov. of Macedonia (ZELS)	1 267	1 267	1 267	
MT	Maltese Association of Local Councils	1 549	1 549		1 549
NL	VNG / IPO	97 913	97 913	97 913	
NO	Kommunenenes Sentralforbund	41 081	41 081	41 081	
PL	Assoc. of Polish Cities	39 686	28 219	28 219	
	Assoc. of Polish Counties	17 638	12 542	8 360	4 182
PT	Associação Nacional de Municipios Portugueses	41 409	41 409	28 803	12 606
RO	Association of Romanian Communes (ACOR)	3 750	3 750	3 746	
	Association of Romanian Towns (AOR)	3 750	3 750	3 750	
	National Union of County Councils of Romania	3 750	3 750	3 750	
	Romanian Municipalities Association (AMR)	3 750	3 750	3 750	
SI	Assoc. of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia	2 134	2 134	2 134	
	Assoc. of Municipalities of Slovenia	2 134	2 134		2 134
SE	Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions	56 180	56 180	56 180	
SK	Assoc. of Towns and Communities of Slovakia	10 671	10 671	10 671	
UA	Association of Ukrainian cities	18 745	18 745	18 745	
UK	Local Government Association	222 800	222 800	222 800	
YU	Standing conference of towns & municip. of Serbia	1 819	1 819	1 819	
MO	Union of Municipalities of Montenegro	373	373	363	
TOTAL		1 745 937	1 713 218	1 578 765	134 436

RECEIVED / RECU		92%		
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MEMBERSHIP FEES : UCLG 2007
COTISATIONS : CGLU 2007

		TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL CALLED	TOTAL RECEIVED	BALANCE FOR 2007
		BUDGET TOTAL	APPELE	TOTAL RECU	SOLDE 2007
AL	Albanian Association of Municipalities	171	171		171
AT	Österreichischer Städtebund	5 800	5 800	5 800	
	Österreichischer Gemeindebund	5 800	5 800	5 800	
BE	Union des Villes et Communes Belges	15 900	15 900	15 900	
BG	NAMRB	700	700	466	234
CH	Association Suisse du CCRE	7 700	7 700		7 700
CY	Union of Cyprus Municipalities	500	500	500	
CZ	Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic	2 500	2 500	2 500	
DE	Deutscher Landkreistag	6 000	6 000	6 000	
	Deutscher Städtetag	14 300	14 300	14 300	
	Städte und Gemeindebund	7 100	7 100	7 100	
	Rat der Gemeinden und Regionen Europas	30 400	30 400	30 400	
DK	Local Government Denmark	4 400	4 400	4 400	
	Danish Regions	4 400	4 400	4 400	
EE	Association of Estonian Cities	300	300	300	
	Association of Municipalities of Estonia	300	300	300	
ES	Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias	31 900	31 900	31 900	
FI	Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities	7 600	7 600	7 600	
FR	Association des Maires de France	4 102			
	Association Française pour le CCRE	50 798	50 798	25 399	25 399
GR	Central Union of Greek Municipalities and Communities	7 300	7 300	7 300	
HU	Hungarian Associations	2 500	2 500	2 500	
IE	Institute of Public Administration				
IL	Union of Local Authorities in Israel	6 900	6 900		6 900
IS	Association of Local Authorities in Iceland	400	400	400	
IT	AICCRE		25 000	25 000	
	ANCI				
LT	Association of local authorities in Lithuania	800	800	800	
LU	Association des Villes et Communes Luxemb.	700	700	700	
LV	Union of local and Regional Governmtns of Latvia	400	400	400	
MK	As. of units of local self -gov. of Macedonia (ZELS)	187	187	187	
MT	Maltese Association of Local Councils	200	200		200
NL	VNG / IPO	20 700	20 700	20 700	
NO	Kommunenenes Sentralforbund	7 100	7 100	7 100	
PL	Assoc. of Polish Cities	3 240	3 240	3 240	
	Assoc. of Polish Counties	1 440	1 440	960	480
PT	Associação Nacional de Municipios Portugueses	8 700	8 700	5 800	2 900
RO	Association of Romanian Communes (ACOR)	675	675	672	3
	Association of Romanian Towns (AOR)	675	675	675	
	National Union of County Councils of Romania	675	675	675	
	Romanian Municipalities Association (AMR)	675	675	675	
SI	Assoc. of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia	300	300	300	
	Assoc. of Municipalities of Slovenia	300	300		300
SE	Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions	13 000	13 000	13 000	
SK	Assoc. of Towns and Communities of Slovakia	1 400	1 400	1 400	
UA	Association of Ukrainian cities	2 959	2 959	2 959	
UK	Local Government Association	47 200	47 200	47 200	
YU	Standing conference of towns & municip. of Serbia	346	346	346	
MO	Union of Municipalities of Montenegro	60	60	60	
TOTAL		329 501	350 401	306 114	44 287

RECEIVED / RECU		87%		
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MEMBERSHIP FEES : CEMR + UCLG 2007
COTISATIONS : CCRE + CGLU 2007

		TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL CALLED	TOTAL RECEIVED	BALANCE FOR 2007
		BUDGET TOTAL	APPELE	TOTAL RECU	SOLDE 2007
AL	Albanian Association of Municipalities	799	799		799
AT	Österreichischer Städtebund	32 049	32 049	32 049	
	Österreichischer Gemeindebund	32 049	32 049	32 049	
BE	Union des Villes et Communes Belges	79 693	79 693	79 693	
BG	NAMRB	11 371	11 371	7 581	3 790
CH	Association Suisse du CCRE	34 761	34 761	13 523	21 238
CY	Union of Cyprus Municipalities	3 638	3 638	3 638	
CZ	Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic	23 841	23 841	23 841	
DE	Deutscher Landkreistag	30 977	30 977	30 977	
	Deutscher Städtetag	73 344	73 344	73 344	
	Städte und Gemeindebund	36 759	36 759	36 759	
	Rat der Gemeinden und Regionen Europas	156 663	156 663	156 663	
DK	Local Government Denmark	21 827	21 827	21 824	
	Danish Regions	21 827	21 827	21 827	
EE	Association of Estonian Cities	1 368	1 368	1 368	
	Association of Municipalities of Estonia	1 366	1 366	1 366	
ES	Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias	182 605	182 605	182 604	
FI	Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities	37 931	37 931	37 931	
FR	Association des Maires de France	20 260			
	Association Française pour le CCRE	250 916	250 916	225 517	25 399
GR	Central Union of Greek Municipalities and Communities	54 549	54 549	54 549	
HU	Hungarian Associations	23 841	23 841	23 841	
IE	Institute of Public Administration	2 040	2 040	2 040	
IL	Union of Local Authorities in Israel	34 366	34 366		34 366
IS	Association of Local Authorities in Iceland	2 369	2 369	2 369	
IT	AICCRE	206 331	231 331	162 554	68 777
LT	Association of local authorities in Lithuania	7 202	7 202	7 202	
LU	Association des Villes et Communes Luxemb.	5 801	5 801	5 801	
LV	Union of local and Regional Governmtns of Latvia	4 668	4 668	4 668	
MK	As. of units of local self -gov. of Macedonia (ZELS)	1 454	1 454	1 454	
MT	Maltese Association of Local Councils	1 749	1 749		1 749
NL	VNG / IPO	118 613	118 613	118 613	
NO	Kommunenenes Sentralforbund	48 181	48 181	48 181	
PL	Assoc. of Polish Cities	42 926	31 459	31 459	
	Assoc.of Polish Counties	19 078	13 982	9 320	4 662
PT	Associação Nacional de Municipios Portugueses	50 109	50 109	34 603	15 506
RO	Association of Romanian Communes (ACOR)	4 425	4 425	4 418	
	Association of Romanian Towns (AOR)	4 425	4 425	4 425	
	National Union of County Councils of Romania	4 425	4 425	4 425	
	Romanian Municipalities Association (AMR)	4 425	4 425	4 425	
SI	Assoc. of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia	2 434	2 434	2 434	
	Assoc. of Municipalities of Slovenia	2 434	2 434		2 434
SE	Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions	69 180	69 180	69 180	
SK	Assoc. of Towns and Communities of Slovakia	12 071	12 071	12 071	
UA	Association of Ukrainian cities	21 704	21 704	21 704	
UK	Local Government Association	270 000	270 000	270 000	
YU	Standing conference of towns & municip. of Serbia	2 165	2 165	2 165	
MO	Union of Municipalities of Montenegro	433	433	423	10
TOTAL		2 075 440	2 063 619	1 884 879	178 730

RECEIVED / RECU		91%	
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MEMBERSHIP FEES : CEMR 2006

COTISATIONS : CCRE 2006

		TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL CALLED	INCOME 2006	INCOME 2007	BALANCE
		BUDGET TOTAL	APPELE	RECU 2006	RECU 2007	SOLDE
AL	Albanian Association of Municipalities	685	685	456		229
AT	Österreichischer Städtebund	26 270	26 270	26 270		
	Österreichischer Gemeindebund	26 270	26 270	26 263		7
BE	Union des Villes et Communes Belges	63 793	63 793	63 793		
BG	NAMRB	8 663	8 663	8 616		47
CH	Association Suisse du CCRE	26 793	26 793	13 500		13 293
CY	Union of Cyprus Municipalities	3 138	3 138	3 138		
CZ	Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic	18 950	18 950	18 950		
DE	Deutscher Landkreistag	25 045	25 045	25 045		
	Deutscher Städtetag	59 205	59 205	59 205		
	Städte und Gemeindebund	29 740	29 740	29 740		
	Rat der Gemeinden und Regionen Europas	126 606	126 606	126 606		
DK	Local Government Denmark	17 427	17 427	17 427		
	Danish Regions	17 427	17 427	17 427		
EE	Association of Estonian Cities	948	948	948		
	Association of Municipalities of Estonia	947	947	947		
ES	Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias	145 705	145 705	145 708		-3
FI	Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities	30 331	30 331	30 331		
FR	Association des Maires de France	16 272	16 272			16 272
	Association Française pour le CCRE	201 526	201 526	201 526		
GR	Central Union of Greek Municipalities and Communities	45 024	45 024	45 024		
HU	Hungarian Associations	18 950	18 950	18 950		
IE	Institute of Public Administration	2 040	2 040	2 040		
IL	Union of Local Authorities in Israel	27 466	1 599	788		811
IS	Association of Local Authorities in Iceland	1 927	1 927	1 927		
IT	AICCRE	207 379	207 379	138 252	69 127	
LT	Association of local authorities in Lithuania	5 685	5 685	5 685		
LU	Association des Villes et Communes Luxemb.	4 570	4 570	4 570		
LV	Union of local and Regional Governmnts of Latvia	3 790	3 790	3 790		
MK	Assoc. of units of local self -gov. of Macedonia (ZELS)	1 382	1 382	1 382		
MT	Maltese Association of Local Councils	1 541	770	770		
NL	VNG / IPO	81 915	81 915	81 915		
	Raad der Europese Gemeenten en Regio's	15 122	15 122	10 085		5 037
NO	Kommunenes Sentralforbund	37 948	37 948	37 948		
PL	Assoc. of Polish Cities	24 758	24 758	18 570	6 188	
	Assoc. of Polish Counties	11 003	11 003	5 502		5 501
PT	Associação Nacional de Municípios Portugueses	41 409	41 409	27 604	13 802	3
RO	Association of Romanian Communes					
	National Union of County Councils of Romania		7 000	7 000		
SI	Assoc. of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia	1 895	1 895	1 895		
	Assoc. of Municipalities of Slovenia	1 895	1 895			1 895
SE	Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions	55 501	55 501	55 501		
SK	Assoc. of Towns and Communities of Slovakia	9 475	9 475	9 475		
UA	Association of Ukrainian cities	20 449	20 449	20 449		
UK	Local Government International Bureau	220 357	220 357	220 356		1
YU	Standing conference of towns & municip. of Serbia	1 985	1 985	1 985		
MO	Union of Municipalities of Montenegro	379	379	244		135

TOTAL**1 689 584****1 669 948****1 537 604****89 117****43 227**

MEMBERSHIP FEES : UCLG 2006

COTISATIONS : CGLU 2006

		TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL CALLED	INCOME 2006	INCOME 2007	BALANCE
		BUDGET TOTAL	APPELE	RECU 2006	RECU 2007	SOLDE
AL	Albanian Association of Municipalities	171	171	114		57
AT	Österreichischer Städtebund	5 800	5 800	5 800		
	Österreichischer Gemeindebund	5 800	5 800	5 796		4
BE	Union des Villes et Communes Belges	15 900	15 900	15 900		
BG	NAMRB	700	700	687		13
CH	Association Suisse du CCRE	7 700	7 700			7 700
CY	Union of Cyprus Municipalities	500	500	500		
CZ	Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic	2 500	2 500	2 500		
DE	Deutscher Landkreistag	6 000	6 000	6 000		
	Deutscher Städtetag	14 300	14 300	14 300		
	Städte und Gemeindebund	7 100	7 100	7 100		
	Rat der Gemeinden und Regionen Europas	30 400	30 400	30 400		
DK	Local Government Denmark	4 400	4 400	4 400		
	Danish Regions	4 400	4 400	4 400		
EE	Association of Estonian Cities	300	300	300		
	Association of Municipalities of Estonia	300	300	300		
ES	Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias	31 900	31 900	31 900		
FI	Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities	7 600	7 600	7 600		
FR	Association des Maires de France	4 102	4 102			4 102
	Association Française pour le CCRE	50 798	50 798	25 399		25 399
GR	Central Union of Greek Municipalities and Communities	7 300	7 300	7 299		1
HU	Hungarian Associations	2 500	2 500	2 500		
IE	Institute of Public Administration					
IL	Union of Local Authorities in Israel	6 900	401	197		204
IS	Association of Local Authorities in Iceland	400	400	400		
IT	AICCRE				25 000	-25 000
LT	Association of local authorities in Lithuania	800	800	800		
LU	Association des Villes et Communes Luxemb.	700	700	700		
LV	Union of local and Regional Governmtns of Latvia	400	400	400		
MK	Assoc. of units of local self -gov. of Macedonia (ZELS)	187	187	187		
MT	Maltese Association of Local Councils	200	100	100		
NL	VNG / IPO	17 500	17 500	17 500		
	Raad der Europese Gemeenten en Regio's	3 200	3 200			3 200
NO	Kommunenes Sentralforbund	7 100	7 100	7 100		
PL	Assoc. of Polish Cities	3 240	3 240	2 430	810	
	Assoc. of Polish Counties	1 440	1 440	720		720
PT	Associação Nacional de Municípios Portugueses	8 700	8 700	5 800	2 900	
RO	Association of Romanian Communes					
	National Union of County Councils of Romania					
SI	Assoc. of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia	300	300	300		
	Assoc. of Municipalities of Slovenia	300	300			300
SE	Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions	13 000	13 000	13 000		
SK	Assoc. of Towns and Communities of Slovakia	1 400	1 400	1 400		
UA	Association of Ukrainian cities	2 959	2 959	2 959		
UK	Local Government International Bureau	47 200	47 200	47 199		1
YU	Standing conference of towns & municip. of Serbia	346	346	346		
MO	Union of Municipalities of Montenegro	60	60	38		22

TOTAL**326 803****320 204****274 771****28 710****16 723**

CEMR PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OVER FOUR YEARS

	EUR 31.12.07	EUR 31.12.06	EUR 31.12.05	EUR 31.12.04
WORKING INCOME				
Affiliation fees received 2007	1 884 879	1 812 375	1 759 028	1 640 642
Affiliation fees transferred to UCLG	-306 114	-274 771	-305 035	-276 333
Net affiliation fees 2007	1 578 765	1 537 604	1 453 993	1 364 309
Affiliation fees received previous year	117 827	154 941	162 590	127 595
Affiliation fees transferred to UCLG	-28 710	-2 900	-3 871	
Transfers to IULA				-14 094
Membership fees provisioned and not received				-65 800
Net affiliation fees	1 667 882	1 689 645	1 612 712	1 412 010
EC grant	210 000	210 535	250 000	248 058
EC contracts	226 738	168 418	659 627	482 498
Contracts co-financing	202 280	22 250		
Other contracts	23 750	19 508		
General Assembly Innsbruck		35 220	30 000	
General Assembly Thessaloniki			-15 000	
Twinning congress Ferrara		-17 632		
Other working income	33 452	97 862		7 000
Release of provisions		18 000	71 175	113 302
Exceptional income		40 605	21 620	6 000
Income from previous years			105	
TOTAL	2 364 101	2 284 411	2 630 240	2 268 867
WORKING EXPENDITURE				
Salaries	1 139 526	1 102 943	987 664	905 205
Social charges	335 396	349 057	320 724	281 672
Rent and service charges	187 929	154 993	151 252	152 926
Moving costs	17 063			
Other office costs	186 930	190 593	278 228	226 068
Fees	23 469	68 842	49 893	53 783
Studies		3 158	47 280	
Interpretation and meeting costs	165 495	130 356	139 449	112 878
Travel and representation	193 288	184 875	263 357	171 734
Publications / communication	110 296	102 211	156 995	74 145
Community contracts	2 002	0	225 996	277 472
Depreciation	15 217	9 927	12 541	14 420
TOTAL	2 376 611	2 296 954	2 633 378	2 270 301
WORKING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	-12 510	-12 544	-3 138	-1 434
FINANCIAL INCOME				
Exchange rate earnings				
Income from short-term investment	24 049	15 465	14 372	13 119
TOTAL	24 049	15 465	14 372	13 119
FINANCIAL CHARGES				
Exchange rate losses		54	40	
Banking and financial charges	9 687	6 820	6 217	5 223
TOTAL	9 687	6 874	6 258	5 223
FINANCIAL RESULT	14 362	8 591	8 115	7 897
TOTAL INCOME	2 388 150	2 299 875	2 644 612	2 281 987
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2 386 298	2 303 828	2 639 636	2 275 523
TOTAL	1 852	-3 953	4 976	6 463



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS

EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

✓ for decision
for information

APPLICATIONS FOR CEMR MEMBERSHIP

Draft decision

The members of the Policy Committee are invited to:

- ↪ Decide on the request for CEMR membership, as a full member, of the Croatian County Association (see report in annex 1);
- ↪ Decide on the request for CEMR membership, as an associate member, of the Local Government Management Services Board (see report in annex 2);
- ↪ Decide on the request for CEMR membership, as a full member, received from the Union of Turkish Municipalities (see report in annex 3);
- ↪ Confirm the mutual associate membership of CEMR and the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS).

1. At the Paris meeting, the members of the Policy Committee will be invited to debate different points relating to applications for CEMR membership, including the application for full membership from the Croatian County Association and the request for associate membership from the Local Management Services Board. Detailed reports on these applications including the positive recommendations of the Secretaries General and Directors are enclosed in annexes 1 and 2.
2. The members will also be asked to give their views on the application for full membership which has been received from the Union of Turkish Municipalities. As explained in annex 3, the Secretaries General and Directors decided to submit this request for formal consultation by the Executive Bureau.

At time of writing, the finalisation of this consultation is in progress. Further information on the consultation and the Executive Bureau's recommendation on this matter will be presented to the Policy Committee at the meeting in Paris.

3. The members may recall that at their meeting in Stuttgart one year ago, the Committee approved in principle the mutual associate membership of CEMR and NALAS. The competent NALAS organ officially approved the process at their meeting in late May 2008. Throughout 2008, CEMR and NALAS have worked to develop enhanced working relations, particularly for the preparation of the Vienna conference on local government of south-east Europe. CEMR has also provided active contributions to NALAS working meetings, and both parties have undertaken to improve the sharing of relevant information.

In order to formally finalise the process, the members of the Policy Committee are invited to confirm CEMR's mutual associate membership with NALAS.



