CCRE
CEMR

Local and regional Europe

March 2010

One month of CEMR activities

01/03 (Brussels): CEMR Secretary General met with the new European Commission DG Communication Director in charge of **citizenship**, Marc Jorna. The citizenship dossier was transferred to DG COMM following the new Commission mandate. Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre.org

1-2/03 (Strasburg): CEMR participated as an observer in the Council of Europe's (CoE) **European Committee on Local and Regional Democracy** (CDLR) spring meeting. Among the topics discussed were recent developments in CoE's member states in the field of local and regional democracy. Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

02/03 (Brussels): CEMR met with Karl-Heinz Florenz, European Parliament rapporteur on the **waste electrical and electronic equipment** directive. The meeting allowed the need for a principle of producers' financial responsibility to be reinforced in the draft revision of the directive. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

02/03 (Brussels): CEMR declared itself to be against a mandatory separate collection of **bio waste** during a public hearing led by José Manuel Fernandes, European Parliament rapporteur. CEMR also defended a flexible approach for waste management leaving local authorities sufficient headroom. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

03/03 (Brussels): Representatives from trade unions and employers' organisations from hospitals, local and regional governments and private security and commerce sectors met to discuss a first draft of guidelines on how to address **violence towards the staff by third parties** such as customers, service users and patients. The aim is to finalise the text by June 2010 and to implement it through a social dialogue project. Contact: cornelia.schroeder@ccre-cemr.org

4-5/03 (Nicosia): The main subjects discussed during a meeting held in Nicosia, Cyprus, between the Secretaries General and Directors of CEMR member associations included the **future of CEMR**, the **new European institution mandates** and the reform of local and regional authorities in Cyprus. Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre.org

12/03 (Bucharest): The fourth **PLATFORMA** seminar, hosted by the Romanian Municipalities Association and the 2nd district of Bucharest, covered subjects such as **development cooperation** in EU member states since 2004 and the role of local and regional authorities in this area. Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre.org

15/03 (Brussels): CEMR was a member of the jury during the **European Week for Waste Reduction awards ceremony**.ⓘ Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

15/03 (Brussels): **PLATFORMA** participated in a meeting presided by Andris Piebalgs, EU Commissioner for Development, in the context of the EU preparation for the UN summit on Millennium Development Goals. Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre.org

16/03 (Brussels): Issues such as **sustainable urban mobility** were at the heart of the CEMR transport working group meeting. Participants exchanged points of views with two European Commission urban mobility unit representatives on themes such as the development of sustainable mobility plans and the implementation of environmental zones. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

17/03 (Malaga): At the occasion of an informal meeting organized in Malaga by the Spanish EU Presidency, CEMR Secretary General called upon European ministers in charge of local and regional policies to **guarantee the investments and financial autonomy of local and regional authorities** so as to promote green and sustainable growth. Contact: myriam.lambert@ccre-cemr.org

17/03 (Brussels): CEMR working group on transport held a joint meeting with the working group on public services and procurement to discuss the financing of **public transport** and exchange experience and information on the implementation of the public passenger transport regulation, which entered into force in December 2009. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

17/03 (Brussels): CEMR's working group on public services and procurement exchanged views on the new provisions of the Lisbon Treaty on **Services of General Interest** with Peter Simon, MEP and Vice-President of the European Parliament Intergroup on Public Services and a representative from the European Commission. Other items on the agenda were the revision of the **late payments** directive and **e-government**. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

17-19/03 (Strasburg): CEMR representatives participated in the **18th plenary of the** Council of Europe (CoE) **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities**. At this occasion, meetings were organised with representatives of NALAS, with the CoE Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform, with the Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative (LGI OSI) and with the Assembly of European Regions (AER). ⓘ Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

18/03 (Brussels): The public services and procurement working group met with Heide Rühle, MEP and European Parliament rapporteur on **new developments in public procurement**. The group was pleased to hear that a number of CEMR's main concerns, such as the lack of coordination amongst Commission services, are included in the rapporteur's draft report. ⓘ Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

18/03 (Brussels): CEMR was among the organisations invited by the European Commission to attend a seminar on **intelligent transportation systems**, during which it voiced its interest in participating in future Commission platforms promoting the spreading of intelligent transportation systems in cities. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

23/03 (Brussels): CEMR and **PLATFORMA** participated in the official launch of the debate on the future of the **European development policy** (Quadrilogue). Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre.org

