



One month of CEMR activities

07-08/11 (Athens): 149 Greek municipalities signed CEMR's European Charter for **Equality of Women and Men** in Local Life, at the initiative of the Greek ministry for the interior and its secretary general for gender equality, Maria Stratigaki, in collaboration with the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE). CEMR director of citizenship and international cooperation, Sandra Ceciarini, presented the charter, its objectives, the implementation of its provisions, and the evaluation of results.ⁱ Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org

09-10/11 (Brussels): **PLATFORMA**, platforms of civil society and the EU institutions acknowledged the need to maintain a structured dialogue on the partnership between the aforementioned actors in the field of EU development cooperation. Such was the main conclusion of a follow-up seminar on the subject, where it was highlighted that the structured dialogue should involve the European, national and regional levels in Africa, Asia, Latin American and EU neighbouring regions. Contact: Lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org

15/11 (Brussels): The European Commission's upcoming proposal for a new directive on **public procurement**, to be published on 13 December 2011, must aim at becoming simpler and more flexible for tendering public authorities. Such was at the core of CEMR's message at the occasion of a meeting with the Commission. Also expressed was the need for the proposal to come into line with the European Parliament resolution on the modernisation of public procurementⁱ and recent jurisprudence on public-public co-operation.ⁱ Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

16/11 (Brussels): CEMR strongly advocates a governing in partnership approach as an interpretation of the European multi-level governance model, whereby local and regional authorities are involved in the preparation, delivering, monitoring and evaluation of future cohesion-related funding measures and programmes. Such was voiced by CEMR during a European Commission structured dialogue meeting on the 2014-2020 **cohesion policy** legislative proposals with civil society and associations representing local and regional government. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org / alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

16-17/11 (Venice): **Town twinning** will remain at the heart of the 2014-2020 "Europe for citizens" programme, whose budget should not be decreased, declared Anna Cozzoli, from the European Commission's Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) at a meeting organised by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA). Also discussed were the challenges and opportunities of twinning and the role of the private sector and city diplomacy in promoting the twinning movement. Contact: manuella.portier@ccre-cemr.org

17-18/11 (Warsaw): There can be no immigration policy without integration policy. These words were strongly echoed throughout a conference on **migration** and its impacts on Central and Eastern member countries, organised by Eurofound in partnership with the Polish EU presidency. Other issues, including the importance of local actors in the integration process and the increased need for social partner involvement in addressing labour shortages were also discussed.ⁱ Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

18/11 (Brussels): Sharing information on on-going Mediterranean programmes and influencing the future 2014-2020 European neighbourhood instrument are to be the main objectives of **PLATFORMA's** newly formed informal group on Mediterranean issues. Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org / florent.resche-rigon@ccre-cemr.org

22/11 (Brussels): While CEMR agrees with the objective of reducing energy consumption by 3% each year, it believes member states should be the ones to determine how to achieve this increase in **energy efficiency**. Member states should also involve local and regional authorities in the preparation and implementation of the new directive on energy efficiency. The above was discussed at a meeting organised by the Local Government Association (LGA) with Fiona Hall, shadow rapporteur on the proposal for the directive on energy efficiency, who expressed great interest in CEMR's position.ⁱ Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

24/11 (Bratislava): Partnership is a valued treasure, especially in times of crisis, declared Milan Muska, executive vice-president of the Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia (ZMOS) during a workshop on **town twinning** co-organised with the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic (SMOCR). Also discussed was the role of national associations in supporting twinning links, the exchange of best practices between municipalities, the future EU citizenship programme and new forms of cooperation. Contact: manuella.portier@ccre-cemr.org

29/11 (Brussels): At the occasion of a seminar on "*Local development as a key pillar of post-2013 EU integrated territorial policies*", local and regional authorities expressed their hope to see that all cohesion-related EU funds be integrated so as to truly focus on the development of all of Europe's territories. For the first time since the draft regulations were tabled on 6 October 2011, participants exchanged on the potential of **local development** and debated the potential place of integrated local development policies in the post-2013 EU programmes.ⁱ Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

29/11 (Brussels): The third annual **Covenant of Mayors** Ceremony saw 263 cities sign the Covenant, committing to reduce CO₂ emissions by at least 20% by the year 2020, the City of Gijón, Spain, being the 3 000th signatory city. More than 350 mayors from 36 countries gathered to confirm their commitment to energy efficiency, while a number of cities, including Sarajevo, Genoa and Bucharest presented their local sustainable energy strategies.ⁱ Contact: axelle.griffon@eumayors.eu

29/11 (Brussels): As European cities steadily increase their efforts in the fight against climate change, **Covenant of Mayors** signatories urgently call on national leaders in Durban to show the same level of commitment and determination. This message, delivered to the delegates of the UN Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa, by Evelyne Huytebroeck, minister for the environment for the Brussels Capital-Region, was unanimously adopted by some 350 mayors at the occasion of the Covenant of Mayors Ceremony.ⁱ Contact: axelle.griffon@eumayors.eu