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS
EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

**REPORT ON THE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF
THE CROATIAN COUNTY ASSOCIATION**

Following first contacts with the CEMR secretariat by the association's representation in Brussels, Mr Božo Galić, President of the Croatian County Association, wrote to CEMR's Secretary General in June 2008 formally requesting CEMR membership.

The following report presents the information submitted by the Secretary General of the Croatian County Association.

1. The Croatian County Association was founded in 2003.

Members

2. Membership of the Association is open to all regional self government units - *županija*, or "counties". All existing counties, 20 to date, are members, allowing the association to represent 100% of the population of Croatia.
3. The association provided CEMR with information confirming their respect for democratic principles:
 - All members of the organisation are democratically elected regional authorities;
 - The association is open to all regional authorities concerned;
 - The association's governing bodies are set up with respect for pluralism.

Goals and Activities

4. The Croatian County Association was established (as the National County Association) with the goal of promoting regional self-government, and to stimulate and support economic and social development of regional authorities in Croatia. Its members work together to realise the association's fundamental goals, including to:
 - support the development of cooperation between counties and their local self-government units;
 - organise exchanges of experience on activities of regional authorities in Croatia;
 - coordinate positions and activities of members vis-à-vis the national government bodies and authorities in relation to relevant issues for the development of local and regional self-government in Croatia, in particular concerning relevant regulations;
 - promote research and monitoring in relation to tasks for which regional authorities are competent;
 - organise technical meetings on topics of relevance to the regional authorities
 - produce professional publications to further the association's aims;
 - participate in the development of international cooperation, set up and maintain relations with other organisations in other countries and international organisations;
 - organise activities to further any of these aims.

The association's current annual budget is of some 190 000 euro.

The association is recognised as legal entity representing regional self government units in Croatia and is consulted by the national government on relevant policy.

The Secretary General of the association indicated, however, that they are not yet involved in the work of the national delegation to the Congress of the Council of Europe.

Statutory Bodies

5. The Executive Board is elected by the association's Assembly for a period of four years, concurrently with the term of office of the other representative bodies of the association's members. The Assembly elects the members of the Executive Board, which is composed of one representative per member association.

The President and Vice-President are elected by the Assembly from among the members of the Executive Board, implying, as a rule, from among county heads (prefects) and Presidents of the County Assemblies, for a four year term of office.

The current President of the Association is Božo Galić, Prefect of Vukovar-Syrmia county. The current Secretary General, responsible for international relations and CEMR contacts, is Marta Vidaković Mukić.

CEMR membership in Croatia

6. To date, CEMR has not had membership within Croatia, and has had only very limited contacts with the Croatian local and regional representative associations. In recent years, CEMR's work programme has specifically foreseen enhancing activities and deepening our working relationships with the associations of south-east Europe. However, prior to 2008, contacts with representatives from Croatia had been difficult to pursue, as the associations did not seem to be actively seeking participation on the international level.

The Croatian County Association was able to enhance its activities only in mid-2007, and since then has been able to undertake to further develop its activities and relations with other structures.

7. At their meeting in Malmö in September 2008, the Secretaries General and Directors agreed that this application from the regional association represented a positive opportunity to open our membership in Croatia. On the basis of the information provided, the Secretaries General and Directors unanimously recommended full CEMR membership for the Croatian County Association.



POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

REPORT ON THE APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES BOARD (IRELAND)

1. In March 2008, after the previous meeting of the Secretaries General and Directors, the CEMR secretariat received an application for associate membership from the Local Government Management Services Board in Ireland (LGMSB). The request was based on the LGMSB's specific interest in participating in the work of CEMR's Employers' Platform.
2. The report hereafter presents the information submitted to CEMR's secretariat by the Board Secretary of the LGMSB.

Goals and Activities

3. The Local Government Management Services Board was established in 1997 to be a centre of excellence in the provision of management services, human resources and industrial relations support and advice to local authorities in Ireland.

The industrial relations division negotiates claims under national pay agreements, and provides expert support, advice and representational services to local authorities and other bodies at local, regional and national level.

The human resources division promotes and assists the development of appropriate human resources practices that directly support the needs of each local authority in its delivery of quality services.

The Association is recognised as a partner by the national government, and is consulted on questions related to policy.

Members

4. Membership of the Association is open to all local authorities of the Republic of Ireland. The Association represents all of the local and regional authorities in the country, and therefore 100% of the population of Ireland.

The LGMSB represents local authority management relating to matters of human resources and industrial relations. All managers are appointed through competition (and are not elected).

The LGMSB represents all local authorities regardless of religious, ethnic or political differences, and this pluralism is reflected in the make-up of the governing bodies of the association.

Statutory Bodies

5. The Association's President is elected by Peer Group, and the governing bodies are elected by Peer Group and Ministerial nomination.

The current Chief Executive Officer is Seaghan Ó Lanagáin, who is also indicated as the CEMR contact person.

CEMR membership in Ireland

6. Following CEMR's first contacts with the LGMSB, in accordance with CEMR's Rules of Procedures (article I.1.3.), the secretariat consulted CEMR's associate member in Ireland, the Institute of Public Administration (IPA). The latter expressed full approval of the pursuit of relations between CEMR and the LGMSB.

Given that the LGMSB does not fulfil the statutory criteria for eligibility to full CEMR membership, the possibility of associate membership was presented to them.

As a current associate member, the IPA settles some 2 000 € in annual membership fees to CEMR which covers their participation in certain areas of CEMR activities. CEMR's Financial Management Committee considered the matter and recommended that a similar arrangement should also apply to associate membership within CEMR of the LGMSB, thereby enabling them to contribute in particular to the work of our Employers' Platform.

7. On the basis of this information, at their meeting in Malmö in September 2008, the Secretaries General and Directors unanimously recommended CEMR associate membership for the Local Government Management Services Board.



POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

REPORT ON THE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF TURKEY

1. On 26th September, the CEMR secretariat received the formal application for full membership from the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT).
2. The report hereafter presents the information submitted to CEMR's secretariat by the Secretary General of the UMT.

Goals and Activities

3. Established in 1945, the UMT works to represent municipalities and defend their interests. It works with the municipalities particularly to prepare the accession process to the European Union, providing assistance to improve financial, social, legal and political efficiency.

The association represents the local level, working with the national Parliament and Government, and both at national and international levels.

Based on their central aim of helping municipalities improve the quality of the service they provide to their citizens, the UMT provides training activities for both elected managers and staff of municipalities, as well as consultancy services to municipalities in order to support their capacity building efforts.

The association's annual budget is of some 4 900 000 €.

Under the "Law of Unions of Local Authorities", the UMT must be consulted during the preparation of any legislation concerning local authorities.

The UMT has been highly involved with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. It supports the secretariat of the Turkish National Delegation, which is officially under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior – General Directorate of Local Administrations.

Members

4. The UMT's membership includes all municipalities of Turkey, currently numbering 3225 municipalities. This corresponds to a representation of some 79% of the total population of Turkey. All mayors and municipal councillors are directly elected by the citizens.

The UMT represents all local authorities regardless of religious, ethnic or political differences, and affirms that this pluralism is reflected in the make-up of the governing bodies of the association.

Statutory Bodies

5. The President is elected by the Council of the Union from among the UMT's members for a term of two years. The Executive Board is composed of the chairman and 14 mayors, who are elected from among the members by the Council of the Union for a term of one year.

The current President is Mr Aytak Durak, Mayor of Adana Metropolitan Municipality. The Secretary General is Mr Hayrettin Gungor. The international relations officer, Ms Duygu Dalgic Uyar, is indicated as the CEMR contact person.

The Board members are elected from among the General Assembly. It has been an established practice to make a composition for the executive board open to different regions, different political parties and different scales reflecting the diversity of all local authorities in Turkey.

The existing Board is composed of 3 metropolitan mayors, 6 provincial mayors, 5 sub-provincial mayors and 1 district mayor. The distribution of the political parties among the members of the board is in accordance with the general political situation. There are 10 mayors from the Justice and Development Party (AKP), 2 mayors from the Republican People's Party (CHP), 1 mayor from Democratic Society Part (DTP) and 1 mayor from the Motherland Party (ANAP), and 1 mayor from the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP).

CEMR membership in Turkey

6. The UMT's application for membership was received very shortly prior to the September meeting of the Secretaries General and Directors, and no written report could be prepared by the secretariat in time for the meeting. However, copies of the filled out application form were circulated during the meeting, and a number of participants indicated that their association would be likely to support the request for membership of UMT.
7. On this occasion, the Secretaries General and Directors agreed (due mainly to the fact that the application had only just been received, and therefore no prior consideration had been possible) not to put forward a particular recommendation directly to the Policy Committee. They decided, rather, to submit the matter for formal consultation to the Executive Bureau – in particular in order to give time for further consideration of the application, including of the related question concerning the position of the UMT in relation to UCLG (at present, for the purposes of our world organisation, Turkey is in the Middle East and West Asia regional section, and the Mayor of Istanbul is currently one of the Co-Presidents of UCLG).

At time of writing, the finalisation of this consultation is in progress. Further information on the consultation and the Executive Bureau's recommendation on this matter will be presented to the Policy Committee at the meeting in Paris.

8. Under CEMR's statutes, Article II.1.1, "A national association of local and regional authorities duly constituted in Member State of the Council of Europe, having regard to the democratic principles set out in the latter's Statute, may become a member of CEMR." Turkey is a long-standing member of the Council of Europe, and therefore there is no formal obstacle to membership. At present CEMR has no Turkish association in membership.
9. At a meeting in Ankara in September with First Vice-President Anders Knappe, the leadership of the UMT expressed their strong wish to become a member of CEMR, if possible at the Paris meeting. The issue of the affiliation fee was also discussed; given the high population of Turkey, the CEMR formula based on GDP and population would give a figure of some Euro 80 000. The representatives of the UMT asked that a lesser starting figure be agreed, of circa Euro 40 000 per year, which would then be progressively increased in exactly the same manner as has been applied to the associations of central and eastern Europe, until the full amount is reached.



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS
EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

for decision
✓ for information

CEMR TWINNING WEBSITE

Draft decision

The members of the Policy Committee are invited to:

↳ Take note of the launch of the new twinning website launched by CEMR, in the context of our activities on twinning and international cooperation.

1. After his election during the Reykjavik Policy Committee, the new Chair of the twinning network Janusz Marszałek, Mayor of Oświęcim, has worked to underline his commitment for CEMR to remain the organisation promoting twinning in Europe, and recognised as such by the European institutions, continuing to initiate strong and innovative actions in this field.
2. CEMR has undertaken to respond to expectations expressed following the Rhodes conference and launched, on 12 November, our new website on town twinning: www.twinning.org.

The site is unique in both aim and content, as well as for the number of languages in which it will be available – 21 at time of writing, for the part on twinning in Europe. This is thanks to the precious support of our national associations who took the decision to translate the site into their languages.

3. The “International” part of the site aims to focus on cooperation of European local authorities with their counterparts on other continents. This part will be available, in the first stages, in four languages (already in English, French, Portuguese, and shortly in Spanish) and has been developed in active cooperation with UCLG and with the support of the European Commission. It was available in time for the recent Development Days event in Strasbourg. We will continue to work with UCLG and other partners to develop the site further and to encourage use of the partner search facility.

★



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS
EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

for decision
✓ for information

UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
UCLG'S WORLD COUNCIL MEETING, ISTANBUL (27-30 NOVEMBER)

Draft decision

The members of the Policy Committee are invited to:

☞ Take note of the programme of UCLG meetings taking place in Istanbul from 27-30 November.

1. At the invitation of Mr Kadir Topbas, Mayor of Istanbul and co-president of UCLG, the next meeting of the World Council will take place in Istanbul on 30 November.

Preparatory meetings and UCLG's Committees and Working Groups will take place from the 27 November.

2. The latest programme is enclosed in annex to this report.
3. Information on the outcome of the UCLG meetings will be provided at the meeting in Paris.



DRAFT PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Meetings Venue:

Hilton Convention and Exhibition Center

Tel: +90 212 315 6000; Fax: +90 212 240 4165

Address: Cumhuriyet Caddesi, Harbiye 34367 Istanbul, Turkey

Web: www.istanbul.hilton.com

Thursday 27 November			
09:00	<i>Registration</i>		
10:00-12:30	Information Society Committee	Urban Mobility Committee	Millennium Development Goals Committee
12:30-14:00	<i>Free lunch</i>		
14:00-15:30	Financial Management Committee By invitation	European Network of Local Authorities for Peace in the Middle East By invitation	Preparatory meeting By invitation
15.30-16:00	<i>Break</i>		
16:00-17:30	Financial Management Committee By invitation	UCLG meeting on the 5 th World Water Forum	French-Turkish decentralised co-operation meeting (CUF-MEWA-Union of Turkish Municipalities)
17:30-19:30	Meeting of Secretaries General of the Associations and Directors of International Relations of members of the World Council		
20:00	<i>Free evening</i>		

Friday 28 November			
09:00-10:30	Decentralisation and Local Self-Government Committee	Mediterranean Interregional Committee	Symposium on Urban Strategic Planning
10:30-11:00	<i>Break</i>		
11:00-12:30	UCLG Roundtable on Regional Authorities By invitation	CIB working group	Urban Strategic Planning Committee
12:30-14:00	<i>Free Lunch</i>		
14:00-15:30	Committee on Statutory Issues By invitation	Committee on Culture	Local Finance and Development Committee
15:30-16:00	<i>Break</i>		
16:00-17:30	Committee on Statutory Issues By invitation	Symposium on Agenda 21 Culture	Decentralised Cooperation Committee
17:30-18:30	Introduction to Proceedings of the UCLG World Council for New World Council Members	UCLG Sections and Secretariats of Committees	
20.00	Welcome Reception Venue: Rahmi M. Koc Museum		

Saturday 29 November				
08:30-10:00		Municipal Alliance for Peace (MAP) Executive Board by invitation only		
		Mayors Political Debate		
09:00-10:00		<i>Local and Regional Governments and the Challenge of Disaster Risk Management</i>		
10:00-11:30		<i>Local Social Inclusion Policies</i>		
11:30-11:45		Break		
11.45-12:30		Executive Bureau Meeting (1st part)		
12:30-14:00		Lunch		
14:00-15:30		Executive Bureau Meeting (2nd part)		
15.30-16:00		Break		
16:00-18:30		UNACLA 16 th Regular Meeting By invitation only	17:00	Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy Committee
			City Diplomacy, Peace Building and Human Rights Committee	
20:00		Gala Dinner Venue: Four Seasons Istanbul at the Bosphorus		

Sunday 30 November				
		Mayors Political Debate		
9:00-10:30		<i>Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Local Governments</i>		
10:30-11:00		Break		
11.00-12.30		World Council Meeting (1st part)		
12:30-14:00		Lunch		
14:00-15:30		World Council Meeting (2nd part)		
		Free evening		



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS
EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

for decision
✓ for information

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN PLATFORM OF LOCAL AND
REGIONAL AUTHORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Draft decision

The members of the Policy Committee are invited to:

☞ Take note of the launch of the European Platform of local and regional authorities for development.

1. The European Platform of Local/Regional Authorities was launched in Strasbourg on 16th November, during the European Development Days, which this year were organised around the theme of the role of local and regional authorities in development. The launch took place as a very successful event, which was organised by CEMR in cooperation with the Platform partners (see press release, enclosed).
2. The Platform, of which CEMR will ensure the secretariat, was set up following a series of preparatory meetings and consultations.

The 19 project partners who have committed to provide co-financing are as follows:

National associations and organisations:

- FEMP
 - AFCCRE
 - KEDKE
 - AICCRE
 - VNG
 - ANMP
 - Romanian Municipalities Association
 - LGA
 - SALAR
- and also Cités Unies France (CUF)

Other European associations:

- Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
- Assembly of European Regions (AER)
- Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CRPM)

International organisations:

- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF)

Cities:

- Bucharest (district 2)
- Lyon
- Paris
- Rome

The ACP Local Government Platform will participate as an associate to the project.

In addition, the Committee of the Regions has explicitly indicated its clear and concrete support to the project, in particular by hosting two conferences.

3. The platform aims to:
 - facilitate the networking of information, exchange of experiences and best practice between the members, and to prepare common positions concerning the role of local and regional authorities in development aid and the importance of a 'territorial' approach to this aid;
 - facilitate dialogue with the local and regional authorities and the other partners of the programme, including nongovernmental organisations, represented at European level in the Concord network;
 - provide a co-ordinated voice for local/regional authorities vis-à-vis the institutions and in particular the European Commission, for example in consultation procedures.
4. The European Commission approved CEMR's application for support for the Platform. The support is provided under the terms of objective 3 of the EU programme "non state actors and local authorities in development" particularly concerning the "coordination, cooperation and networking activities in Europe."

By approving our application, the Commission has approved the global budget for the activities and functioning of the Platform of local/regional authorities, and will provide support of 470 000 €, 73,44 % of the totals eligible costs. The budget corresponds to an action over two years, which should cover the period of January 2009 until December 2010.

5. The calendar of meetings foreseen for the Platform for 2009-2010 is enclosed in the separate information pack. The first meeting is due to take place in Brussels in late February or early March 2009.

- PRESS RELEASE -

The European Platform of local and regional government is born

The European Platform of local and regional government for development was launched on 16 November 2008 to a packed audience on the occasion of the European Development Days, in Strasbourg.

Mayor of Stuttgart and Vice President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), **Wolfgang Schuster**, said: *This new Platform brings together European local and regional government and its associations to co-ordinate and strengthen their voice at European level on all development co-operation issues. It will also help to exchange information, promote mutual learning, and facilitate dialogue between them and other actors such as NGO's.*

Director General for Development of the European Commission, **Stefano Manservigi**, welcomed the creation of the platform and emphasized the role played by local government in development cooperation. Other representatives from EU institutions expressed their support to the platform, including Deputy Mayor of Paris and Member of the European Parliament, **Pierre Schapira** ; Director of EuropeAid, **Aristotelis Bouratsis**; and Member of the Committee of the Regions, **Christophe Rouillon**.

Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments, **Elisabeth Gateau**, emphasized the need to reinforce the participation of local government from the South in EU development cooperation programmes: *This platform will become a bridge between European local authorities and their counterparts in the South. It is a tool giving them broader access to EU programmes.*

Secretary General of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), and of FOGAR (Forum of Global Associations of Regions), **Xavier Gizard**, emphasized the need for territorial and cross-sectorial approaches to international development (“territorial cohesion”). *The platform's ultimate goal is to make local and regional initiatives far more efficient and effective in north-south co-operation.*

This north-south co-operation should include the main four actors involved in development cooperation: national, local and regional governments, civil society and multilateral organisations including the European Union, said Vice-President of the Auvergne Regional Council, representing the Assembly of European Regions, **Jean-Claude Mairal**.

The new Platform will receive support from the European Commission for the next two years, starting in January 2009. It will provide an organised structure for dialogue between the local/regional authorities and the institutions, and in particular the European Commission.

Local and regional government from Africa get involved

The meeting – which attracted around 250 representatives from European and African local and regional government - reflected the Platform's ambition to involve the ACP countries' own local government Platform in its activities. In his speech, the Mayor of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), **Simon Compaore**, stressed the strong expectations of the Platform from the South. The President of the ACP (Africa-Caribbean-Pacific) Local Government Platform, **Charles Katiza**, said the Platform will provide a link between local government from the South and North.

Both **Jorge Dias Correia** (Mayor of Cantagalo, President of the Association of Municipalities and of the Autonomous Region of São Tomé e Príncipe) and **Fernando Ruas** (President of the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities, Mayor of Viseu) underlined the important cooperation that has developed between lusophone countries and the expectations from the South of what the Platform will provide.