24/03 (*Brussels*): CEMR participated in a **Single Market** Informal Dialogue Group meeting with Mario Monti, who is preparing a report for the Commission President on the revival of the European Single Market and who notably addressed the issue of **governance**. A controversial exchange also took place on whether the Single Market was a goal in and of itself or rather a means of achieving political objectives. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

24/03 (*Brussels*): In the framework of the European Sustainability Energy Week, the European Commission organised a Conference on **Urban Mobility** where CEMR was represented in the panel discussion with stakeholders. In its preparation of the future White Paper on the European transport policy, the Commission announced that public transport and model shift will play an important role. ⓘ Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

24/03 (Brussels): The participants of the CEMR Energy Network meeting, along with representatives from the Commission and the future EU Belgian Presidency, debated on policies favouring **energy efficiency** and the development of **renewable energies**. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

25/03 (Liege): A seminar was organised by the international association of francophone mayors (AIMF) to discuss the role of local authorities in EU-led **international cooperation**. Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre.org

25/03 (Brussels): CEMR participated in a working meeting between the Committee of the Regions (CoR), EUROCITIES, the Assembly of European Border Regions (AEBR), the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR) and the Assembly of European Regions (AER) on the organisation of the 2010 round of **Structured Dialogue** between the European Commission and European regional and local associations. Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

25-26/03 (Tallinn): Reinforcing the ties between **European citizenship** and **twinning** was the main theme of the first regional seminar organised by CEMR on town twinning. Participants highlighted the added value of twinning as a means of getting closer to citizens from Eastern European countries such as Ukraine and Moldavia. Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre.org

26/03 (Brussels): CEMR met the European Commission to discuss the concept of **Local Development Methodology**. Contact: marit.schweiker@ccre-cemr.org

30/03 (Brussels): CEMR and EUROCITIES sent a joint response to the European Commission at the occasion of a public hearing on the European Interoperability Strategy (EIS), which deals with the **interoperability of e-government**.ⓘ Contact: marit.schweiker@ccre-cemr.org

30-31/03 (Brussels): The working group on cohesion and territorial policies and the working group on employment and social policy organised a joint meeting, notably on the new **Europe 2020 strategy**, which is to replace the Lisbon strategy, and on the **future of the cohesion policy**.ⓘ Contact: cornelia.schroeder@ccre-cemr.org

Ongoing activities

CEMR is preparing a European **competition for local and regional authorities**, in partnership with the Ministry for Integration in North Rhine-Westphalia, **which aims at supporting the integration of elderly people with a migrant background**. The purpose of the initiative is to stimulate the exchange of experience and mutual learning, so as to ensure equal opportunities for elderly people with a migrant background and to improve their quality of life. Contact: cornelia.schroeder@ccre-cemr.org

Preparation of the 6th European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference **session on socially inclusive societies**, which will take place from 19 to 21 May in Dunkerque, France.ⓘ Contact: cornelia.schroeder@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR and UCLG will organise a workshop-debate on 31 March in Sceaux, France, in the framework of the 2nd annual Global Report on Decentralisation (GOLD II), which will address the **financing of local governments across the world**. This workshop will especially focus on local government funding in the world. Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre.org

Preparation of the EISCO conference, which will take place from 20 to 22 May in Bilbao.ⓘ Contact: marit.schweiker@ccre-cemr.org

Preparation of voting recommendations for the vote on the **late payment** directive within the lead Committee, Internal Market and Consumer Protection, scheduled for 8 April. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

Preparation of voting recommendations for the vote on **public procurement** within the lead Committee, Internal Market and Consumer Protection, scheduled for 28 April. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR's calendar[1]

12/4 (Brussels): Working group on **environment**. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

25/4 (Chicago): European coordination meeting of the **World Affairs Committee** to be held during the UCLG Executive Bureau meeting. Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre.org / nina.holbrook@ccre.org

26/04 (Brussels): **Employers'** Platform. Contact: cornelia.schroeder@ccre-cemr.org

27/04 (Brussels): **Sectoral social dialogue committee** meeting, with CEMR and the European federation of public services union (EPSU). Contact: cornelia.schroeder@ccre-cemr.org

Other events

22-23/04 (Brussels): Seminar on the **anticipation of changes in public services** organised by the European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public services (CEEP) Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

24-27/4 (Chicago): **UCLG Executive Bureau** meeting and Extraordinary General Assembly meeting. Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre.org / nina.holbrook@ccre.org

26/04 (Madrid): International high-level conference on '**Integrated Urban Rehabilitation and Urban Sustainability** in Europe' organised in the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

[1] CEMR's calendar of events is available on our website: www.ccre.org