30/11 (Brussels): The upcoming revision of the directive on **air quality** should focus on limiting emissions at their source and not making local authorities responsible and accountable when air pollution limits are exceeded. This concern was voiced by CEMR at the occasion of a meeting with Cor Lamers, Committee of the Regions rapporteur on the review of EU air policy. CEMR also underlined that national legislation should not prevent local authorities from implementing access restriction schemes.ⁱ Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

Ongoing activities

With the help of its member associations, CEMR is currently updating its publication on **Local and Regional Structures in Europe**, previously published in 2005. The publication will be distributed at the occasion of CEMR's final 60th anniversary event on 12 December 2011 and will be available as a SmartCard in 2012.[*i*](#) Contact: emilie.melvin@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR and the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU), its European social dialogue partner, are commencing a project entitled "**Future of the workplace: Providing quality jobs, modern and sustainable workplaces in local and regional government**". It will aim at providing solutions for adapting and modernising local and regional government administrations in order for them to meet employment-related challenges. The project is to be launched in December 2011 and will run for thirteen months, with financial support from the European Commission.[*i*](#) Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR is currently setting-up an observatory for the implementation of the European Charter for **Equality of Women and Men** in Local Life. Its main mission will be to provide a platform for exchange of best practices and expertise in order to guide local and regional authorities in their implementation of the Charter objectives and accompanying action plans. The observatory will also provide monitoring and evaluation tools in order to help measure results on the field.[*i*](#) Contact: sandra.cecariini@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR's focus group on cohesion and territorial policy is currently defining its lobbying strategy for the 2014-2020 **cohesion policy**. It intends to submit a number of amendments prior to the first reading of the draft directive in the European Parliament.[*i*](#) Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR's calendar'

December

12/12 (Brussels): Conference on "**Governing in partnership – United to build a stronger Europe**" organised by CEMR, in collaboration with the Assembly of European Regions (AER), the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and EUROCITIES at the invitation of the European Commission's Secretariat General.[*i*](#) Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org

12-13/12 (Brussels): **CEMR Policy Committee** meeting and final celebration of the 60th anniversary of local and regional Europe, hosted by the Union of Belgian Cities and Municipalities and, for the first day, by the Committee of the Regions. Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org

14/12 (Brussels): **CEMR Employers' Platform** meeting. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

15/12 (Brussels): **Sectoral social dialogue** committee working group, composed of CEMR and EPSU. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

15-16/12 (Bordeaux): Training session and conference on **European citizenship: putting young people at the heart of local initiatives**, organised by the AFCCRE.[*i*](#) Contact: manuella.portier@ccre-cemr.org

21/12 (Brussels): Meeting of the CEMR focus group on **public procurement** for a first exchange of views on the European Commission's proposal, to be published on 13 December 2011. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

January

11/01 (Brussels): Meeting of the focus group on **energy efficiency** to discuss relevant amendments of the energy efficiency directive and CEMR's future lobbying strategy in this regard. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

19/01 (Brussels): **Sectoral social dialogue** committee working group, composed of CEMR and EPSU. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

19/01 (Brussels): Workshop on the "**Future of the workplace: Funding of the local and regional government sector**", in the framework of the CEMR-EPSU social dialogue project. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

Other events

December

01/12 (Turin): Seminar on decentralised cooperation and multi-level governance in the EU and in the **Mediterranean** organised by Arco Latino.[\(i\)](#) Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org

01-02/12 (Geneva): Regional preparatory meeting for the United Nations conference on **sustainable development** (Rio+20), to take place from 4 to 6 June 2012. CEMR will represent local authorities in Europe at this occasion.[\(i\)](#) Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

05/12 (Brussels): Structured dialogue meeting with Johannes Hahn, European commissioner for regional policy, László Andor, commissioner for employment, social affairs and inclusion, and Catiuscia Marini, Committee of the Regions (CoR) rapporteur on the general regulation for cohesion. CEMR will be represented by Anders Knape, CEMR executive president and member of the City Council of Karlstad. The meeting is to take place in the framework of the CoR commission for **territorial cooperation**.[\(i\)](#) Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

06/12 (Brussels): Structured dialogue meeting with the European Commission Directorate General for communication to discuss the future of the "*Europe for citizens*" programme and the conclusions of the Congress on **Citizenship and Twinning**, held from 29 September to 1 October 2011 in Rybnik, Poland.[\(i\)](#) Contact: sandra.cecianini@ccre-cemr.org

08/12 (Paris): International conference entitled "*Women, networks and "revolutions", democracy through the prism of gender in the Euro-Mediterranean*", organised by the Women's Foundation for the Mediterranean at the occasion of the launch of the Euro-Mediterranean Academic and Scientific Network on gender and women.[\(i\)](#) Contact: manuella.portier@ccre-cemr.org

09-11/12 (Florence): **United Cities and Local Governments** (UCLG) statutory meetings and committees. CEMR is the European section of UCLG. Contact: sandra.cecianini@ccre-cemr.org

12/12 (Brussels): European Social Dialogue Liaison Forum on capacity building in the new member states. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

15-16/12 (Warsaw): European Development Days, organised by the European Commission and the Polish EU presidency.¹ Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org

¹ CEMR's calendar is available on our website: www.ccre.org