Vice President of Grand Lyon, **Hubert Julien-Laferrrière**, presented the partnership set up between Lyon and Ouagadougou. This point was illustrated by representative of Cités Unies France, **Nicholas Witt**, who highlighted the important links between French local governments and their counterparts in Africa, while Deputy Director to the international section of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities, **Arthur Wiggers** described an exchange programme between financial managers from municipalities of the Netherlands and of Tanzania.



POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8-9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

✓ for decision
for information

EUROPE AND CEMR IN 2009

Draft decision

The Policy Committee is invited to:

- Adopt the outline CEMR work programme for 2009, with any agreed amendments

1. 2009 sees major changes in the European institutions, with the European Parliament elections taking place in June, to be followed by the renewal of the European Commission. This will now take place under the rules agreed in the Treaty of Nice, given that the Lisbon Reform Treaty will not have taken effect. It is possible that a further referendum will take place in Ireland in late 2009, but not before the elections.
2. The Presidency of the European Union will be held by the Czech Republic (1st six months) followed by Sweden. We hope to be able to work positively with both Presidencies. One of the major Swedish Presidency priorities will be combating climate change, and we hope to work closely with them, and with our colleagues in our national associations and in UCLG and ICLEI. December 2009 will see the major international governmental climate change conference in Copenhagen, when our aim is to get a new post-Kyoto instrument which properly recognizes the role of local / regional governments in this area. During the year, we will work towards this goal, including a session in our General Assembly, and in the preparatory local government conference on climate change in Copenhagen in June.
3. In recent weeks, the financial crisis has started to have a significant impact on the overall European economy, and on many national economies. At this stage, it is still too early to foresee the precise effects on local and regional governments, but we can be sure that there will be important consequences to which we will need to adapt. The draft work programme does not at this stage include any specific actions, but we will need to keep this under review during the year.
4. It is to be noted that 2009 also sees the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Your secretariat consider that this could be an event for us to mark on behalf of our national associations, given that since 1989, local and regional democracy and self-government have now become part of our general European values.

5. In this regard, the important role of twinning is to be underlined again, and we hope that a meeting can be held in Oswiecim, the city of the Chair of the Twinning Network. 2009 also marks the 20th anniversary of the European Twinning Grant, an event we will celebrate in Malmö at the General Assembly.
6. Indeed, the Malmö General Assembly will be the major event that CEMR will organise during the year, and we hope that, with the active help of our members, it can enjoy a large participation and a high quality programme.
7. During 2009, we also hope to enhance our work in the region of south-east Europe, following this autumn's Vienna conference. Our new cross-membership arrangement with NALAS will help us to identify where we can be of particular assistance to our members in their region, including assisting them in work related to the European integration process..
8. Although the European Parliament elections will slow down the legislative process for some months, there are still a lot of items of ongoing or planned legislative business, which require continued attention. Many of these are identified in the attached draft outline work programme, which take account of the European Commission's own work programme published recently.
9. Over the last year, our co-operation with the Council of Europe, notably the Congress, has increased, and we have been able to contribute to some important dossiers, e.g. the new draft Protocols to the European Charter. With the new CEMR Committee on Democracy and Governance, we aim to continue this close co-operation.
10. The coming year will also see the commencement of the activities of the new Platform of local and regional authorities for decentralized co-operation, in which CEMR works with a very wide range of partners.
11. The Policy Committee is asked to give its views on the attached draft outline work programme, and to approve it, with any agreed amendments.



OUTLINE OF CEMR'S 2009 WORK PROGRAMME

A. Objective: to strengthen the role and contribution of local and regional governments in European governance, active citizenship and the development of democracy

Aim A1: To promote good practice in consultation of local and regional government through wide publicity for CEMR's Code of Good Practice on consultation

- Wide promotion of CEMR's Code on good practice in consultation
- Organise members' round table on consultation processes

Aim A2: to exchange information and draw conclusions from the trends in regional and local government and democracy across Europe

- organise 20th anniversary event to mark the developments in local and regional democracy since 1989
- organise seminar in framework of Malmö General Assembly
- organise seminar on developments in non-legislative regions' structures, finances and competences
- organise seminar on theme of "trust in government"

Aim A3: To help local and regional governments to take effective action for gender equality

- Further promotion and dissemination of the European Charter for equality of women and men in local life, getting it translated and printed in more languages as resources permit
- To follow up and complete work on gender equality indicators and action plans

Aim A4: To promote town twinning and other transnational citizenship initiatives, as a means of enhancing understanding and a stronger sense of European identity

- Implementation and promotion of new twinning website, in close co-ordination with members
- Organise special session in Malmö General Assembly to mark 20 years of European Twinning Grant
- Close ongoing co-operation with Commission (DG Education & Culture and Executive Agency), giving feedback and contributions from the twinning network, and participation in structured dialogue in relation to the programme
- Organise programme of meetings and activities for CEMR's twinning network, including seminar in Poland and meeting in western Balkans
- Commence preparations for next twinning congress (? 2011).

Aim A5: To develop CEMR's work in relation to south-east Europe, including Turkey, helping to strengthen the European capacity of the national associations of the region

- Development of cooperation with NALAS and its member associations
- Assist member associations in relation to European integration issues
- Co-organise or participate in NALAS or national meetings in south-east Europe

Aim A6: to work in partnership with (a) the Council of Europe and in particular the Congress, and (b) the Committee of the Regions

- Work on issues of common interest with the Congress, and as appropriate the CDLR (Committee of Ministers), especially developments in relation to local and regional self-government, and proposals for new Protocols to the European Charter of Local Self-Government, and promote and publicize Local Democracy Week initiative
- Implement the co-operation agreement with the Committee of the Regions, identifying areas of common interest for specific joint actions

Aim A7: To organise a successful General Assembly of CEMR for 2009 in Malmö

- Work with Malmö, SALAR and associations to develop high quality conference with good participation.

Aim A8: To promote local democracy in Eastern Europe

- To consider initiatives, in partnership with CEMR members, in relation to the development of local democracy in Belarus.
- To organise an event in Ukraine, with Association of Ukrainian Cities

B. Objective: to influence legislation and policy, and to promote good practice on European policy issues

Aim B1: To promote an ambitious European cohesion and rural / urban development policy, with adequate resources and involving all the EU's regions, together with their local governments

- Contribute to the debate on the future of cohesion policy, the spending priorities of the future EU budget and the rural development after 2013, including to respond to the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion
- Continue participation in the inter-governmental activities on the implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU and of the Leipzig Charter on sustainable European cities
- Monitor important developments in relation to the implementation of the current Structural Funds operational programmes and policies

Aim B2: To influence legislation, policy and practice on sustainable development, to take into account the policies and resources of local and regional governments, and the interests of citizens

- Provide input to the preparation and lobby the European decision making process on ongoing and forthcoming legislation, such as waste (review of the WEEE directive and Green Paper on biowaste), noise (review of the noise directive), soil (directive on soil protection).
- Follow-up of the White Paper on adaptation to climate change and consider further activities in the area of climate change.
- Contribute to relevant initiatives on sustainable development (review of the sustainable development strategy, preparation of the next Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference)
- Contribute to relevant energy initiatives, in particular the revision of the energy performance of buildings directive, the use of renewable energy and the Covenant of Mayors.
- Follow-up of the action plan on urban mobility and the review of the Eurovignette directive (charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures)
- Contribute to the reflections on the Future of the European Transport policy and the future of Trans-European Network Policy

Aim B3: In the field of Services of General Interest and public procurement, to obtain far more legal certainty, in line with CEMR policy and the principles of subsidiarity and local self-government

- Launch and Promotion of CEMR's Charter on local and regional services of general interest and continue lobbying the key issues of the Charter
- Follow-up the Commission's initiatives on social services, including care and health care and the forthcoming recommendation on 'partnerships in implementing the Single Market'
- Continue working on the different Commission procurement initiatives, such as green, social, pre-commercial and innovative procurement
- Monitor the Commission activities on State aid, in particular its report on the application of the Kroes / Monti package on public service compensation.

Aim B4: To influence legislation, policy and practice in the economic and social fields, in the interests of citizens and of local and regional governments

- Contribute to the debate on the future of the EU budget, including reflections on Lisbon 2010+ on Europe's competitiveness as knowledge and innovation based society
- Follow-up and respond to Commission's initiatives on demographic change, on active inclusion, children and migration, including asylum seekers
- Monitor and respond, where appropriate, to Commission's proposals in the social and health care sectors..
- Contribute to the debate on broadband and related issues such as universal services and next generation networks
- Contribute to the implementation of the Digital Local Agenda and to eCapacity building at local and regional levels

- Assistance with the preparation of the 8th EISCO (information society) conference in Bilbao, Spain (April 2010)

Aim B5: To promote the interests of local / regional government employers and their workforces, in particular through the European social dialogue processes

- Monitor decision-making on the revised Working Time Directive and Temporary Workers Directive and the impact of the adopted text and its transposition and implementation
- Follow-up the Commission's initiatives on the EU sectoral social dialogue
- Contribute to the exchange of experience on third party violence and on diversity policies
- Continue promoting gender equality in local and regional government

C. Objective: to strengthen the contribution of Europe's local and regional governments in the international arena, for democracy, development, peace, and understanding

Aim C1: To play an effective role as European world region of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), in co-ordination with the individual members

- Organisation of the CEMR World Affairs Committee,
- European contribution to relevant policy dossiers of UCLG (e.g. CEMR's Equality Charter, UCLG's 2nd GOLD report, international co-operation and UN Guidelines on decentralisation)
- Active co-operation with UCLG world organisation and its relevant regional sections in relation to the new EU programmes and development of EU development policy to enhance local government role
- Closer concertation between CEMR / UCLG, including joint team meeting and follow-up

Aim C2: To ensure the successful implementation of the new programme for co-ordination etc. under the Thematic Programme for Non-State Actors and Local Authorities

- Organise work of platform of European and international associations for coordination and dialogue with EU institutions
- Continuation of lobbying EU institutions to recognise more fully the role of local / regional government in international development,
- Publicize and further develop the new website for twinning and partnerships for development, in co-operation with UCLG and other partners
- Development of better relations with European NGO networks and other actors in this field
- Organisation of exchanges of good practice in north-south co-operation, with closer co-ordination with UCLG
- Actions to promote the MDGs via local governments, in cooperation with Millennium campaign

Aim C3: To develop cross-cultural dialogue and exchanges between local and regional governments

- Support relevant initiatives on the Mediterranean space
- Participation in relevant activities of COPPEM and other relevant networks

Aim C4: To promote local government's international role in combating climate change

- Work with UCLG, ICLEI and other European / international associations to achieve stronger role for local / regional governments in post-Kyoto climate agreement, taking active role in key events
- Organise session on climate change in Malmö General Assembly in which a CEMR contribution to this work is agreed.
- Participate actively in 5th World Water Forum, Istanbul (March)

D. Objective: to strengthen CEMR as an effective organisation on behalf of its members associations, representing the interests of Europe's local and regional governments

Aim D1: To implement successfully the new measures to enhance the role of elected members

- Organise and co-ordinate new system of elected rapporteurs
- Organise 2 meetings of new Committee on Democracy and Governance

Aim D2: to improve regular communication with members

- Develop electronic newsletter
- Review existing main website, and bring forward recommendations for a possible new site
- Produce information brochures about CEMR
- Promote the Malmö General Assembly

Aim D3: To organise CEMR events in a professional and attractive manner, ensuring that customer feedback is received and analysed

- To continue to obtain and use feedback from those attending working groups, committees and events with a view to improving our services

Aim D4: to ensure that CEMR's finances and financial systems remain soundly based, that membership fees are properly followed up, that other appropriate income sources are pursued, and that the annual budget is accurately implemented

- Provide good and timely support to the work of the Financial Management Committee, honorary auditors and the professional auditors
- Monitor the impact (if any) of the economic downturn on CEMR's finances, taking any necessary action
- Prepare for the new system of the European Commission in relation to the operating grant for active citizenship and twinning



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS

EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

✓ for decision
for information

2009 PRE-DRAFT BUDGET

At their meeting of 8th September 2008 in Brussels, the Financial Management Committee debated the 2009 pre-draft budget.

Considering that it is anticipated that inflation in the Euro zone will reach well beyond 3%, the Financial Management Committee recommended proposing two options to the Policy Committee:

- a first option, partially covering the anticipated inflation, foreseeing an increase of membership fees in real terms of 2.7%. This option represents the minimum increase of membership fees which would still allow for maintaining the current organisational chart of CEMR.
- a second option, which would allow us to compensate for inflation (increasing membership fees by 3.4%), and generating a budget of 10 000€ helping to finance the political representation by Rapporteurs, which the Policy Committee decided to set up at their meeting in Reykjavik. This option represents a total increase in membership fees by 3.9%.

It is recalled that two additional factors could affect individual membership fee levels: (a) variations in GDP and population, and (b) the decision to increase by 5% per year the level of GDP taken into account until the real GDP is reached. The amounts of membership fees per country are presented in detail in the enclosed tables. The data used for calculation of fees is attached in the complementary documents.

At their meeting in September, the Secretaries General and Directors widely expressed their support for option 2.

Draft decision

The members of the Policy Committee are invited to:

- ↪ Take note of the views of the Financial Management Committee and of the Secretaries General, and debate this document;
- ↪ Adopt the option of the CEMR 2009 budget that seems most appropriate.

It can be recalled that the current structure of the secretariat is as follows:

The Secretary General is assisted by a team in Brussels and a team in Paris, made up as follows:

	Brussels	Paris
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director of Policy - Policy Officer - Cohesion, structural funds, Information society - Policy Officer - Environment, energy, transport - Policy Officer - Social affairs, employer's platform - Policy Co-ordination Officer and support to SG - Assistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of citizenship and international cooperation - Twinning and Citizenship officer - Assistant
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of press and communication - Press officer 	
Statutory affairs / relations w/members		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statutory affairs and relations with members officer
Administration / support staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Office manager (Brussels) and Assistant to the SG - Assistant Administration and finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director of Administration and Finance - Accountant - Assistant (support for the office)

The two options include the following items:

INCOME

➤ CEMR Membership Fees

It should be recalled that since 2003, there have been either no increases in overall membership fees, or only limited increases for the countries with CEMR long-standing members.

Until 2007, the increase in fees has always remained below average inflation rates in the European Union. For 2008, it has been agreed to partially compensate the real decrease in fees from the previous years, by applying an increase 1% higher than inflation.

This has amounted to a reduction in real terms in membership fees by 6.5% for the period 2003-2008.

Two other factors may affect individual fees: (a) GDP and population shifts and (b) the agreement to increase by 5% each year the current GDP applied until actual GDP rate is reached.

In this context, the overall figures are:

	Reduction/increase of membership fees	Average inflation in the EU for previous year	Reduction in real terms of membership fees
2003	-0.5%	2.1%	2.6%
2004	0.0%	2.0%	2.0%
2005	1.5%	2.0%	0.5%
2006	1.0%	2.2%	1.2%
2007	1.0%	2.2%	1.2%
2008	3.3%	2.3%	-1.0%
Total	6.3%	12.8%	6.5%

The different options are calculated as follows:

OPTION 1 INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP FEES BY 2.7%	OPTION 2 INCREASE IN FEES BY 3.4% + 10 000 €
<p>The total calculation for 2009, taking into account special measures detailed hereafter, is equivalent to the amount of membership fees called in 2008 + 2,7%,</p> <p>ie. $1\,804\,387 \times 1,027 = 1\,853\,719 \text{ €}$.</p> <p>This option represents the minimum increase which would still allow for maintaining the organisational chart presented above.</p>	<p>The total calculation for 2009, taking into account special measures detailed hereafter, is equivalent to the amount of membership fees called in 2008 + 3,4%,</p> <p>i.e. $1\,804\,387 \times 1,034 = 1\,865\,385 \text{ €}$</p> <p>+ Political rapporteurs 10 000€</p> <p>Total 1 875 385 €</p>

Detailed tables are presented hereafter (pages 6 and 7).

The principles of calculation have remained unchanged in relation to the 2008 fees, and follow the decision of the Policy Committee in Martina Franca (29-30 October 2003), according to which the fees of each member are recalculated each year in order to take into account the variations of GDP and/or population. Furthermore, the fees called from the post-2004 member states are progressively increasing with the addition of 5% per year to the applied GDP (until the actual GDP is reached).

Therefore, the coefficient for Romania, which was 25% for 2008, is raised to 30% for 2009, the coefficient for Bulgaria which was 30% for 2008, is raised to 35% for 2009, and the coefficient for the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, which was 45% for 2008, is raised to 50% for 2009.

In addition, the increases are limited to 5,000 € or 15% per year, depending on which option is more favourable to each association, except for transitory rates where an increase of 10% to the amounts called in 2008 applies for those countries where GDP is below 20% of EU average (Serbia and Montenegro). In addition, for those countries whose GDP is less than 10% of EU average (Albania and Ukraine), the membership fee would remain unchanged.

In return, we propose to freeze the possible reductions in fees up to 5,000 €, and to apply only the reductions that might exceed 5,000 € for each association.

For future years, the Financial Management Committee recommended reconsidering the limit to increases, maintained for the 2009 budget at 5 000€ per association per year, and to consider the possibility of raising this limit to 6 000€ or 7 000€.

➤ **UCLG membership fees (380,000 €)**

UCLG's World Council decided to adopt a new scheme of membership fees, which applies as of 2008. According to this scheme, membership fees will be calculated based on population and GDP, and will provide a transparent and equitable system for the different categories of members and the different regions.

The new scheme will be implemented over a period of ten years, starting from 2008, and will therefore generate a moderated variation of fees from one year to the next. The figures proposed by UCLG for the period 2008-2017 are attached (page 8).

➤ **Fees uncertain to be recovered and provisions**

This item covers the risk of the non settlement of certain membership fees.

➤ **EC Grant (235 000 €)**

The European Commission has raised the amount of the grant CEMR receives in 2008 to 230 000€. An amount of 235 000€ has been forecast for 2009, which supposes that the Commission will take inflation somewhat into account.

➤ **Other income (25 000 €)**

This figure represents salaries reimbursed by UCLG for time spent by CEMR staff on UCLG finances.

In addition, income of 15 000€ is budgeted for the **Malmö General Assembly** in 2009, and 10 000€ as **financial income**.

EXPENDITURE

➤ **Personnel – CEMR (1 369 000 €)**

This budget covers the costs of the existing personnel.

➤ **Office rent (200 000 €)**

The proposed budget takes into account the leases in Paris and in Brussels.

➤ **Publications and communication (77 000 €for option 1 – 79 000 €for option 2)**

These budgets are lower than the revised budget of 2008, which for a large part related to the creation of a website on twinning.

➤ **Travel costs**

OPTION 1 – 83 000 €	OPTION 2 – 92 000 €
Given the increase in transportation costs, this amount implies a significant reduction in travel costs.	This amount would better facilitate CEMR's presence on the European stage.

➤ **Political representation – Rapporteurs**

OPTION 1	OPTION 2 – 10 000 €
This option would not generate the financing necessary for the political representation by Rapporteurs, which the Policy Committee wished to set up.	This option foresees a budget of 2 000€ per Rapporteur for 5 themes.

➤ **Meetings (80 000 €)**

The proposed budget takes into account that one Policy Committee meeting will be financed by the General Assembly budget.

➤ **Other office costs (220 000 €)**

The proposed budget implies a strict control of expenditure.

CONTRACTS (281 000 €)

The indicated amounts correspond to the budget of the first year of activity of the "informal platform of local/regional authorities for development co-operation", as submitted to the European Commission.

The application for additional activities is being prepared. Depending on the Commission's response, this budget may need to be amended.

