



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

**CEMR: A EUROPE WITH A LOCAL
AND REGIONAL DIMENSION !**

[CEMR]

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) is a non-profit association. It is the broadest association of local and regional government in Europe.

- > Its members are national associations of local and regional governments from over thirty European countries.
- > The main aim of CEMR is to promote a strong, united Europe based on local and regional self-government and democracy; a Europe in which decisions are taken as closely as possible to its citizens, in line with the principle of subsidiarity.
- > CEMR's work covers a wide range of themes, including public services, transport, regional policy, the environment, equal opportunities...
- > CEMR is also active on the international stage. It is the European section of the world organisation of cities and municipalities, *United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)*.

From left to right:
Henry Cravatte
(CEMR president from 1959 to 1984)
Robert Schuman,
Emile Hamilius,
(president from 1953 to 1959)



Fernand Cottier,
CEMR president
from 1951 to 1953



Josef Hofmann,
CEMR president
from 1984 to 1992



Pasqual Maragall,
CEMR president
from 1992 to 1997



Valéry Giscard d'Estaing,
CEMR president from 1997 to 2004



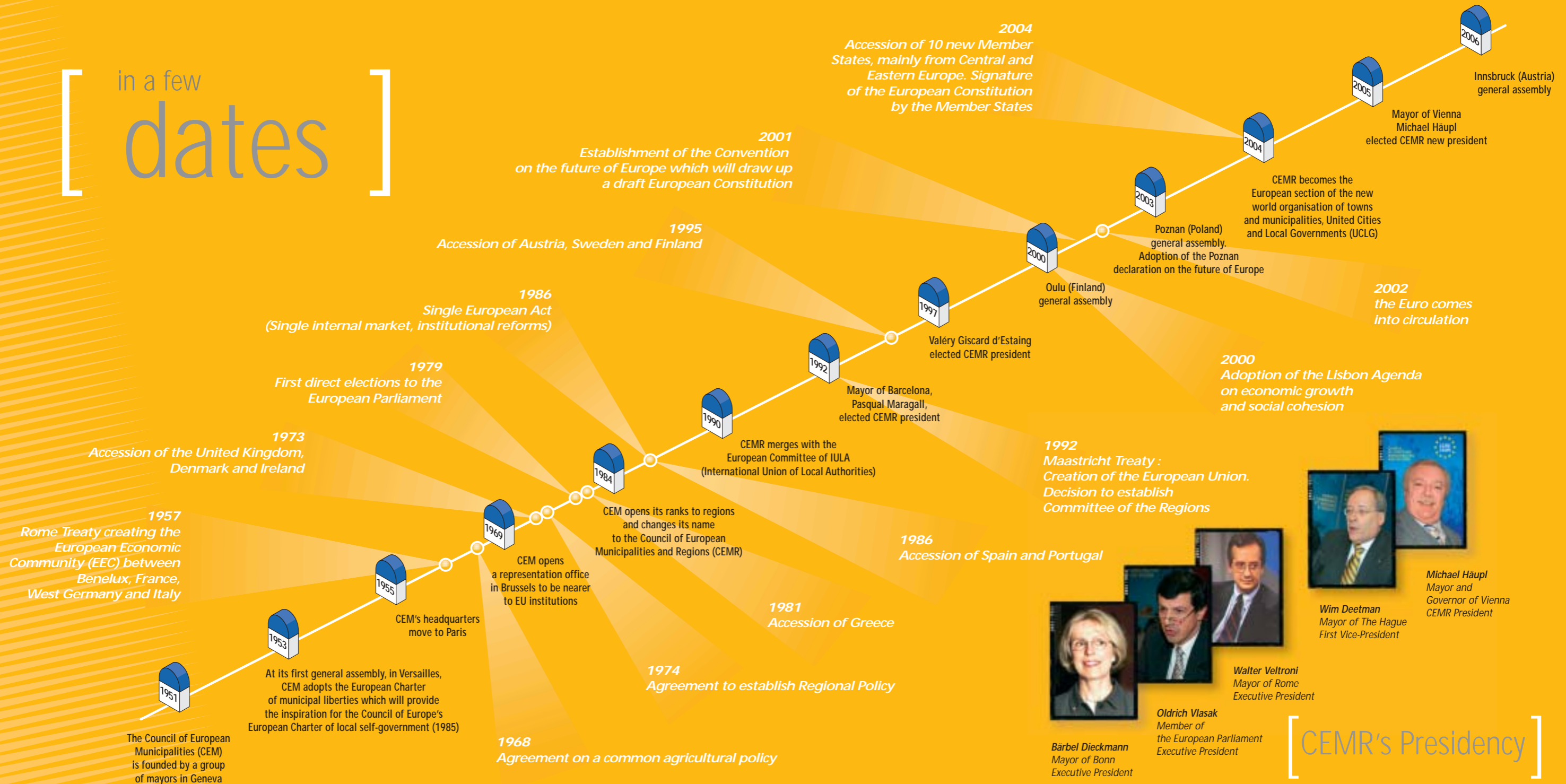
[CEMR's members]