CEMR DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2009

16/09/2008

	2009 OPTION 2			2009 OPTION 1			2008 ANTICIPATED PREVISION			2007 ACTUAL REALISE			2006 ACTUAL REALISE		
	CEMR	CONTRACTS	UCLG	CEMR	CONTRACTS	UCLG	CEMR	CONTRACTS	UCLG	CEMR	CONTRACTS	UCLG	CEMR	CONTRACTS	UCLG
INCOME															
CEMR membership fees	1 847 000			1 826 000						1 667 882			1 689 645		277 671
CEMR memb. fees - transitory rates	28 000			28 000											
UCGL membership fees			380 000			380 000			380 000			334 824			
Call for membership fees	1 875 000		380 000	1 854 000		380 000	1 723 000		380 000	1 667 882		334 824	1 689 645		277 671
Fees uncertain to recover - CEMR	-84 000			-84 000											
Fees uncertain to recover - UCLG			-80 000			-80 000			-80 000						
Transfers to UCGL			-300 000			-300 000			-300 000			-334 824			-277 671
Net membership fees	1 791 000			1 770 000			1 723 000			1 667 882			1 689 645		
EC grant	235 000			235 000			230 000			210 000			210 535		
EC Contracts		281 000			281 000			221 000			219 310			168 418	
Contracts cofinancing							-13 000	30 000			202 280			22 250	
Other contracts							44 000			31 178					
General Assembly	15 000			15 000			30 000						35 220		
Other income	25 000			25 000			21 000			33 452			158 343		
Release of provisions							41 000								
Exceptional income								78 000							
Financial Income	10 000			10 000			18 000	4 000		24 049			15 465		
TOTAL	2 076 000	281 000		2 055 000	281 000		2 094 000	333 000		1 966 560	421 590		2 109 207	190 668	
EXPENDITURE															
Personnel	1 369 000	53 000		1 369 000	53 000		1 366 000	49 000		1 339 628	135 294		1 380 053	71 947	
Office Rent	200 000			200 000			195 000			187 929			154 993		
Other office costs	220 000	15 000		220 000	15 000		220 000	80 000		188 902	21 497		244 384	15 051	
Office moving										17 063					
Meeting costs	80 000	52 000		80 000	52 000		100 000	33 000		62 331	103 164		101 791	28 566	
Travel	92 000	128 000		83 000	128 000		99 000	150 000		85 432	107 856		110 603	74 272	
Political representation / Rapporteurs	10 000														
Communication / publications	79 000			77 000			95 000	13 000		65 705	44 591		98 900	3 311	
Studies													3 158		
EC Contracts		23 000			23 000						2 002		0		
Depreciation	20 000			20 000			20 000			15 217			9 927		
Provisions															
Bank charges	6 000			6 000			6 000	1 000		9 687			6 874		
Other charges															
Unforeseen		10 000			10 000										
TOTAL	2 076 000	281 000		2 055 000	281 000		2 101 000	326 000		1 971 894	414 403		2 110 682	193 146	
RESULT							-7 000	7 000		-5 335	7 187		-1 475	-2 478	

CALCULATION OF 2009 MEMBERSHIP FEES

OPTION 1

CALCUL DES COTISATIONS 2009

	Popul. millions 2006	GDP per capita in PPS 2006	GNI per capita ATLAS METHOD 2006	coefficient	coefficient	CALL 2008	CALCUL- ATION 2009	DIFFERENCE			DIFFERENCE APPLIED	CALL 2009		
	EUROSTAT	EUROSTAT	WORLD BANK	according to data	applied									
EU-27 average		100.0	31 914											
Austria	8.3	127.5		127.50%	127.50%	55 932	58 204	2 272	4%	Austria	100.00%	2 272	58 204	4%
Belgium	10.5	119.8		119.80%	119.80%	68 167	68 526	358	1%	Belgium	100.00%	358	68 526	1%
Bulgaria	7.7	36.7		36.70%	35.00%	12 271	14 823	2 551	21%	Bulgaria	CEILING 15%	1 841	14 112	15%
Cyprus	0.8	91.9		91.90%	91.90%	3 454	4 044	590	17%	Cyprus	CEILING 15%	518	3 972	15%
Czech Rep.	10.3	78.6		78.60%	50.00%	24 542	28 160	3 618	15%	Czech Rep.	100.00%	3 618	28 160	15%
Denmark	5.4	125.8		125.80%	125.80%	36 503	37 363	859	2%	Denmark	100.00%	859	37 363	2%
Estonia	1.3	68.4		68.40%	50.00%	2 454	3 575	1 121	46%	Estonia	CEILING 15%	368	2 822	15%
Finland	5.3	117.0		117.00%	117.00%	31 890	34 106	2 215	7%	Finland	100.00%	2 215	34 106	7%
France	63.0	111.9		111.90%	111.90%	218 436	224 332	5 896	3%	France	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	223 436	2%
Germany	82.4	114.2		114.20%	114.20%	240 384	247 220	6 836	3%	Germany	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	245 384	2%
Greece	11.1	97.3		97.30%	97.30%	50 410	58 224	7 815	16%	Greece	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	55 410	10%
Hungary	10.1	65.0		65.00%	50.00%	24 542	27 720	3 178	13%	Hungary	100.00%	3 178	27 720	13%
Iceland	0.3	130.6		130.60%	130.60%	2 153	2 155	2	0%	Iceland	100.00%	2	2 155	0%
Ireland	4.2	145.5		145.50%	ASSOCIATE	2 073	2 135	62	3%	Ireland	100.00%	62	2 135	3%
Israel					SPECIAL AGREE	30 335	7 290	-23 045		Israel	SPECIAL AGREEMENT		7 290	
Italy	58.8	103.3		103.30%	103.30%	204 410	203 170	-1 240	-1%	Italy	FREEZE <5.000 €		204 410	0%
Latvia	2.3	53.7		53.70%	50.00%	4 908	6 325	1 417	29%	Latvia	CEILING 15%	736	5 645	15%
Lithuania	3.4	56.2		56.20%	50.00%	7 363	9 350	1 987	27%	Lithuania	CEILING 15%	1 104	8 467	15%
Luxembourg	0.5	279.3		279.30%	279.30%	5 572	7 681	2 109	38%	Luxembourg	CEILING 15%	836	6 408	15%
Malta	0.4	76.9		76.90%	76.90%	1 592	1 692	100	6%	Malta	100.00%	100	1 692	6%
Netherlands	16.3	130.6		130.60%	130.60%	102 913	108 032	5 120	5%	Netherlands	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	107 913	5%
Norway	4.6	186.5		186.50%	186.50%	43 963	47 185	3 222	7%	Norway	100.00%	3 222	47 185	7%
Poland	38.2	52.4		52.40%	50.00%	62 324	79 475	17 151	28%	Poland	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	67 324	8%
Portugal	10.6	74.5		74.50%	74.50%	41 783	42 942	1 159	3%	Portugal	100.00%	1 159	42 942	3%
Romania	21.6	38.9		38.90%	30.00%	17 250	31 284	14 034	81%	Romania	CEILING 15%	2 588	19 838	15%
Slovakia	5.4	63.7		63.70%	50.00%	12 271	14 850	2 579	21%	Slovakia	CEILING 15%	1 841	14 112	15%
Slovenia	2.0	87.8		87.80%	50.00%	4 908	5 500	592	12%	Slovenia	100.00%	592	5 500	12%
Spain	43.8	105.0		105.00%	105.00%	155 705	182 028	26 323	17%	Spain	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	160 705	3%
Sweden	9.0	124.6		124.60%	124.60%	57 343	61 677	4 334	8%	Sweden	100.00%	4 334	61 677	8%
Switzerland	7.5	134.9		134.90%	SPECIAL RULE	27 494	28 319	825	3%	Switzerland	100.00%	825	28 319	3%
United K.	60.4	118.0		118.00%	118.00%	227 800	234 159	6 359	3%	United K.	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	232 800	2%

TOTAL EXCLUDING TRANSITORY RATES

1 781 145	1 881 543	100 399	5.6%
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1 825 727	2.5%
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Albania	3.1		2 580	8.08%	20.00%	628	3 410	2 782	443%	Albania	NO INCREASE		628	0%
Macedonia, FYR	2.0	28.2		28.20%	20.00%	1 457	2 200	743	51%	Macedonia, FYR	CEILING 15%	218	1 675	15%
Montenegro	0.7		3 280	10.28%	20.00%	411	770	359	87%	Montenegro	CEILING 10%	41	452	10%
Serbia	8.0		3 280	10.28%	20.00%	2 001	8 800	6 799	340%	Serbia	CEILING 10%	200	2 201	10%
Ukraine	47.1		1 520	4.76%	20.00%	18 745	32 362	13 617	73%	Ukraine	NO INCREASE		18 745	0%
Bosnia and Herz.	3.9		2 440	7.65%	20.00%		4 290			Bosnia and Herz.			4 290	

MEMBERSHIP FEES - TRANSITORY RATES / COTISATIONS - TAUX TRANSITOIRES

23 242	51 832	24 300	105%
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27 992	20%
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TOTAL BUDGET

1 804 387	1 933 375	124 699	7%
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1 853 719	2.7%
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CALCULATION OF 2009 MEMBERSHIP FEES

OPTION 2

CALCUL DES COTISATIONS 2009

	Popul. millions 2006	GDP per capita in PPS 2006	GNI per capita ATLAS METHOD 2006	coefficient	coefficient	CALL 2008	CALCUL- ATION 2009	DIFFERENCE			DIFFERENCE APPLIED	CALL 2009		
	EUROSTAT	EUROSTAT	WORLD BANK	according to data	applied									
EU-27 average		100.0	31 914											
Austria	8.3	127.5		127.50%	127.50%	55 932	61 484	5 553	10%	Austria	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	60 932	9%
Belgium	10.5	119.8		119.80%	119.80%	68 167	72 388	4 221	6%	Belgium	100.00%	4 221	72 388	6%
Bulgaria	7.7	36.7		36.70%	35.00%	12 271	15 658	3 387	28%	Bulgaria	CEILING 15%	1 841	14 112	15%
Cyprus	0.8	91.9		91.90%	91.90%	3 454	4 272	818	24%	Cyprus	CEILING 15%	518	3 972	15%
Czech Rep.	10.3	78.6		78.60%	50.00%	24 542	29 747	5 205	21%	Czech Rep.	CEILING 15%	3 681	28 223	15%
Denmark	5.4	125.8		125.80%	125.80%	36 503	39 468	2 965	8%	Denmark	100.00%	2 965	39 468	8%
Estonia	1.3	68.4		68.40%	50.00%	2 454	3 777	1 322	54%	Estonia	CEILING 15%	368	2 822	15%
Finland	5.3	117.0		117.00%	117.00%	31 890	36 028	4 138	13%	Finland	100.00%	4 138	36 028	13%
France	63.0	111.9		111.90%	111.90%	218 436	236 976	18 540	8%	France	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	223 436	2%
Germany	82.4	114.2		114.20%	114.20%	240 384	261 154	20 770	9%	Germany	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	245 384	2%
Greece	11.1	97.3		97.30%	97.30%	50 410	61 506	11 097	22%	Greece	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	55 410	10%
Hungary	10.1	65.0		65.00%	50.00%	24 542	29 282	4 740	19%	Hungary	CEILING 15%	3 681	28 223	15%
Iceland	0.3	130.6		130.60%	130.60%	2 153	2 276	124	6%	Iceland	100.00%	124	2 276	6%
Ireland	4.2	145.5		145.50%	ASSOCIATE	2 073	2 135	62	3%	Ireland	100.00%	62	2 135	3%
Israel					SPECIAL AGREE	30 335	7 290	-23 045		Israel	SPECIAL AGREEMENT		7 290	
Italy	58.8	103.3		103.30%	103.30%	204 410	214 622	10 212	5%	Italy	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	209 410	2%
Latvia	2.3	53.7		53.70%	50.00%	4 908	6 682	1 773	36%	Latvia	CEILING 15%	736	5 645	15%
Lithuania	3.4	56.2		56.20%	50.00%	7 363	9 877	2 514	34%	Lithuania	CEILING 15%	1 104	8 467	15%
Luxembourg	0.5	279.3		279.30%	279.30%	5 572	8 114	2 541	46%	Luxembourg	CEILING 15%	836	6 408	15%
Malta	0.4	76.9		76.90%	76.90%	1 592	1 787	195	12%	Malta	100.00%	195	1 787	12%
Netherlands	16.3	130.6		130.60%	130.60%	102 913	114 121	11 209	11%	Netherlands	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	107 913	5%
Norway	4.6	186.5		186.50%	186.50%	43 963	49 844	5 881	13%	Norway	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	48 963	11%
Poland	38.2	52.4		52.40%	50.00%	62 324	83 955	21 631	35%	Poland	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	67 324	8%
Portugal	10.6	74.5		74.50%	74.50%	41 783	45 362	3 579	9%	Portugal	100.00%	3 579	45 362	9%
Romania	21.6	38.9		38.90%	30.00%	17 250	33 047	15 797	92%	Romania	CEILING 15%	2 588	19 838	15%
Slovakia	5.4	63.7		63.70%	50.00%	12 271	15 687	3 416	28%	Slovakia	CEILING 15%	1 841	14 112	15%
Slovenia	2.0	87.8		87.80%	50.00%	4 908	5 810	902	18%	Slovenia	CEILING 15%	736	5 645	15%
Spain	43.8	105.0		105.00%	105.00%	155 705	192 288	36 583	23%	Spain	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	160 705	3%
Sweden	9.0	124.6		124.60%	124.60%	57 343	65 153	7 811	14%	Sweden	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	62 343	9%
Switzerland	7.5	134.9		134.90%	SPECIAL RULE	27 494	28 319	825	3%	Switzerland	100.00%	825	28 319	3%
United K.	60.4	118.0		118.00%	118.00%	227 800	247 357	19 557	9%	United K.	CEILING 5.000 €	5 000	232 800	2%

TOTAL EXCLUDING TRANSITORY RATES

1 781 145	1 985 466	204 322	11.5%
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1 847 139 3.7%

Albania	3.1		2 580	8.08%	20.00%	628	3 602	2 974	474%	Albania	NO INCREASE		628	0%
Macedonia, FYR	2.0	28.2		28.20%	20.00%	1 457	2 324	867	60%	Macedonia, FYR	CEILING 15%	218	1 675	15%
Montenegro	0.7		3 280	10.28%	20.00%	411	813	403	98%	Montenegro	CEILING 10%	41	452	10%
Serbia	8.0		3 280	10.28%	20.00%	2 001	9 296	7 295	364%	Serbia	CEILING 10%	200	2 201	10%
Ukraine	47.1		1 520	4.76%	20.00%	18 745	34 186	15 441	82%	Ukraine	NO INCREASE		18 745	0%
Bosnia and Herz.	3.9		2 440	7.65%	20.00%		4 532			Bosnia and Herz.			4 532	

MEMBERSHIP FEES - TRANSITORY RATES / COTISATIONS - TAUX TRANSITOIRES

23 242	54 753	26 980	116%
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28 234 21%

TOTAL BUDGET

1 804 387	2 040 220	231 301	13%
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1 875 372 3.9%

**MEMBERSHIP FEES : UCLG
COTISATIONS : CGLU**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
AL	Albanian Association of Municipalities	171	179	187	195	203	211	218	226	234	242	250
AT	Österreichischer Städtebund	5 800	5 800	5 800	5 800	5 800	5 800	5 800	5 800	5 800	5 800	5 800
	Österreichischer Gemeindebund	5 800	5 800	5 800	5 800	5 800	5 800	5 800	5 800	5 800	5 800	5 800
BE	Union des Villes et Communes Belges	15 900	15 900	15 900	15 900	15 900	15 900	15 900	15 900	15 900	15 900	15 900
BG	NAMRB	700	704	708	712	716	719	723	727	731	735	739
CH	Association Suisse du CCRE	7 700	8 115	8 531	8 946	9 361	9 777	10 192	10 607	11 023	11 438	11 853
CY	Union of Cyprus Municipalities	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
CZ	Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic	2 500	2 561	2 621	2 682	2 742	2 803	2 864	2 924	2 985	3 045	3 106
DE	Deutscher Landkreistag	6 000	6 000	6 000	6 000	6 000	6 000	6 000	6 000	6 000	6 000	6 000
	Deutscher Städtetag	14 300	14 300	14 300	14 300	14 300	14 300	14 300	14 300	14 300	14 300	14 300
	Städte und Gemeindebund	7 100	7 100	7 100	7 100	7 100	7 100	7 100	7 100	7 100	7 100	7 100
	Rat der Gemeinden und Regionen Europas	30 400	30 400	30 400	30 400	30 400	30 400	30 400	30 400	30 400	30 400	30 400
DK	Local Government Denmark	4 400	4 400	4 400	4 400	4 400	4 400	4 400	4 400	4 400	4 400	4 400
	Danish Regions	4 400	4 400	4 400	4 400	4 400	4 400	4 400	4 400	4 400	4 400	4 400
EE	Association of Estonian Cities	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
	Association of Municipalities of Estonia	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
ES	Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias	31 900	31 900	31 900	31 900	31 900	31 900	31 900	31 900	31 900	31 900	31 900
FI	Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities	7 600	7 600	7 600	7 600	7 600	7 600	7 600	7 600	7 600	7 600	7 600
FR	Association des Maires de France	4 102	4 107	4 111	4 116	4 121	4 125	4 130	4 135	4 139	4 144	4 148
	Association Française pour le CCRE	50 798	50 856	50 913	50 971	51 028	51 086	51 143	51 201	51 258	51 316	51 373
GR	Central Union of Greek Municipalities and Communities	7 300	7 300	7 300	7 300	7 300	7 300	7 300	7 300	7 300	7 300	7 300
HU	Hungarian Associations	2 500	2 541	2 582	2 623	2 663	2 704	2 745	2 786	2 827	2 868	2 909
IE	Institute of Public Administration	0										
IL	Union of Local Authorities in Israel	6 900	6 900	6 900	6 900	6 900	6 900	6 900	6 900	6 900	6 900	6 900
IS	Association of Local Authorities in Iceland	400	400	400	401	401	401	401	402	402	402	402
IT	AICCCE	47 866	47 866	47 866	47 866	47 866	47 866	47 866	47 866	47 866	47 866	47 866
LT	Association of local authorities in Lithuania	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800
LU	Association des Villes et Communes Luxemb.	700	720	741	761	781	801	822	842	862	883	903
LV	Union of local and Regional Governmtns of Latvia	400	405	409	414	418	423	428	432	437	441	446
MK	Ass. of units of local self -gov. of Macedonia (ZELS)	187	193	200	206	212	219	225	231	237	244	250
MT	Maltese Association of Local Councils	200	205	210	215	220	225	230	235	240	245	250
NL	VNG / IPO	20 700	20 700	20 700	20 700	20 700	20 700	20 700	20 700	20 700	20 700	20 700
NO	Kommunenes Sentralforbund	7 100	7 254	7 408	7 562	7 716	7 870	8 024	8 178	8 332	8 486	8 641
PL	Assoc. of Polish Cities	3 240	3 458	3 677	3 895	4 114	4 332	4 551	4 769	4 988	5 206	5 424
	Assoc. of Polish Counties	1 440	1 537	1 634	1 731	1 828	1 925	2 023	2 120	2 217	2 314	2 411
PT	Associação Nacional de Municípios Portugueses	8 700	8 700	8 700	8 700	8 700	8 700	8 700	8 700	8 700	8 700	8 700
RO	Association of Romanian Communes (ACOR)	675	748	820	893	966	1 039	1 111	1 184	1 257	1 329	1 402
	Association of Romanian Towns (AOR)	675	748	820	893	966	1 039	1 111	1 184	1 257	1 329	1 402
	National Union of County Councils of Romania	675	748	820	893	966	1 039	1 111	1 184	1 257	1 329	1 402
	Romanian Municipalities Association (AMR)	675	748	820	893	966	1 039	1 111	1 184	1 257	1 329	1 402
SI	Assoc. of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia	300	321	341	362	382	403	423	444	465	485	506
	Assoc. of Municipalities of Slovenia	300	321	341	362	382	403	423	444	465	485	506
SE	Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions	13 000	13 000	13 000	13 000	13 000	13 000	13 000	13 000	13 000	13 000	13 000
SK	Assoc. of Towns and Communities of Slovakia	1 400	1 400	1 400	1 400	1 400	1 400	1 400	1 400	1 400	1 400	1 400
UA	Association of Ukrainian cities	2 959	2 959	2 959	2 959	2 959	2 959	2 959	2 959	2 959	2 959	2 959
UK	Local Government Association	47 200	48 477	49 754	51 032	52 309	53 586	54 863	56 140	57 418	58 695	59 972
YU	Standing conference of towns & municip. of Serbia	346	387	429	470	512	553	595	636	678	719	761
MO	Union of Municipalities of Montenegro	60	79	98	117	136	155	174	193	212	231	250
TOTAL		377 369	380 135	382 902	385 668	388 435	391 201	393 968	396 734	399 500	402 267	405 033



POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8-9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

✓ for decision
for information

PROCEDURE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Draft decision

The Policy committee is invited to:

- decide on the proposed procedure for the election of the next Secretary-General of CEMR, decide on the constitution of both the preliminary (officer level) interviewing panel, and the final interviewing panel
- approve the job description for the post

1. The current Secretary-General's original mandate was for a period of six years expiring on 30th April 2008. By decision of the Policy Committee in Stuttgart in December 2007, and in agreement with the current post-holder, it was agreed to extend this mandate till a date not later than 31st December 2009.
2. It is now therefore necessary to start the procedure for the election of the next Secretary-General, since this will take several months at least. After consultation with the President and First Vice-President, the following steps (which are in line with the relevant Rule of Procedure) were proposed:
 - (a) drawing up a draft Job Description which the President will recommend to the Policy Committee in December 2008, following consultation with the Secretaries-General and Directors.
 - (b) Advertisement of the position, in November 2008 – this would be mainly done by circulating information as widely as possible amongst CEMR's members, by prominently advertising the post on CEMR's website, by advertisement in the Brussels-based European Voice paper, and using other cost-effective means.
 - (c) The deadline for receipt of written applications would be in January, and the Secretary-General, together with a small interviewing team of senior representatives of our member associations, will draw up a long list for preliminary interview.

- (d) The interviewing team, after consulting the President and First Vice-President (who would have access to all applications received, and have the right to change the recommended shortlist) would then recommend a shortlist for final interview by senior political office-holders of CEMR.
 - (e) The final interviews would take place in late February or March in Vienna; the suggested Interviewing Panel would in principle comprise President Häupl, First Vice-President Knape, three Executive Presidents (Mr Vlasak, Ms Dieckmann, Mr Kaklamanis) and the Chair of the Financial Management Committee, Mr Skard. This Panel would be free to ask for external advice to be available to them.
 - (f) The Interviewing Panel would then decide on which candidate or candidates to put forward to the Policy Committee, meeting in Malmö on the occasion of CEMR's General Assembly in April 2009; the formal election of the Secretary-General is a matter for the Policy Committee.
 - (g) The elected person would take office at a date to be agreed by the President later in 2009, taking into account any period of notice they need to give, and any practical arrangements needed for preparing for their new mandate. The present Secretary-General will remain in office until a date to be agreed with the President, having regard to the starting date for the new Secretary-General.
 - (h) Under the existing decision of the Policy Committee, the work of the next Secretary-General will be mainly carried out in Brussels.
 - (i) Under CEMR's Rules of Procedure, the terms of any contract are to be decided by the President and the Chair of the Financial Management Committee. It is envisaged that the overall budget for the post will remain substantially unchanged.
3. The proposed draft Job Description and Person Specification are attached to this report. Under CEMR's statutes, the job description must be approved by the Policy Committee, and the Committee is asked to formally approve this document, which has been supported in the course of consultation with the Executive Bureau and the Secretaries-General and Directors.
 4. CEMR's statutes provide that the term of office for the Secretary General is 6 years. The meeting of Secretaries-General and Directors in September recommended no change to this.
 5. The above proposed process has been the subject of consultation first with the Secretaries-General and Directors, and second through a written consultation of the members of the Executive Bureau.
 6. There have been no substantial comments on most of the procedure, with the exception of the constitution of the interviewing panels. As regards the final interviewing panel, several comments have been received to the effect that the proposed panel is geographically unbalanced, in terms of CEMR's membership, and (in the case of a few responses) that there is insufficient representation of the associations who make the largest financial contribution.
 7. To deal with the issue of geographical balance, it is recommended that one more Vice-President of CEMR, coming from the southern European member associations, be added to the interviewing Panel. The relevant associations have been asked to consider whether they could recommend a joint nomination for this purpose. The Policy Committee is asked to decide on the composition of this final interviewing Panel. It is recommended that any further members of the Panel should in any event be a Vice-President of CEMR.

8. As regards the preliminary interviewing Panel, in addition to the present Secretary-General, the following names were proposed by the meeting of Secretaries-General and Directors in September: Mr Pans (VNG), Mr Porawski (APC), Mr Kitt (LGA), Mr Zaragoza (AFCCRE), Ms Perisic (ZELS), Mr Weninger (Austria) and either Mr Di Giovan Paolo or Mr Bucci (AICCRE). These would act in their personal capacity, without substitutes.

JOB DESCRIPTION
for
THE POST OF SECRETARY-GENERAL,
COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS

Under Article IX of the Statutes of CEMR, the Secretary-General is elected for a term of 6 years. He/she is responsible for the good administration of the association, and in particular for directing its administrative services, as well as for implementing the decisions taken by its official bodies. The Secretary-General acts under the supervision of the President of CEMR. By decision of the Policy Committee, the work of the Secretary-General is mainly based in Brussels.

MISSION

Within agreed policies, priorities and resources, to ensure that CEMR is and remains an effective, influential, well-managed and respected European organisation which

- promotes strong and effective local and regional democracy and self-government,
- encourages mutual learning and capacity-building, and
- successfully acts to further and protect the interests of local and regional governments and their associations, in particular towards the European Union.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Strategy, policy and representation

1. To advise the Presidency, the Policy Committee and the Executive Bureau on the overall strategy, objectives and priorities of the organisation, in order to maximise its influence and effectiveness.
2. To advise the Policy Committee and Executive Bureau on all key issues of importance to European local and regional governments, providing good quality research and analysis.
3. To bring forward, wherever possible, proposals for common positions and solutions, which serve to unite the diverse perspectives and interests of European local and regional governments.
4. To act as a leading ambassador for the organisation, and advocate for the interests of local and regional governments in Europe and – as appropriate – worldwide.
5. To promote CEMR's policies and objectives effectively to the European Union (in particular in relation to EU legislation), the Council of Europe, and to other relevant European and international organisations.
6. To work closely and positively with CEMR's member associations, taking into account their priorities and perspectives.
7. To co-ordinate the networking activities of CEMR and its national associations in joint work to influence the decision-making of the European Union and other institutions.
8. To provide CEMR's members with a range of relevant services, including timely information and advice on major developments.
9. To ensure that CEMR's external communications (for members, the wider local/regional government world, and the public at large) are effective and attractive, and make use of the opportunities provided by modern technologies.

10. To ensure good relations and partnership working with other relevant organisations, in particular the range of European institutions and associations representing local and regional government.
11. To ensure effective co-operation and partnership with United Cities and Local Governments, and ensuring that CEMR plays a positive role as the European section of the world organisation.

Management

12. To be responsible for the overall good management of CEMR's offices and teams, ensuring high quality, cost-effective work and services.
13. To ensure that the budgets and finances of CEMR are effectively managed, and that its financial health is maintained, in line with the decisions of the Financial Management Committee and Policy Committee; and working co-operatively with the internal and external auditors.
14. To ensure that budgets are closely monitored, that externally funded contracts are well managed, and that good quality financial reports are made to the relevant bodies.
15. To draw up an annual or multi-annual work programme for the organisation, based on clear objectives and priorities, in consultation with the member associations, for approval by the Policy Committee.
16. To ensure that, within resources, the organisation's human resources are best organised and deployed to deliver the work programme.
17. To lead, motivate and develop the staff teams, in line with the organisation's values, ensuring the highest standard of professionalism and performance, including their capacity to take on new challenges.
18. To ensure that modern office technologies are effectively deployed, within resources, to maximise efficiency and quality of work.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Experience

1. A proven track record of success in leading, managing and improving a complex organisation within a fast-moving political environment.

Experience of working within a local or regional government environment, and / or European / international organisation, is an advantage.

Knowledge and understanding

2. Very good understanding of the key international issues and challenges facing Europe and the world, and of their impact on local and regional government.
3. Very good understanding of the working of the European Union, in particular its decision-making processes, and of the Council of Europe.
4. Knowledge of the general systems of local and regional government across Europe.

Abilities and skills

5. Strong strategic analytical skills, including the ability to prioritise effectively.
6. Diplomatic skills, including the ability to negotiate consensus solutions to sensitive problems, where relevant across political party and national boundaries.
7. Excellent interpersonal, co-operation and communication skills (written and oral).
8. Proven advocacy skills in promoting an organisation's objectives to external decision-makers.
9. Proven ability to lead, manage and motivate a small multinational team in a continually changing context.
10. Proven ability to manage finances and other resources effectively.
11. Proven ability to deliver practical results in a timely manner

Personal attributes

12. A commitment to the principles and values of local and regional democracy and self-government.
13. Integrity, loyalty, discretion and respect for others.

Languages

14. Excellent knowledge (oral and written) of either English or French, and a high level of competence in the other. Knowledge of other major European languages is an advantage.

The post-holder must be available for a large amount of travel, in Europe and sometimes beyond, including frequent overnight and longer absences.

POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8-9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

✓ for decision
for information

ELECTED RAPORTEURS AND THE COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Draft decision

The Policy Committee is invited to:

1. approve the attached Guidelines for implementing the system of elected rapporteurs (annex A)
2. approve the thematic policy areas for the initial system of elected rapporteurs (Annex B)
3. approve the terms of reference for a new Committee on Democracy and Governance (Annex C)
4. note the financial effects of the above.
5. subject to the above decisions, elect the first CEMR political Rapporteurs, with a mandate for the period to the end of 2010 and
6. elect the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Democracy and Governance, with a mandate for the period to the end of 2010

1. At its last meeting in Reykjavik on 5th May 2008, the Policy Committee discussed a series of options for strengthening the role of elected representatives within CEMR, and agreed:
 - (a) to introduce a system for the appointment of elected members as rapporteurs, covering the areas of
 - environment
 - climate change,
 - transport,
 - energy,
 - cohesion and territorial policy
 - employment and economic development
 - demographic change
 - integration of migrants
 - social inclusion
 - (b) To set up a new committee or working group on governance and democracy issues, with an elected Chair/Vice-chairs. The subjects to be dealt with by this body would include local / regional government finances, institutional affairs, local and regional self-government and democracy etc.

- (c) That the Secretariat should draw up more detailed proposals for implementing the above decisions, including terms of reference and financial consequences, for consultation with members.
- (d) A call for nominations of (co-)rapporteurs and the Chair and Vice Chair of the new Committee would be made to enable their election at the December 2008 Policy Committee meeting.

The Financial Management Committee has considered the financial implications, and has proposed that the sum of Euro 10 000 be earmarked in CEMR's budget for the costs of the new system of rapporteurs. Any other costs in the year would need to be borne by the nominating body. Attention is drawn to the report on this agenda on the 2009 draft budget.

Elected rapporteurs

- 2. As regards the organisation of the system of rapporteurs, the Secretariat has drawn up the proposed Guidelines set out in annex A to this report. The Executive Bureau and the Secretaries-General and Directors have been consulted on these, and no opposition has been expressed. Therefore, the Policy Committee is invited to approve them.
- 3. It is proposed that, given the financial constraints referred to above, the number of thematic areas for which rapporteurs will be elected should be limited, by creating three "clusters" of themes based closely on those discussed at the last meeting of the Policy Committee, with a total of ten rapporteurs. These proposals are set out in Annex B, and are in summary:
 - 5 x Sustainable development – environment, waste, climate change, transport, energy
 - 3 x Cohesion and territorial policy – future of the cohesion policy; urban and rural development and the EU Territorial Agenda; economic development
 - 2 x Social policy – social inclusion and integration of migrants, demographic change,

Committee on democracy and governance

- 4. The President and First Vice-President have proposed that there should be a new Committee, rather than working group, on Democracy and Governance, given the political importance of the subjects this body will deal with. This proposal has been supported in consultation with the Executive Bureau and Secretaries-General and Directors. The Policy Committee is invited to approve the terms of reference for the Committee, which are set out in Annex C to this report.
- 5. It is proposed that the committee meet twice a year normally, and if the meetings are in our Brussels office (or equivalent free premises) with interpretation in two languages, then the costs could be contained within existing budgets, though of course this impacts on the overall scope of other CEMR meeting activities.

Nominations and elections

- 6. Following consultation on these and other issues with the members of CEMR's Executive Bureau, which demonstrated strong support for the proposals, a Circular was sent out on 20th November to all members inviting them to nominate candidates for the positions of political Rapporteur and Chair / Vice-Chair of the new Committee. This was later than originally envisaged, so it is possible that the number of nominations may at this stage be limited. A further call for nominations could, if necessary, be made early in the new year. Nonetheless, it would be helpful to start the new system of Rapporteurs, and to commence the work of the new Committee, rather than delaying further for several months.
- 7. The elections to these positions are of course subject to approval by the Policy Committee of the detailed proposals set out in the Annexes. Moreover, as regards the Rapporteurs, there is

strong support for having a wide diversity of countries represented in the final list of those elected.

8. The mandate for those elected at this meeting would be for two years, expiring at the end of 2010. This would coincide with the elections of other office-holders within CEMR.

The Policy Committee will be informed of the nominations received by the start of the meeting.

GUIDELINES FOR THE ROLE OF ELECTED RAPPORTEURS WITHIN CEMR

1. Role of Rapporteur / spokesperson:

- The role of elected (political) **rapporateurs** in the context of CEMR is different from this function within the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the European Parliament (EP), where the rapporteur has the responsibility for developing a policy / position paper and proposal for discussion in committees or the plenary.
- In CEMR the role of the rapporteur will be that of **spokesperson** for CEMR policy issues – normally prepared by the working groups – when CEMR positions are presented to the EU Commission, the EP, the CoR or other institutions.
- The rapporteurs will present relevant developments and results of CEMR activities in their thematic area to the Policy Committee when appropriate.

Nomination / election / duration of mandate

- CEMR's member associations will be invited to nominate local/regional elected representatives who could be members of the Policy Committee and who are interested in being rapporteurs for CEMR for one of the defined policy areas.
- There should be a small number of rapporteurs per policy area, with the possibility to share the workload and to sub-divide into specific issues (e.g. environment: waste; water; etc.)
- The rapporteurs should represent different political parties and countries – and representation should rotate among CEMR members.
- The mandate of the rapporteur would be similar to the members of the policy committee; it lasts three years, with the possibility to be re-elected once.
- The first period however would end with the 2nd policy committee meeting in 2010, when the current mandate of the policy committee comes to an end.
- In special cases of ongoing important legislation processes it might be useful to extend the mandate of a rapporteur until a specific piece of legislation which they have actively followed has been decided.

Procedure / working method

- CEMR's working groups – at present mainly consisting of officers / experts nominated by the member associations – will continue to prepare draft policy and position papers. The CEMR secretariat (in cooperation with the member association concerned) will ensure that the rapporteurs are informed about relevant developments in the policy area and the work of the working group concerned.
- When the rapporteurs have been appointed, s/he will be invited to an initial meeting with the working group to establish a good relationship and cooperation.
- The rapporteur will be consulted at the beginning of the drafting process of a policy paper and in the final drafting stage. S/he will be kept informed of important developments and be able to give their view to the working group as an issue evolves.

- The secretariat is in charge of coordinating the communication between the rapporteur and the working group and to ensure a well-balanced reflection of the views of all CEMR members.
- The rapporteur will represent CEMR at relevant meetings, conferences, events that concern “his / her” policy area, including in particular meetings with key actors in the European institutions. The secretariat, in co-operation with the member association, will assist the rapporteur through briefings and preparing his / her contribution.
- Rapporteurs have the task to represent CEMR’s positions and views, which may of course be complemented by their own experiences and examples.
- Where there is more than one rapporteur for a policy area, the Secretariat and the relevant national associations will seek to ensure a good communication and cooperation.

Proposals for policy areas for CEMR elected rapporteurs:

5 *Rapporteurs on sustainable development, covering the areas of:*

- **Environment**
- **Waste management**
- **Climate Change**
- **Transport**
- **Energy**

2 *Rapporteurs on social policy, covering the areas of:*

- **Social Inclusion and integration of migrants**
- **Demographic change**

3 *Rapporteurs on Cohesion/territorial policy and economic development*

- **Future of the Cohesion Policy**
- **Urban and rural development and the EU Territorial Agenda**
- **Economic development**

Draft/

Terms of reference for the new CEMR committee on democracy and governance

The new Committee on Democracy and Governance will debate and develop CEMR policy and exchange experience in relation to the matters set out below.

The Committee shall be responsible to the Policy Committee; within this framework, it shall have the power to adopt policy positions and make recommendations on behalf of CEMR, save that where there are important issues of principle, or significant political implications, the matter shall be referred to the Policy Committee for final decision.

1. The Constitutional and legal frameworks and structure for local and regional government across Europe, including:

- Protection and promotion of local and regional democracy self-government at European and national levels
- Relations between different levels of government, and approaches to multi-level governance
- Local and regional government competences
- Local and regional government finances
- Consultation procedures between central, regional and local governments, in particular with national associations
- Structural reforms
- Powers of intervention by central government
- The legal position, status and conditions of elected representatives and officials
- Ethics and codes of conduct
- Systems of bench-marking, standards and improvements in quality

2. Democratic participation, including:

- Electoral systems
- Forms of citizen participation in decision-making
- Consultation processes between local/regional governments and their citizens and communities
- eParticipation
- Cooperation with local civil society

3. The role of national associations of local and regional government in promoting democracy, self-government and good governance.

4. **Other topical matters** relating to local and regional democracy, self-government and good governance, including important issues under consideration by other institutions and associations.

The Committee will seek to ensure an effective liaison and co-operation on the above matters with other European and international organisations and associations, in particular the Council of Europe (including the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities), the Committee of the Regions, the OECD, United Cities and Local Governments, and the other principal European associations of local and regional government.



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS
EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

✓ for decision
for information

**“FIT FOR THE FUTURE?”
CEMR’S XXIVTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MALMÖ 22-24 APRIL 2009**

Draft decision

The members of the Policy Committee are invited to:

- ↳ Take note of the draft programme (*annex 1*);
- ↳ Ensure that their national associations diffuse this information as widely as possible to local and regional elected representatives in their countries;
- ↳ Take note of the process for the selection of the host of the 2012 General Assembly.

1. On the basis of the outline programme which was approved by the Policy Committee at their meeting in Reykjavik on 5th May, the secretariat and the partners/hosts in Sweden of CEMR’s 24th General Assembly have drawn up the draft programme of the congress, enclosed in annex to this report. We have endeavoured to create a high quality programme, paying particular attention to undertaking to ensure an appropriate political, geographic and gender balance.