- > Membership is open to representative national associations of local and regional government from countries that belong to the Council of Europe.
- > In addition to its members from EU states, CEMR has members from non EU countries (Norway, Switzerland, Iceland, Ukraine, Serbia, Macedonia...)
- > To join CEMR, an association must formally apply to CEMR's policy committee. It must also demonstrate its representativity at the national level.
- > CEMR members pay a yearly subscription fee based on the GNP and the size of the population of their country.

“
*Everything divides
States and
everything unites
municipalities*”

[Edouard Herriot]

[in a few dates]



[CEMR's Presidency]

CEMR's structure

1. The Policy Committee

- > The Policy Committee is CEMR's main governing body.
- > It approves the budget and the annual work programme, decides on the broad policy lines and on new members' application.
- > Its over 100 members are elected for three years and reflect CEMR's national representations. The Policy Committee normally meets twice a year.

2. The Executive Bureau

- > The Executive Bureau follows up the Policy Committee's decisions. Between Policy Committee meetings, it is responsible for CEMR's work and policy.
- > The Executive Bureau comprises the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Executive presidents. It usually meets twice a year.

"CEMR provides local and regional government with the best tool to defend their interests in Europe"

[Michael Häupl]



Michael Häupl,
CEMR president
since 2005

3. The Presidency

- > The President represents CEMR and chairs the statutory meetings.
- > The Presidents and the Vice Presidents are elected by the Policy Committee amongst its members for a 3-year mandate.
- > Since 2005, CEMR's President is the mayor of Vienna, Michael Häupl. He succeeded Valéry Giscard d'Estaing (1997-2004).

4. The secretariat general

- > The secretariat general ensures CEMR's daily functioning. It has a staff team of about 20.
- > The Secretary General is elected by the Policy Committee for a 6 year mandate.
- > Jeremy Smith has been CEMR's secretary general since 2002.
- > CEMR works from Paris and Brussels.

5. The General Assembly

- > CEMR's general assembly is held every three years. Hundreds of local and regional representatives from all over Europe attend to debate the key issues for their communities.
- > At the end of each general assembly, CEMR adopts political statements that define its objectives for the next three years.
- > Recent general assemblies: Oulu (Finland) in 2000, Poznan (Poland) in 2003, Innsbruck (Austria) in 2006.

CEMR's activities

> Influencing European legislation

EU legislation – in fields such as the environment, public procurement, structural funds, state aids and competition law - has a huge impact on local and regional government across Europe. Influencing European laws is thus one of CEMR's key activities. Working closely with its national associations, CEMR draws up policy positions, which form the basis of responses to the European Commission, especially through its dialogue and consultation processes, and for lobbying the Parliament and the Council of Ministers, e.g. via specific amendments.

> Shaping the future of Europe

CEMR works for a Europe that respects the principle of subsidiarity and local and regional self-governance, a Europe in which all spheres of government (local, regional, national, EU) work together as partners. CEMR has campaigned for a European Constitution that recognizes the role of municipalities, towns and regions; it has also helped local and regional governments from new EU member states to prepare for accession to the EU.

> Exchanging information and experience

Taken together, localities and regions constitute a well of experience in their domains of competences (Social welfare, economic development, environment, transport...). CEMR's role is to facilitate the flow of information on these experiences, to spread ideas and skills to all its members. To achieve this, CEMR organises working groups, seminars and conferences that enable its members to meet and discuss their concerns and ideas.

> Supporting town twinning

CEMR has created the concept of European town twinning, which stems from the idea that a peaceful and successful Europe can be best built at its base, by its citizens. Today, there are over 30,000 town twinings across Europe, and support for this unique movement remains one of CEMR's priorities – in particular, by co-ordinating the work of twinning officers. CEMR works closely with the European Commission (DG Culture and Education) and the Parliament to ensure necessary financial and policy support for the twinning movement.

> Strengthening local and regional government in the world

CEMR is the European section of the world organisation of towns and municipalities, *United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)*. Within UCLG, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions promotes democracy, local self-government and exchange of experience across the world. It also promotes North-South co-operation and capacity-building.

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