2. The agreed registration fees are listed below. It can be noted that in agreement with the organisers, the deadline for benefitting from the lower early registration fees has been postponed until 1st March 2009.

Group A: early fee: 500 €
 late fee: 600 €
 accompanying person fee: 300 €

Group B*: early fee: 350 €
 late fee: 450 €
 accompanying person fee: 250 €

3. It may be recalled that the plenary debates will be interpreted into at least the following six languages: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Swedish. A more flexible approach will be adopted for the parallel sessions.

* “Group B” includes countries that are at or under 65% of the EU GDP average, for countries covered by Eurostat, and any country not in the “high income” category of the World Bank classifications for others.

Group B countries in which CEMR has membership: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine

4. The first announcement of the congress was distributed at the launch event at the Congress of the Council of Europe in late May 2008, and diffused to members over the course of this summer.

The second announcement brochure is currently in production: the English version is due to be ready for the UCLG World Council meeting in Istanbul in late November, and the other language versions will follow shortly thereafter. The brochure includes full information on the technical visits and the accompanying person programme.

The Malmö General Assembly website www.cemr2009.se provides the latest practical information on the congress.

5. The CEMR Policy Committee will be held in the morning of 22nd April. The agenda will include debate of the draft final declaration of the General Assembly, as well as the designation of the host city/region of the General Assembly of 2012.
6. Concerning the process for the selection of the 2012 host, in Reykjavik, the members of the Policy Committee agreed that 30th January 2009 should be the strict deadline by which proposals must be received from candidate host cities/regions.

The launch of the call for proposals was sent out over the summer, including the guidelines to submitting candidacies, as well as the terms of reference for the organisation of the Assembly (both documents are provided for information in the accompanying pack).

This will allow for adequate study of the proposals, including discussion by the Secretaries General and Directors at their meeting in February (Prague), prior to the final decision by the Policy Committee in Malmö.



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS
EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

24th General Assembly of European Municipalities and Regions
❖ Malmö, 22-24 April 2009 ❖

Congress Theme:
FIT FOR THE FUTURE?
how Europe's local and regional governments are preparing

DRAFT PROGRAMME*

WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL

- 10 h 30 – 12 h 30 *CEMR Policy Committee meeting*
- 15 h 00 **Opening session**
- **Ilmar Reepalu**, Mayor of Malmö
 - **Hilde Zach**, Mayor of Innsbruck
 - **Michael Häupl**, President of CEMR, Mayor and Governor of Vienna, President of Österreichischer Städtebund
 - **Jerker Swanstein**, President of the Executive Board, Region of Skåne
- 15 h 30 Intermission, with film "*Fit for the Future?*"
- 15 h 45 **Round table: *Thriving or Surviving?* – meeting the international and European challenges**
- Introduced by **Anders Knape**, First Vice-President of CEMR, President of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
- **Cecilia Malmström**, Minister for European Union Affairs of Sweden
 - **Hans-Gert Pöttering**, President of the European Parliament
 - **Nikitas Kaklamanis**, Mayor of Athens, President of the Central Union of Municipalities and Communities of Greece
 - **Martine Aubry**, Mayor of Lille, President of the Communauté Urbaine of Lille Métropole, Vice-President of the French association of CEMR
 - **Mercedes Bresso**, President of the Piedmont Region, President of the Italian association of CEMR
 - **Luc Van Den Brande**, President of the Committee of the Regions
 - **Håkan Buskhe**, Chief Executive Officer and President of E.ON energy Nordic AB and E.ON Sverige AB
 - **Robert Manchin**, Chairman and Managing Director of Gallup Organisation Europe
- 18 h 00 Reception (Congress Centre)

THURSDAY 23RD APRIL

8 h 30 – 9 h 30 *Meetings of national delegations*

9 h 30 – 11 h 00 Parallel sessions:

*Democracy and Governance session 1: **Participation and inclusion – towards a deeper democracy***

Equality of women and men in local life – the example of CEMR's Charter:

- **Jocelyne Bougeard**, Deputy Mayor of Rennes, Chair of CEMR's Committee of women elected representatives (F)
- **Rosa Aguilar Rivero**, Mayor of Cordoba, Vice President of Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (E)
- **Patrizia Dini**, Regional Secretary of the Tuscan Federation of the Italian section of CEMR (I)

New partnerships for social inclusion:

- **Annemarie Jorritsma**, Mayor of Almere, Vice President of CEMR, President of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (NL)
- **Cllr Richard Kemp**, member of the Liverpool City Council, Vice-Chair of the Local Government Association (UK)
- **Jokin Bildarratz Sorron**, Mayor of Tolosa, President of the Association of Basque Municipalities (E)
- **Carlos Dias Teixeira**, Mayor of Loures (P)

Quality services for tomorrow's Europe, session 1:

Demographic change – what impact on our services and workforces?

- **Nikolaus G. van der Pas**, Director General of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission
- **Hanna Birna Kristjansdottir**, Mayor of Reykjavik (IS)
- **Ilija Batljan**, Mayor of Nynäshamn (S)
- **Caspar Einem**, President of the European Centre of Enterprises with Public Participation and of Enterprises of General Economic Interest (CEEP)
- **Carola Fischbach-Pyttel**, General Secretary, European Federation of Public Service Unions
- **Markku Jalonen**, Director General of the Commission for Local Authority Employers in Finland (FI)
- Representative of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

11 h 30 – 13 h 00

Parallel sessions:

Democracy and Governance, session 2:

Changes in local and regional government – good or bad for democracy?

- **Mats Odell**, Minister for Local Government and Financial Markets of Sweden
- **Mårten Johansson**, Mayor of Raasepori (FIN)
- **Emile Eicher**, Mayor of Munshausen, Vice-President of the Association of Luxembourg Towns and Municipalities (L)
- **Hellmut Wollmann**, Professor emeritus, Humboldt University Berlin

Quality services for tomorrow's Europe, session 2:

Focus on quality – improving and evaluating what we do

- **Håkan Sörman**, Chief Executive Officer of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (S)
- **Philippe Laurent**, Mayor of Sceaux, member of the Conseil Général of the department Hauts de Seine, Executive President of the French Association of CEMR (F)
- **Andrzej Porawski**, Executive Director, Association of Polish Cities (PL)
- **Paul Coen**, Chief Executive, UK Local Government Association (UK)
- **Gunnar Schwarting**, Managing Director of the Association of Cities in Rheinland-Pfalz, member of the Executive Committee of the Deutscher Städte - und Gemeindebund (D)

13 h 00 – 14 h 30

Lunch

14 h 30 – 16 h 00

Parallel sessions: ***Europe and the Territorial Dimension***

Beyond the urban-rural divide – priorities for a new cohesion policy

- **Louis Le Pensec**, Vice-President of CEMR, President of the French Association of CEMR (F)
- **Dirk Ahner**, Director General, DG for Regional Policy, European Commission
- **Johannes Peinsteiner**, Mayor of St. Wolfgang, member of the Bureau of the Austrian Association of Municipalities (A)
- **Jan Olbrycht**, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Regional Development of the European Parliament
- **Jana Fischerová**, Mayor of Havlíčkův Brod, Member of the Committee for Foreign Cooperation of the Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic (CZ)

The EU and its neighbours: co-operation for peace, stability and integration

- **Eneko Landaburu**, Director General of DG External Relations, European Commission
- **Eleni Loucaides**, Member of Nicosia City Council (CY)
- **Fabio Pellegrini**, First Vice-President of the Italian section of CEMR (I)
- Representative of the Association of Ukrainian Cities
- Representative of the Arab Towns Organisation
- Representative of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)

16 h 15 – 18 h 00

Plenary session: New roles, new partnerships for international development

Introduction by **Wolfgang Schuster**, European Vice-President of United Cities and Local Governments, Vice-President of CEMR, Mayor of Stuttgart

- **Stefano Manservigi**, Director General, Directorate-General Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States, European Commission
- **Pierre Schapira**, Deputy Mayor of Paris, Member of the European Parliament's Committee on Development, (F)
- **Olivier Consolo**, Director of the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD)
- **Jacques Wallage**, Mayor of Groningen, Chair of the International Committee of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (NL)
- **Fernando Ruas**, Mayor of Viseu, President of the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities (P)
- Representative of United Cities and Local Governments
- Representative of EuropeAid

17 h 30 – 19 h 00

Resolution committee

19 h 30

Gala evening (Malmö Opera House)

FRIDAY 24TH APRIL

9 h 15 – 10 h 45

Plenary session: Climate change – what can we do, what must we do?

- **Lars-Erik Liljelund**, Director General at the Swedish Prime Minister office (S)
- **Bärbel Dieckmann**, Mayor of Bonn, Executive-President of CEMR, President of CEMR's German section (D)
- **Ronan Dantec**, Vice-President of the Communauté Urbaine of Nantes Métropole, Chair of the "Europe and Sustainable Development" Committee of the French association of CEMR (F)
- **Pedro Castro Vázquez**, Mayor of Getafe, President of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (E)
- **Henning Jensen**, Mayor of Naestved, 1st Vice-President of the Commission for Sustainable Development of the Committee of the Regions (DK)

11 h 05 – 12 h 30

Plenary session: New Horizons for Twinning in a Changing Europe: – Special session to mark the 20th anniversary of the EU's support for twinning

Address by Jan Figel, European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth

- **Nicole Fontaine**, Member of the European Parliament, Rapporteur for the creation of the community programme for twinning
- **Roberto Di Giovan Paolo**, Senator, Secretary General of the Italian section of CEMR (I)
- **Janusz Marszałek**, Chair of CEMR's twinning network, Mayor of Oświęcim (PL)
- **Francisco Javier León De La Riva**, Mayor of Valladolid, President of International Relations Commission of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (E)
- **Twinning makes a difference!:** examples of twinning projects

12 h 30 – 13 h 15

Final plenary session: The future starts now!

Address by Bertrand Delanoë, President of United Cities and Local Governments, Mayor of Paris

Adoption of Final Declaration

- **Yavuz Mildon**, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- **Oldřich Vlasák**, Executive President of CEMR, member of the European Parliament, President of the Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic
- Representative of host city / region for 2012 Assembly
- **Ilmar Reepalu**, Mayor of Malmö

13 h 15

Lunch

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL

Post-congress visits

★

* invited speakers

POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8-9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

✓ for decision
for information

**EU POLICY WORK
CEMR POLICY PAPERS AND RESPONSES TO CONSULTATIONS**

Draft decision

The members of the Policy Committee are invited to approve CEMR's:

- ↵ A) Response to the consultation on reduced VAT rates for certain services and products
- ↵ B) Response to consultation on the review of the directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE directive)
- ↵ C) Response to the consultation on the recasting of the Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings
- ↵ D) Position paper on the draft directive on the use of energy from renewable sources
- ↵ E) Position paper on the draft directive on clean and energy efficient road transport vehicles
- ↵ F) Policy paper on broadband infrastructure – the regional and local perspective

General remark

1. Since the last meeting of the Policy Committee in May 2008 in Reykjavik, the CEMR secretariat, in cooperation with the relevant working groups and its member associations, has prepared a number of policy papers on European Commission proposals for legislation and responses to consultations of the Commission.
2. In addition, we have prepared a policy paper on broadband infrastructure on our initiative aiming to contribute to the debate on the strategic use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in regional and local development and related questions. Furthermore, we wish to provide ideas and recommendations for actions for local and regional authorities to develop a strategic approach on how to use ICT and in particular on broadband deployment.
3. As usual, the papers were presented to the Secretaries General and Directors for in principle approval, prior to being submitted to the Policy Committee for formal adoption.
4. Attached to this report is a one page document setting out the key points of each of our responses and papers. The response on VAT rates and the policy paper on broadband have been translated from English to French. The full documents are available in the circulated background documents for this meeting.

★

A) Response to the consultation on the review of existing legislation on VAT reduces rates

Key points of CEMR's response

1. VAT is a relevant source of income for the state and therefore any reduction should be carefully considered. It is the political choice of the Member States what financial instrument to choose in order to provide assistance or create an incentive.
2. We share the Commission's view that locally supplied services to the private individual or to local public bodies are unlikely to distort competition in the internal market.
3. With the increasing demand for care services, reduced taxation for these services can play an important role for the provision of these services within an affordable financial framework.
4. Reduced rates for other labour-intensive services supplied at local level should continue to be allowed, since many of them are provided by small and micro enterprises; this can stimulate and encourage this sector.
5. Locally provided services of general interest should in any event qualify for the application of reduced VAT rates.
6. In the housing sector, a reduced VAT rate can be an instrument to provide affordable housing to people in need.
7. CEMR would be in favour to add other locally provided services, such as services in relation to waste and water treatment to the list of services allowed for a reduced rate; a more in depth consultation with our members could result in more suggestions.
8. A reduced VAT rate for environmentally friendly and energy efficient products could be an incentive for customers; the definition of the criteria should be part of the legislation process and take place in a democratic and transparent manner.
9. Reduced rates for private individuals for electricity and gas should also be retained; 'green' energy provision should, however, have its own preferential rate.
10. On the other hand, environmentally damaging products should be deleted from the scope of reduced rates, provided serious non-damaging products exist in the market.
11. Other services, like those provided by undertakers and crematoria, should not be deleted from the list, since they are essential and mainly provided locally.

B) CEMR response to the consultation on the review of directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment

Key points of CEMR's response

1. CEMR welcomes the review as an opportunity to resolve shortcomings of the current legislation.
2. The transposition in national law has led to substantial failures and lack of clarity in many Member States and caused significant difficulties and uncertainties regarding sharing of responsibilities and financial costs.
3. Variable mandatory targets expressed in a percentage of collection in function of the total quantities of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) put on the market the preceding years in a Member State would be the most relevant option to improve the current level of separate collection of WEEE.
4. However, CEMR stresses that these collection targets should integrate environmental weight, for all streams to be collected.
5. Material based targets would be valuable for the recycling and recovery of all WEEE. These targets should be differentiated according to the environmental impact and the industrial process.
6. To improve the reuse of whole appliances, CEMR primarily supports the setting of a target for reuse of EEE to be achieved by a certain date, but only if specific minimum requirements to distinguish electrical and electronic equipment from WEEE are defined beforehand.
7. A fixed list of products falling outside the scope (negative list), regularly updated through the Comitology process with political scrutiny, would help clarifying the scope of the directive.
8. The effective implementation of the principle of the producer's financial responsibility for the collection and storage of WEEE would be the most important issue for local and regional authorities.
9. To reinforce the producer responsibility principle, CEMR supports the harmonisation of the implementation of the allocation of financial responsibility, the frequencies and formats of reporting, the registration and the making information available.
10. Specific treatment requirements for WEEE should include community-wide minimum standards for the treatment of WEEE.

C) CEMR response to the consultation
on the recasting of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2002/91/EC¹
Key points of CEMR's response

1. The transposition of the Directive into national law is recent, so that many local and regional governments lack the necessary distance and experience to assess the impact of the directive and its potential shortcomings.
2. Local and regional authorities should have sufficient time to implement the current provisions of the directive before considering an extension of the scope or strengthening requirements and thresholds' levels.
3. These requirements already imply significant administrative adaptation and financial efforts at local level.
4. They are minimum requirements that allow municipalities and regions implementing energy savings measures to go beyond the proposed provisions.
5. The recasting of the directive should be the occasion to set a deadline for the revision of current thresholds and requirements. This would ensure clarity and legal certainty for local and regional authorities.
6. The definition of "buildings occupied by public authorities and by institutions providing public services" should be clarified.
7. Improvements in energy performance can be achieved through systematic energy auditing and technical improvements. A continuous energy consumption follow-up and an exchange of best practices are also necessary.
8. The public sector has a leading role to play, but local and regional authorities have to find a balance between different policy priorities, while being financially constrained.
9. The responsibility of the private sector is essential too and measures to encourage the adaptation of the market have to be considered.

¹ The response to the consultation was provided in the form of a letter

D) CEMR Position Paper
on the Directive on the Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Resources
Key points of CEMR's Position

1. CEMR welcomes that the European Union supports a greater use of renewable energy and recognizes its potential for protecting the climate, reducing pollution and the dependence on fossil fuels.
2. The active role of local and regional authorities in the promotion and the use of renewable energy should be further strengthened in the directive, given the relevance of their competences in this field.
3. We believe that the 20% target cannot be achieved without a strong partnership between the different levels of government.
4. CEMR calls for the inclusion of provisions in the directive recommending the effective involvement of local and regional authorities in the drawing up and implementation of national action plans.
5. We would like to emphasise that the directive will have a major impact on further policies, regulations, laws and administrative procedures.
6. Buildings and cooling, heating and electricity equipments and systems will have to be adapted as well.
7. However, this should not result in a disproportionate financial overload and a reduction of the room for manoeuvre of local and regional government.
8. Local and regional authorities have a relevant role to play to inform citizens of the opportunities and the implications of the development of energy from renewable sources.
9. CEMR would like to ask the European Union and the national governments to encourage and facilitate the development of decentralised renewable energy production.
10. The grid suppliers should be obliged to make, and bear the costs, of adjustments to give priority access to electricity from renewable sources.
11. On biofuels, the introduction of stringent sustainability criteria for second-generation biofuels from European or non-European origin should be a pre-requisite.

E) CEMR Position Paper on the proposal for a directive on the promotion of clean and energy efficient road transport vehicles

Key points of CEMR's Position

1. CEMR welcomes the Commission's proposal as one approach to promote clean and energy-efficient vehicles.
2. We wish to stress that local and regional authorities are interested in creating environmentally friendly vehicle fleets and transport solutions, and that they can and should show the example.
3. Our members appreciate that the Commission does not request mandatory quotas of clean and energy efficient vehicles to be purchased, but leaves the decision to local and regional authorities on what they want to buy.
4. We also appreciate the flexibility left to public authorities concerning the procurement procedure they should apply, as well as the way they use the lifetime costs for the decisions on procurement.
5. However, we believe that the directive should clarify that it is the responsibility of each public authority to prioritise the criteria and how to balance between different criteria.
6. CEMR thinks that there are many private companies such as hire / leasing companies that should also fall under the scope of the directive.
7. We wish to emphasise that difficulties could arise for local and regional authorities to force private operators to use the proposed methodology.
8. Both the values and the formula of the common methodology have to be regularly assessed, in order to ensure that they are appropriate and that no specific technology is favoured.
9. Clarification would be needed on the relation between the proposed methodology to internalise environmental costs and existing methodologies already developed at local level.
10. The potential initial administrative and financial impacts at local and regional level should be taken into account. European and national authorities could consider incentives, financial and otherwise, to convince local and regional authorities of the long term benefits of investing in clean vehicles.
11. CEMR also calls for consistency of the provisions of this directive with existing and forthcoming legislation on green public procurement.

F) CEMR Policy Paper on Broadband Infrastructure - the regional and local perspective

Key points of CEMR's Position

1. Broadband communication has become an important industrial technology and carrier of data, information and services.
2. The technical development is generally fast and to some extent driven by commercial interests; this can be opposite to cost-effectiveness - a key issue for the public sector.
3. Significant differences in levels of development and deployment of broadband communication can be identified across the EU Member States and also across their regions.
4. Given the strategic role of information and communication technologies (ICT) in support of local and regional development, this “broadband gap” could become a crucial obstacle for innovation and growth in Europe’s regions, cities, towns and municipalities.
5. CEMR supports the Council of Ministers recommendation that the Member States should define ambitious targets for broadband penetration. Where appropriate individual Member States may even set more ambitious objectives.
6. Local and regional authorities play an important role by helping to bridge the broadband gap and to stimulate broadband deployment and—as service-provider—develop innovative broadband-based services.
7. In rural and remote areas, deployment of broadband is hampered by market failure. Therefore, local and regional authorities may choose to use public funding for broadband infrastructures in areas where market players are not investing.
8. However, public engagement should aim to establish open networks, based on open standards and accessible for all, as well as a functional separation of infrastructure and services in order to enhance competition between different market players.
9. Public finance contribution touches complex legal questions on state aid and European internal market rules. CEMR would welcome clarification and guidance for local authorities and regions on how to act within the European legal framework.
10. It is vital to clarify the roles of the public and private sectors; local and regional authorities have to identify their strategic choices whilst leaving the determination of operational issues to the market players.
11. Local and regional authorities should be empowered to undertake a comprehensive approach, including long-term strategic planning, needs assessment, infrastructure procurement and mapping, development and delivery of broadband-based services.
12. These tasks require specific skills and competencies in the public administration. Therefore, training programmes for the staff concerned should be provided, financially supported by national government funds.
13. Energy, environmental and climate aspects need to be taken into consideration, focusing on energy efficiency, sustainable power supply, low carbon footprint and electromagnetic radiation.
14. Social impacts of the new technologies need to be assessed; in addition to digital exclusion, children and young people are especially vulnerable to various forms of abuse.
15. The development and deployment of broadband technologies and broadband-based services should be monitored and evaluated against strategic objectives and policy recommendations.



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS
EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

★ PARIS, 8-9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

✓ for decision
for information

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE: DRAFT ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS TO THE
EUROPEAN CHARTER OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT**

Draft decision

The members of the Policy Committee are invited to:

1. take note of the separate initiatives of (a) the Congress and the (b) local government Ministers for draft additional Protocols to the European Charter of Local Self-Government
2. As to (a), to endorse the proposals put forward by the CEMR Secretariat, in the light of the Congress's draft, as subject-matter for a new Protocol to the Charter;
3. As to (b), confirm CEMR's opposition in principle to the use of a Protocol to the European Charter to impose new obligations on local authorities, and recommend that the issue of citizens' participation be dealt with in a separate instrument;
4. Also as to (b), approve CEMR's draft proposals for changes to be made to the draft Protocol if it is to proceed
5. Invite CEMR's member associations to contact their local government Ministers, and their representatives on the Congress to seek support for the above points.

1. There are at the moment two separate initiatives at the Council of Europe to draw up draft Protocols to the European Charter of Local Self-Government:
 - (a) an initiative from the Congress, which seeks to complete and clarify certain parts of the existing Charter and strengthen the position of local authorities under the Charter.
 - (b) an initiative from the conference of local government Ministers from the member states of the Council of Europe, which aims to provide a right of citizens to participate in their local authority's affairs and decision-making.

Both initiatives will be discussed, and the second one is planned to be adopted, at the CDLR's (the Council of Europe's committee of ministerial representatives on local and regional government issues) meeting which takes place at the same time as this Policy Committee.

a) (a) Draft additional Protocol proposed by the Congress

2. This draft, which is available with the relevant background documents on the website of the Council of Europe¹, has been discussed by the CDLR (the Council of Europe's committee of ministerial representatives on local and regional government issues). The committee did not consider it useful to improve, shorten or modify the Congress draft, but rather to examine whether there really are key issues that in their opinion are not included at present in the Charter and which need to be added via a Protocol to it. Once there is support for items to be included in an additional Protocol, the CDLR proposes a drafting group involving both representatives of the national governments and the Congress.
3. Two working groups of the CDLR meeting in October did not identify topics to be included yet, but agreed to propose a questionnaire to member States. The questionnaire asks
 - 1) if there are issues to be included
 - 2) if yes, to identify them and to justify their inclusion.
 - 3) to tick a box on whether associations of local government in the country have been consulted on questions 1 and 2.
4. CEMR attended these meetings as an observer, and proposed 10 draft points that in CEMR's view could be included in an additional Protocol. On request of delegates at the working group which found CEMR's draft points "quite useful", CEMR's Secretary General sent them to the CDLR secretariat for distribution to members underlining that they were not yet adopted by the Policy Committee. The relevant letter containing these points is attached at Annex A.
5. Delegates are invited to approve CEMR Secretariat's draft position on points to be included in an additional Protocol and forward them to their national government.

b) Draft additional Protocol to the Charter on democratic participation at local level of the local government ministers

6. This second initiative raises some important concerns for CEMR's members and local governments generally. The European Charter, in its present form, deals with the relationship between central and local authorities, and sets out the key elements of the principle of local self-government – in effect the "rights" of local authorities which the national governments undertake to honour by ratifying the Charter. The new draft Protocol, which is set out at Annex B is of an entirely different nature.
7. Its essence is to commit national governments to legislate to give citizens a right to participate in the affairs of a local authority and to give them a right of access to official documents of local authorities – and to this end, to impose new legal obligations on local authorities.
8. Article C.1 expressly states that "The Parties [i.e. national governments] shall place a duty on local authorities to enable, to promote, and to facilitate the exercise of the right to participate and the right of access to official documents set out in this Protocol" (our emphasis).
9. Of course, everyone agrees that citizens should have the ability to participate in local government affairs. However, the approach taken in the draft Protocol appears very "top down", and does not, for example, foresee central/local voluntary agreements. And by explicitly placing new legal obligations on local authorities, the Protocol can be seen as

¹In English:

[http://www.coe.int/t/e/legal_affairs/local_and_regional_democracy/main_bodies/sub-committees/lrgr/LR-GR\(2008\)6_EN.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/e/legal_affairs/local_and_regional_democracy/main_bodies/sub-committees/lrgr/LR-GR(2008)6_EN.pdf)

In French:

[http://www.coe.int/t/f/affaires_juridiques/d%E9mocratie_locale_et_r%E9gionale/principaux_organes/sous-comites_relevant_du_cdlr/lrgr/LR-GR\(2008\)6_FR.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/f/affaires_juridiques/d%E9mocratie_locale_et_r%E9gionale/principaux_organes/sous-comites_relevant_du_cdlr/lrgr/LR-GR(2008)6_FR.pdf)

changing the whole character of the European Charter, which elsewhere contains no such provision.

10. The draft Protocol was discussed and mainly finalised at the CDLR meeting on 8 – 9 September, where CEMR - as well as a representative of the Congress - raised some points of concern to local authorities. We argued that a Protocol to the Charter was not the right place to deal with these citizen's rights, that the principle of consultation of local government should be in any event included in a legal instrument, and – in case the Protocol proceeds - put forward some drafting changes to improve the position of local authorities.
11. In line with the request of CEMR, the CDLR agreed to include a new Article C.2 on consultation with local government, which previously had not been mentioned in the early draft Protocol at all. Article C.2 now reads: "In the planning and decision making processes concerning the legal and other measures governing the implementation of this duty [i.e. the duty on local authorities to promote the right to participate and the right of access to official documents], local authorities shall be consulted insofar as possible, in due time and in an appropriate way."
12. The Congress is consulted on the text and intends to decide on its position at the session on 2-3 December. The aim of the CDLR is to adopt the final text at its meeting on 8-10 December 2008.

The Secretaries General and Directors of CEMR at their meeting in Malmö in September 2008 recommended taking the following approach:

(a) The Protocol should be discontinued since it alters the entire character of the European Charter. The right to participation, therefore, should be dealt with in a different legal instrument;

(b) In case it proceeds, CEMR should press for changes to the wording of the Protocol, seeking to build in an approach to citizen participation that is based on partnership between local and national governments rather than top-down approaches and new legal obligations.

13. It was agreed that members would be invited to lobby their national government as well as approaching their delegates to the Congress. CEMR's Secretary General was also asked to produce a position paper consisting of recommendations which could help the associations with their lobbying actions. This is attached at Annex C. The Policy Committee is invited to formally approve this paper. A letter has also been sent to the Secretary-General of the Congress setting out the concerns and proposals.



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

Brussels, 3rd November 2008

Mr. Frank Steketee
CDLR Secretariat
Council of Europe
F- 67075 Strasbourg

Dear Mr Steketee,

CEMR ideas for inclusion in a new Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government

On behalf of CEMR, I would like to express our appreciation for being able, as observer, to put forward some ideas and proposals in relation to possible new Protocols to the European Charter.

In particular, within our secretariat, we have identified ten points which we feel, having reflected further on the points set out in the Congress's draft Protocol, merit consideration in particular. (These have not yet been considered by our Policy Committee, so are not put forward at this stage as formally adopted proposals.

For ease of cross-reference, we refer below to the Article(s) in the Congress's draft Protocol to which our points relate.

1. *Local authorities' services (see article 4)*

The right of local authorities to decide the best way of delivering a service for which they are responsible is a very important one – we propose to amend the Congress's proposal by integrating part of the wording from the Treaty of Lisbon's Protocol on Services of General Interest:

"Local authorities shall be entitled to determine the best means of providing, commissioning and organising the services they offer, including the appropriate institutional structures for those purposes."

15 rue de Richelieu F-75001 Paris
Tél : + 33 1 44 50 59 59 ? Fax : + 33 1 44 50 59 60

Square de Meeûs, 1 B – 1000 Bruxelles
Tél : + 32 2 511 74 77 ? Fax : + 32 2 511 09 49

cemr@ccre.org – www.ccre.org

2. Concomitant financing (Article 5)

New competences, and new tasks imposed in the framework of existing competences, must be followed by an appropriate level of resources being devolved following an analysis (which must be made available) of the current costs.

3. Own financial resources (Article 7)

It is important to add "substantial" to the word "part" in Article 9(3) of the ECLSG, i.e. local authorities should be able to raise a substantial part of their financial resources from local taxes and charges of which they may determine the rate.

4. Criteria for equalisation and grant allocation (Articles 8.3, 9.4)

A guarantee is needed that both equalisation and grant allocation systems are objective, clear, transparent, foreseeable and verifiable, non-discriminatory and laid down by law.

5. Specific grants (Article 9.2)

Art 9.4 of the ECLSG should be subject to a further qualification, to the effect that any ear-marking of grants for specific projects or services should be limited to capital investments, unforeseen specific emergencies (e.g. flood damage, terrorism etc.), and discharge of delegated responsibilities.

6. Local authority property (Article 6)

CEMR supports the inclusion of a new article on local authorities' property.

7. Consultation (Article 11)

We consider that there needs to be a more comprehensive set of provisions on consultation of local authorities by central governments. CEMR is working on a "code of practice" or "charter" to strengthen consultation of local authorities. Such a text could also be adapted to become a separate Protocol to the ECLSG. A draft of the CEMR charter is attached – it is subject to approval by the CEMR Policy Committee in December.

8. External administrative supervision (Article 12)

The current Article 8 of the ECLSG does not clarify the concept of "administrative supervision". Does it include the setting of quality criteria or monitoring standards by central governments? If so, how far should that be permitted, consistently with the principle of local self-government? We consider it would be useful to address this issue more clearly.

9. Dissolution, suspension etc. (Article 12)

We consider that there is need to separate into two Articles the issues of

a) *Dissolution or suspension of local councilson* the one hand, and

b) *Suspension or dismissal of local councillors* on the other.

Both raise important issues of local self-government, but they are quite different, and each should have its own provision.

10. The right to an effective remedy (Article 14)

We believe there needs to be a provision ensuring an effective remedy in case of breach of the principles and provisions of the ECLSG. Article 11 of the ECLSG is currently limited to “such principles of local self-government as are enshrined in the constitution or domestic legislation”, which may not include all aspects of the Charter.

I would be grateful if these points could be brought to the attention of the members of the CDLR, and I hope they may be of interest and use to them.

Yours sincerely,

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

Jeremy Smith

DRAFT ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE EUROPEAN CHARTER OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

as revised and agreed by the LR-DP at its meeting on 8/9 September 2008
(subject to elaboration of options for Article B.3)

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PROJET DE PROTOCOLE ADDITIONNEL A LA CHARTE EUROPEENNE DE L'AUTONOMIE LOCALE

comme révisé et approuvé par le LR-DP lors de sa réunion des 8/9 septembre 2008
(sujet à l'élaboration des options pour l'Article B.3)

Article A Droit de participer aux activités d'une collectivité locale	Article A Right to participate in the affairs of a local authority
1. Les Parties assurent à toute personne relevant de leur juridiction le droit de participer aux activités des collectivités locales.	1. The Parties shall secure to everyone within their jurisdiction the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority.
2. Le droit de participer aux activités d'une collectivité locale désigne le droit de s'efforcer de déterminer ou d'influencer l'exercice des compétences de la collectivité locale.	2. The right to participate in the affairs of a local authority denotes the right to seek to determine or to influence the exercise of a local authority's powers and responsibilities.
3. La loi prévoit des mesures qui facilitent l'exercice de ce droit. Sans opérer de discrimination injustifiée à l'égard de quelque personne ou groupe que ce soit, la loi peut prévoir des mesures spécifiques adaptées à certaines situations ou catégories de personnes.	3. The law shall provide means of facilitating the exercise of this right. Without unfairly discriminating against any person or group, the law may provide particular measures for different circumstances or categories of persons.

<p>4.1. La loi reconnaît aux citoyens de la Partie le droit de participer, en qualité d'électeur ou de candidat, à l'élection des membres du conseil ou de l'assemblée de la collectivité locale dans laquelle ils résident.</p> <p>4.2. La loi reconnaît également ce droit à d'autres personnes pour autant que la Partie en décide ainsi conformément à ses dispositions constitutionnelles ou à ses obligations légales internationales.</p>	<p>4.1. The law shall recognise the right of citizens of the Party to participate, as voters or candidates, in the election of members of the council or assembly of a local authority in which they reside.</p> <p>4.2. The law shall also recognise the right of other persons to so participate where the Party, in accordance with its own constitutional order, so decides or where this accords with the Party's international legal obligations.</p>
<p>5.1. Toute formalité, condition ou restriction à l'exercice du droit de participer aux activités d'une collectivité locale doit être prévue par la loi et être compatible avec les obligations légales internationales de la Partie.</p> <p>5.2. La loi fixe les formalités, conditions et restrictions nécessaires pour garantir que l'intégrité éthique et la transparence de l'exercice des compétences de la collectivité locale ne sont pas compromises par l'exercice du droit de participer.</p> <p>5.3. Toute autre formalité, condition ou restriction doit être nécessaire au fonctionnement d'un régime politique véritablement démocratique, au maintien de la sécurité publique dans une société démocratique ou au respect par la Partie des exigences de ses obligations légales internationales.</p>	<p>5.1. Any formalities, conditions or restrictions to the exercise of the right to participate in the affairs of the local authority shall be prescribed by law and be compatible with the Party's international legal obligations</p> <p>5.2. The law shall impose such formalities, conditions and restrictions as are necessary to ensure that the ethical integrity and transparency of the exercise of local authorities' powers and responsibilities are not jeopardised by the exercise of the right to participate.</p> <p>5.3. Any other formalities, conditions or restrictions must be necessary for the operation of an effective political democracy, for the maintenance of public safety in a democratic society or for the Party to comply with the requirements of its international legal obligations.</p>

Article B Droit d'accès à des documents publics	Article B Right of access to official documents
<p>1. Les Parties assurent à toute personne relevant de leur juridiction, sans discrimination pour quelque motif que ce soit, le droit d'accès, à la demande, aux documents publics détenus par les collectivités locales.</p>	<p>1. The Parties shall secure to everyone within their jurisdiction, without discrimination on any ground, the right to have access, on request, to official documents held by local authorities.</p>
<p>2. Les Parties prennent, dans leur droit interne, les mesures nécessaires pour faciliter l'exercice de ce droit.</p>	<p>2. The Parties shall take the necessary measures in their domestic law to facilitate the exercise of this right.</p>
<p>3. <i>[Les limitations doivent être précisément établies dans la loi, être nécessaires dans une société démocratique, être proportionnelles au but de protéger un intérêt légitime et être compatibles avec les obligations légales internationales de la Partie.]</i></p> <p><u>Le LR-DP n'est pas parvenu à un accord sur l'Article B.3. Comme convenu lors de la réunion, les options pour l'Article B.3. seront diffusées sous peu.</u></p>	<p>3. <i>[Limitations shall be set down precisely in law, be necessary in a democratic society, be proportionate to the aim of protecting a legitimate interest and be compatible with the Party's international legal obligations.]</i></p> <p><u>The LR-DP did not arrive at an agreement on Article B.3. As agreed at the meeting, options to Article B.3. will be circulated shortly.</u></p>

Article C Mesures de mise en œuvre par les collectivités locales	Article C Implementing measures by local authorities
<p>1. Les Parties prévoient l'obligation, pour les collectivités locales de permettre, de promouvoir et de faciliter l'exercice du droit de participer et du droit d'accès aux documents publics établis dans le présent Protocole.</p>	<p>1. The Parties shall place a duty on local authorities to enable, to promote, and to facilitate the exercise of the right to participate and the right of access to official documents set out in this Protocol.</p>
<p>2. Au cours du processus de planification et de décision concernant les mesures juridiques et autres régissant le respect de cette obligation, les collectivités locales doivent être consultées, autant qu'il est possible, en temps utile et de façon appropriée.</p>	<p>2. In the planning and decision making processes concerning the legal and other measures governing the implementation of this duty, local authorities shall be consulted insofar as possible, in due time and in an appropriate way.</p>
<p>3. Ces mesures doivent prévoir :</p>	<p>3. These measures shall include:</p>
<p>i. des procédures permettant l'exercice du droit de participer, qui peuvent inclure des procédures de consultation, des référendums locaux et des pétitions ;</p>	<p>i. procedures for the exercise of the right to participate, which may include consultative processes, local referendums and petitions;</p>
<p>ii. toutes mesures visant à répondre aux besoins des catégories de personnes qui sont confrontées à des obstacles particuliers à participer ;</p>	<p>ii. any steps and measures to meet the needs of categories of persons who face particular obstacles in participating;</p>
<p>iii. des procédures permettant à la population de participer à un niveau proche d'elle, notamment lorsque la collectivité locale est fortement peuplée et/ou géographiquement très étendue ;</p>	<p>iii. procedures for involving people at levels close to them, in particular where the local authority has many inhabitants and/or covers a large geographical area;</p>

<p>iv. des procédures permettant l'exercice du droit d'accès aux documents publics, y compris des mesures pour mettre à disposition les documents publics qu'elles détiennent dans l'intérêt de promouvoir la transparence et l'efficacité de l'administration publique et pour encourager la participation éclairée du public à des questions d'intérêt général ;</p>	<p>iv. procedures for the exercise of the right of access to official documents, including measures to make public official documents which they hold in the interest of promoting the transparency and efficiency of public administration and to encourage informed participation by the public in matters of general interest;</p>
<p>v. des mécanismes et des procédures en vue du traitement et de la réponse aux réclamations et suggestions concernant le fonctionnement des collectivités locales et des services publics locaux.</p>	<p>v. mechanisms and procedures for dealing with and responding to complaints and suggestions on the functioning of local authorities and local public services.</p>
<p>4. Ces mesures peuvent énoncer différentes dispositions pour différentes catégories de collectivités locales, au regard de leur taille et compétences.</p>	<p>4. These measures may make different provisions for different categories of local authorities, having regard to their size and competences.</p>

Article D Application du Protocole aux collectivités	Article D Authorities to which the Protocol applies
<p>1. Le présent Protocole s'applique à toutes les catégories de collectivités locales existant sur le territoire de la Partie. Toutefois, chaque Partie peut, au moment du dépôt de son instrument de ratification, d'acceptation ou d'approbation, désigner les catégories de collectivités locales ou régionales auxquelles elle entend limiter le champ d'application ou qu'elle entend exclure du champ d'application de la présente Charte. Elle peut également inclure d'autres catégories de collectivités locales ou régionales dans le champ d'application de la Charte par voie de notification ultérieure au Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe.</p>	<p>1. This Protocol applies to all the categories of local authorities existing within the territory of the Party. However, each Party may, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, specify the categories of local or regional authorities to which it intends to confine the scope of the Protocol or which it intends to exclude from its scope. It may also include further categories of local or regional authorities within the scope of the Protocol by subsequent notification to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.</p>
<p>2. Tout Etat peut, au moment du dépôt de l'instrument de ratification, d'acceptation, d'approbation ou d'adhésion, ou ultérieurement en adressant une notification au Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe, inclure des catégories de collectivités régionales dans le champ d'application du présent Protocole.</p>	<p>2. Each State may, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, or subsequently by notification to the Secretary General of the Council of the Council of Europe, include categories of regional authorities within the scope of this Protocol.</p>

Article E Application territoriale	Article E Territorial application
<p>1. Tout Etat peut, au moment du dépôt de l'instrument de ratification, d'acceptation, d'approbation ou d'adhésion, désigner le ou les territoires auxquels le présent Protocole s'applique.</p>	<p>1. Any State may at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, specify the territory or territories to which this Protocol shall apply.</p>
<p>2. Toute Partie peut à tout moment par la suite, étendre l'application du présent Protocole, par déclaration adressée au Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe, à tout autre territoire désigné dans la déclaration. Le Protocole entrera en vigueur à l'égard de ce territoire le premier jour du mois qui suit l'expiration d'une période de trois mois après la date de réception de ladite déclaration par le Secrétaire Général.</p>	<p>2. Any Party may at any later date, by a declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, extend the application of this Protocol to any other territory specified in the declaration. In respect of such territory the Protocol shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of three months after the date of receipt of such declaration by the Secretary General.</p>
<p>3. Toute déclaration faite en vertu des deux paragraphes précédents pourra être retirée, en ce qui concerne tout territoire désigné dans cette déclaration, par notification adressée au Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe. Le retrait prendra effet le premier jour du mois qui suit l'expiration d'une période de six mois après la date de réception de ladite notification par le Secrétaire Général.</p>	<p>3. Any declaration made under the two preceding paragraphs may, in respect of any territory specified in such declaration, be withdrawn by a notification addressed to the Secretary General. The withdrawal shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six months after the date of receipt of such notification by the Secretary General.</p>



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

RECOMMENDATION TO CEMR MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTERS' DRAFT PROTOCOL TO THE EUROPEAN CHARTER OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

1. There are at the moment two separate initiatives at the Council of Europe to draw up draft Protocols to the European Charter of Local Self-Government:
 - (a) an initiative from the Congress, which seeks to complete and clarify certain parts of the existing Charter, and strengthen the position of local authorities under the Charter. The ministers' representatives are very critical of this draft and decided in September 2008 not to modify the Congress draft, but rather to examine whether there really are key issues that in their opinion are not included at present in the Charter and which need to be added via a Protocol to it.
 - (b) an initiative arising from the conference of local government ministers from the member states of the Council of Europe, which aims to provide a right of citizens to participate in their local authority's affairs and decision-making. This Additional Protocol was mandated by the Ministers at their meeting in Valencia in October 2007
2. Both initiatives will be discussed at the CDLR's (the Council of Europe's committee of ministerial representatives on local and regional government issues) meeting which takes place at the same time as CEMR's Policy Committee in December.

However, the second initiative, which raises important concerns for local government, is planned to already be adopted at the CDLR meeting in December, and it is therefore urgent to respond to it if we wish to do so.
3. Therefore, the Secretaries General and Directors, at their meeting in September in Malmö agreed that the CEMR secretariat should produce a position paper on this draft Additional Protocol, consisting of recommendations which could help the associations with their lobbying actions.

Concern of principle with the Additional Protocol

The European Charter, in its present form, deals with the relationship between central and local authorities, and sets out the key elements of the principle of local self-government – in effect the “rights” of local authorities which the national governments undertake to honour by ratifying the Charter. The new draft Protocol is of an entirely different nature.

Its essence is to commit national governments to legislate to give citizens a right to participate in the affairs of a local authority (Article A) and to give them a right of access to official documents of local authorities (Article B).

Article C.1 expressly states that “The Parties [i.e. national governments] **shall place a duty on local authorities** to enable, to promote, and to facilitate the exercise of the right to participate and the right of access to official documents set out in this Protocol” (our emphasis).

Of course, everyone agrees that citizens should have the ability to participate in local government affairs. However, the approach taken in the protocol appears very “top down”, and does not, for example, foresee central/local voluntary agreements. And by explicitly placing new legal obligations on local authorities, the protocol can be seen as changing the whole character of the European Charter, which elsewhere contains no such provision.

The draft Protocol was discussed and mainly finalised at the CDLR meeting on 8 – 9 September, where CEMR - as well as a representative of the Congress - raised some points of concern to local authorities. We argued that a Protocol to the Charter was not the right place to deal with these citizen’s rights, that the principle of consultation of local government should be in any event be included in a legal instrument, and put forward some drafting points.

In line with the request of CEMR, the CDLR agreed to include a new Article C.2 on consultation with local government, which previously had not been mentioned in the draft Protocol at all. Article C.2 now reads: “In the planning and decision making processes concerning the legal and other measures governing the implementation of this duty [i.e. the duty on local authorities to promote the right to participate and the right of access to official documents], local authorities shall be consulted insofar as possible, in due time and in an appropriate way.”

Recommendation to CEMR member associations

The Secretaries General and Directors of CEMR at their meeting in Malmö in September 2008 recommended taking the following approach:

(a) The protocol should be discontinued since it alters the entire character of the European Charter. The right to participation, therefore, should be dealt with in a different legal instrument

(b) CEMR should press for changes to the wording of the protocol (see specific proposals set out below), seeking to build in an approach to citizen participation that is based on partnership between local and national governments, rather than top-down approaches and obligations.

Members are invited to take forward these points by:

- lobbying their national ministers or ministerial representatives on local and regional government issues before the CDLR meeting on 8-10 December.
- contacting their delegates to the Congress, since the Congress is consulted on this text and intends to decide on its position at the session on 2-3 December.

Concerns and proposals in relation to the drafting of the Protocol

Article A: Right to participation in the affairs of the local authorities

The right to participate is defined as denoting the right “to seek to determine or to influence the exercise of a local authority’s powers and responsibilities.” The reference to “seek to determine” seems strange, since local councils or assemblies are elected to “determine” relevant matters – the right to participate should be of involvement, surely, not a right of decision, save in the case of binding local referenda. Moreover, not all participation is aimed at “influencing” decisions – it is often a case of communally seeking the best solution to a local issue.

CEMR proposes to replace Article A2 by:

2. The right to participate in the affairs of a local authority includes the right to seek to influence the decisions to be taken by the local authority in the exercise of their responsibilities, and to contribute to the development of proposals and policies to be adopted by the local authority for the well-being of this community.

Article B: Right to access to official documents

Another drafting point relates to the right of access to official documents, which as it stands is quite widely drawn, and could put an enormous practical burden on local authorities. Any restriction on the general right must be “set down precisely in law, be necessary in a democratic society, be proportionate to the aim of protecting a legitimate interest and be compatible with the Party’s international legal obligations.”¹

CEMR propose that before deciding on the scope and content of any new right to freedom of information or access to documents, in whatever instrument, a wide consultation with the Congress and with the European and national associations of local governments takes place

Article C: Implementing measures

As set out above, CEMR does not support the “top-down” and coercive approach that national governments “should place a duty on local governments” to guarantee the right of citizens to participation and access to information.

CEMR therefore recommends replacing Article C1 by the following:

The parties shall, in dialogue with the local authorities and their representative associations, secure that local authorities enable, promote and facilitate the exercise of the right to participate and the right of access to official documents set out in this Protocol.

¹ Note : This is the preliminary wording of this article, as the concerned working group of the CDLR has not arrived at an agreement on Article B.3 yet.



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS
EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

- ✓ for decision
- ✓ for information

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, MAIN EVENTS SINCE REYKJAVIK

Draft decision

The members of the Policy Committee are invited to:

- ↳ Take note of the information on main events which have taken place since the Reykjavik meeting and ratify the final declaration adopted at the end of the conference on south-east Europe;
- ↳ Take note of the enclosed calendars of meetings, and approve the statutory meetings foreseen.

1. The enclosed report (see Annex 1) provides information on the main events and conferences which CEMR has organised or helped to organise since the Reykjavik meeting of the Policy Committee.

The members of the Policy Committee will be invited in particular to ratify the Final Declaration which was adopted at the closing of the conference "South-East Europe – Meeting the Challenges" which took place on 6-7 November in Vienna.

2. Annex 2 presents the proposals of the President and the Secretariat General for the CEMR statutory meetings in 2009. These reflect invitations from national associations or CEMR member cities/regions.

As you will note, certain dates and locations remain to be determined.

In addition, one or two meetings of the Executive Bureau may be organised during the year as necessary.

3. The general calendar for the coming period is enclosed in Annex 3.



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS
EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

★ PARIS, 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2008 ★

- ✓ for decision
- ✓ for information

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

1. 1st Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean, Marseille, 22-23 June

Organised by the Mediterranean Committee of UCLG, the first Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean was held in Marseille on 22 and 23 June. CEMR and its French section AFCCRE were among the partners of this event, which was organised as an opportunity to strengthen the engagement of local and regional authorities in the region.

More than 500 elected officials, regional and local representatives, networks and associations and actors of cooperation, participated in the Forum. The final declaration was adopted by the 140 elected official present, from the three banks of the Mediterranean and beyond, and was transmitted to Rama Yade, French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Human Rights. Ms Yade in turn transmitted to the participants a message of support from the French President of the Republic. The final declaration was also addressed to all the Heads of States and Government present at the Summit of Euro-Mediterranean Heads of States and Government, meeting in Paris on 13 July 2008, as well as to the President of the European Commission.

Following this event, the Committee of the Regions is proposing to set up the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (EMRLA).

In connection with the Forum, on 22nd June, CEMR organised a seminar on twinning and its role in intercultural dialogue, in the context of 2008 being the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

2. Local Governments' Day, IWA World Water Congress, Vienna, 9th September

On 9th September, a special Local Governments' Day event was organised by CEMR, in co-operation with UCLG, in Vienna, as part of the International Water Association's congress. The issues included how to balance urban growth and water management, the pros and cons of different forms of management (public, private, PPP...), and local government, water and climate change.

The conference gathered over 100 local elected representatives and water experts from all over Europe and the world to discuss the key issues of water management in towns and cities. Speakers included the Mayor of Vienna, CEMR's President Michael Haupl, the Environment Minister of Singapore, Yaacob Ibrahim, and Vice-President of the European Investment Bank, Matthias Kollatz-Ahnen, as well as Bärbel Dieckmann, Mayor of Bonn and Chair of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change.

Directors of local water administrations also contributed, as did Directors of private companies (Veolia water, Suez environment, etc.), and scientists and experts.

3. Conference on new territorial governance with the Intergroup Urban-housing of the European Parliament, Reims (France), 15th September

The President of the Intergroup on Urban-Housing in the European Parliament, Jean-Marie Beaupuy, invited CEMR to cooperate in organising the conference “Towards New Territorial Governance: For what kind of projects? With which actors? Which methods?”, on urban / regional governance, which took place on 15 September in Reims.

Some 150 local and European representatives participated, and speakers included Oldřich Vlasák, Executive President of CEMR and Member of the European Parliament, Jan Olbrycht, Member of the European Parliament, Gisela Kallenbach, Member of the European Parliament, Commissioner Danuta Hübner, amongst local and regional actors.

The “Reims statement” (provided in the additional documents pack, available in French only) was launched at the end of the Reims conference, essentially underlining that Europe's local governments can only fulfil their mission within a strong partnership with regional, local and European authorities on one hand, and their citizens, the private sector and local associations on the other. This new territorial governance must therefore be recognised, promoted and supported.

4. European Information Society Conference (EISCO), Naples, 25-27 September

At the invitation of the City of Naples, AICCRE, the region Campania and the Province of Naples, the 7th EISCO conference took place in Naples on 25-27 September 2008. EISCO 2008 was co-organised by ELANET (the European Local Authorities' Telematic Network, CEMR's ICT expert network), the City of Naples and AICCRE. CEMR is very grateful for the particular support of AICCRE.

CEMR and other European local and regional networks active on information society and e-government supported the organisation of this conference on information society by and for local and regional government.

The meeting was opened by Ms Iervolino, Mayor of Naples, and was addressed by Rudolf Strohmeier, head of cabinet of Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Viviane Reding. Javier Ossandon, Honorary President of ELANET, (CEMR's network to promote new technologies, e-government, and to bridge the digital divide), presented the draft of the Naples Declaration, “Moving forward the Digital Local Agenda” which focused on the core question: how to put a digital local agenda into practice? (copy of the declaration is enclosed in the additional documents pack).

From the debates on this occasion, the following main message was clear: that local, regional, national and European elected representatives need to act together to turn information and communication technologies into a tool focusing on the need of the citizens and facilitating the organisation of services.

The 8th EISCO conference is due to take place in April 2010 in Bilbao, being co-organised by the Association of Basque Municipalities (EUDEL).

5. Seminar on changes in local and regional government structures, Copenhagen, 1st October

The seminar “Changes in Europe’s Local and Regional Government - Balancing Democracy, Identity and Efficiency” was organised by CEMR, Local Government Denmark and Danish Regions in Copenhagen on 1st October 2008. The seminar brought together around 90 participants from over 20 countries.

The conclusions of the seminar were that though there is no single “one size fits all” model of local and regional architecture, general trends are visible: in every European country, local governments are under increasing pressure for efficiency, with as a corollary increasing control measures from central governments. To cope with these tasks, there are basically two models (which are often combined to different extent in different countries): merging municipalities (e.g. in the UK and Denmark) or inter-municipal cooperation (most pronounced in France). Most countries feel that the quest for ever greater efficiency has been at the expense of local democracy.

CEMR foresees producing a short publication on the seminar. The reforms of local and regional structures in Europe will also be the topic of one of the sessions of the General Assembly in Malmö.

6. Conference on local and regional authorities of south-east Europe, Vienna, 6-7 November

The conference “South-east Europe – meeting the challenges” took place on 6th-7th November in Vienna. The conference was organised by CEMR and the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns (Österreichischer Städtebund), and in close partnership with NALAS. The conference had two main objectives:

a), to have an exchange on key challenges for local government in the region of south-east Europe (finances, urban development, energy...);

b) to look at the future for south-east Europe from a broader European perspective, including issues such as preparing EU membership and the development of co-operation and twinning.

The conference brought together some 100 leading local and regional elected representatives and experts. A Final Declaration was unanimously adopted at the closing of the conference, which among other points, underlined CEMR’s commitment to further develop its activities with its members, NALAS and other partners in south-east Europe, including on preparing EU integration.

The members of the Policy Committee are invited to ratify this Final Declaration (enclosed to this report).



CONFERENCE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

★ VIENNA, 6-7 NOVEMBER 2008 ★

Vienna City Hall

SOUTH-EAST EUROPE – MEETING THE CHALLENGES

FINAL DECLARATION

Adopted on 7th November, Vienna

We, elected representatives, mayors and political and executive leaders of local authorities and associations,

Assembled together in Vienna on 6 - 7th November 2008 on the occasion of the conference “South-east Europe – meeting the challenges”, organised by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, in close partnership with the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS), to discuss the key challenges facing local and regional government in the south-east Europe region;

- Reaffirm the importance of good local governance as a key factor for peace, stability and development, and that strengthening local governance – in accordance with the recognised principles of local self-government – is at the heart of this process;
- Underline that local and regional authorities being closest to the citizens, are the most appropriate levels of government for all competences and tasks of specifically local concern, eg. in the fields of social services, traffic and transport, etc.;
- Recall that to carry out their tasks in the best possible service of the citizens, local and regional authorities must have adequate resources, and in this context particularly underline the key importance of a good formal framework for consultation with the central levels of government;
- Point out that the challenges faced by the local and regional governments of south-east Europe are serious and wide-ranging, covering such issues as urban development and planning, waste disposal, environmental improvement, and sustainable energy;
- Welcome the clear demonstration on the occasion of this Vienna conference of the commitment of the representative associations of local government of south-east Europe to working together to tackle the key issues we face;
- Look forward to continuing to build stronger links with and between local and regional governments in the countries of south-east Europe, enabling the exchange of experience and good practice, and enhancing relations between the local governments and their citizens;
- Recognize that this indeed constitutes the necessary and vital path to overcoming past differences by building mutual understanding and dialogue;

- Underline that in this context, town twinning and transnational co-operation constitute particularly effective and unique means of bringing citizens together, promoting mutual awareness and dialogue, helping local authorities learn from each other's experiences, and strengthening feelings of a common European identity and sense of belonging, with full respect for the great diversity that this implies;
- Remain convinced that it is essential that the process of EU integration and reunification proceeds progressively with good standards being achieved by all local and regional governments as part of this integration;
- Call on the European Union and its institutions to pay more attention to the key role of local and regional authorities in this process of European integration and reunification, especially in the context of EU membership negotiations, and regret the current lack of due recognition in this context, particularly given the experience of recent EU enlargements in which the local and regional spheres played most fundamental roles;
- Call on the central governments of potential EU Candidate Countries to recognise the special requirements of local and regional governments and to include the latter in the European Integration processes as equal partners.
- Request the organisers of this conference to consider reinstating the LOGON working group on EU enlargement, in the framework of CEMR, for implementing the outcomes of this conference and for enhancing work on European integration;
- Recommend that the work of the NALAS Task Forces be complemented by the experiences from local government associations of EU Member Countries and by an enhanced co-operation with the Congress of the Council of Europe and its members;
- Welcome CEMR's commitment in the coming years to enhance its cooperation with its members and partners in south-east Europe, particularly in relation to preparing for closer EU integration, and by organising initiatives of interest, and working in co-operation with NALAS;
- Further welcome that CEMR and NALAS have taken concrete steps in laying the foundation for a future closer collaboration in the service of the representative associations and their members in this region – the local governments of south-east Europe;
- Thank the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns and the Austrian Development Agency for their particular support in making this occasion of exchange and debate possible.





COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS
EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

**CALENDAR OF
CEMR STATUTORY MEETINGS IN 2009**

◆ 19-20 February	Secretaries General and Directors	Prague
◆ 22 April	Policy Committee	Malmö
◆ 22-24 April	24th General Assembly of European Municipalities and Regions	Malmö
◆ Autumn (to be defined)	Secretaries General and Directors	Madrid
◆ To be defined	Policy Committee	To be defined (Berlin)

**PROVISIONAL CALENDAR OF CEMR EVENTS****2008****November**

20-21	PARIS	Closing seminar of the Senior Competence project
27-30	ISTANBUL	UCLG World Council

December

8-9	PARIS	<u>Policy Committee</u>
9-10	PARIS	Seminar "Implementing the CEMR Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life"
11-12	BRATISLAVA	Workshop and plenary meeting of the sectoral social dialogue committee (CEMR-EPSU)

2009**February**

2 or 3 [tbc]	BRUSSELS	Working group on employment and social policy
19-20	PRAGUE	<u>Secretaries General and Directors</u>
End of Feb./ early March [def.]	BRUSSELS	1 st seminar of the European Platform of local/regional authorities for development
[def.]	BRUSSELS	Network on energy issues
[def.]	BRUSSELS	Working group on public services and procurement

March

19-20 [tbc]	SARAJEVO	Seminar on twinning in the Balkans
[def.]	BILBAO	Policy group on information society and e-government

April

22	MALMÖ	<u>Policy Committee</u>
22-24	MALMÖ	24th General Assembly of European Municipalities and Regions

May

29	MARSEILLE	Seminar of the European Platform of local/regional authorities for development
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NB: [def.] = to be defined - [tbc] = to be confirmed