

One month of CEMR activities

06/10 (Brussels): Thanks to the advocacy work notably undertaken by CEMR, the European Commission is to include a set of criteria to determine the validity of a local development strategy in its regulation on the future of EU **cohesion policy**. CEMR also welcomes the integration of detailed provisions on local development strategies and partnership contracts, which should ensure the increased involvement of local authorities in the development and implementation of operational programmes. ⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

10/10 (Brussels): CEMR welcomes Axelle Griffon to its Brussels office as interim member of the **Covenant of Mayors** Office. Contact: axelle.griffon@eumayors.eu

13/10 (Brussels): Following a one-year-long dialogue with the European Commission (EC) and at the occasion of a meeting with EU development commissioner, Andris Piebalgs, **PLATFORMA** welcomes the application of an actor-based approach to general development issues, such as governance and inclusive growth. This approach, put forward in the EC communication "An agenda for change", puts local and regional authorities high up on the EU's development agenda, which PLATFORMA has advocated from the very beginning. ⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org

18-20/10 (Strasbourg): The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe declared its aim to better improve the incorporation of the European Charter of **Local Self-Government** in the domestic laws of member states, at the occasion of its 21st session. The Congress thus invites national associations to monitor new legislation and maintain a continuous dialogue with national governments in view of their compliance with Charter provisions. ⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

19/10 (Brussels): While CEMR welcomes the ambitious EU measures to achieve a 20% **energy efficiency** increase by 2020, it however rejects the binding target set for public authorities to renovate 3% of the total floor area of public buildings. Such was voiced by Alexander de Roo, chair of CEMR's energy network, during a European Parliament People's Party (EPP) group workshop. ⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

21/10 (Brussels): CEMR believes the European Commission should simplify future rules on state aid in relation to **services of general economic interest** (SGEIs) and make it easier for practitioners to apply them without having to call upon costly consultants and lawyers. Indeed, in its response to the consultation on the new state aid package, CEMR advocates a regime that would distinguish between small- and large-scale services, and furthermore asks the Commission to clarify the distinction between SGEIs and services of non-commercial nature. ⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

21/10 (Lyon): Local and regional authorities expressed their wish to improve coordination and cooperation with national, European and international institutions in order to achieve a true reduction of green-house gas emissions, to foster a low carbon economy, and to adapt to the impacts of **climate change**. This desire was voiced at the occasion of the European Conference of Regions on Climate Action, which closed with the signing of the "Lyon Declaration". ⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

21/10 (*St. Pölten*): Local development strategies must be recognised as a key priority in future cohesion operational programmes so that all areas, be they urban or rural, are treated equally and that support measures focus on their development potential. Such was voiced by Carola Gunnarsson, CEMR rapporteur on cohesion and territorial policy, at a summit of European territories on the future of EU **cohesion policy**. She also underlined the necessity of involving all spheres of government in the partnership contracts so as to ensure a successful preparation, implementation and evaluation of operational programmes.  Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

25/10 (*Strasbourg*): The upcoming reform of the **public procurement** directives should focus on the main objective of ensuring the effective use of public funds during the purchase of goods or services. Such an effective use would allow for the choice of a more economically advantageous tender, without excluding the lowest price as a decisive criterion. In this regard, the European Parliament resolution on the modernisation of public procurement  largely reflects CEMR's position on the subject,  including its paper on eProcurement.  Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

25/10 (*Warsaw*): **Urban-rural development** is a crucial investment strategy and thus, local and regional authorities need appropriate EU instruments to facilitate synergies between urban and rural areas. Such was voiced by CEMR rapporteur on cohesion and territorial policy, Carola Gunnarsson, at the high-level conference "*Effective Instruments for Territorial Development*" organised by the Polish EU Presidency. She also spoke of community-led local development as an excellent starting point when ensuring coordination between rural development and cohesion policy.  Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

27/10 (*Brussels*): Municipal employers and trade unions are concerned about current economic and social developments in the EU, as these undermine the provision of public services, especially by local and regional authorities, which are faced with a steadily decreasing allocation of resources. Such was voiced by the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) and the CEMR Employers Platform in a joint statement on the impact of the **economic crisis** on the local and regional public service.  Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

27-28/10 (*Cádiz*): The **directors and secretaries general of CEMR's** member associations met to exchange with Dexia and NALAS on the impacts of the crisis on the local and regional levels all across Europe and to discuss negotiations of the multi-annual financial framework with Patrizio Fiorilli, spokesperson to the EU budget commissioner. Also on the agenda were priorities for CEMR's 2012 work programme as well as its 25th General Assembly, to take place in Cádiz, Spain, from 26 to 28 September 2012. Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org

31/10 (*Istanbul*): It is time to move beyond the issue of migrant integration and address social inclusion via active citizenship as well positive and active integration policy. This broader concept was put forward and discussed at the occasion of meeting of the network of cities for **local integration policy** (CLIP). Participants also exchanged on their experiences in terms of intercultural policies.  Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

31/10 (*Brussels*): CEMR has officially become a **Covenant of Mayors** supporter, thus mobilising its broad membership to take action in the fields of energy and climate, to promote the Covenant and to provide support to signatories. It will also continue its active role within the Covenant of Mayors Office, heading relations with Covenant supporters and coordinating event requests.  Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

Ongoing activities

CEMR is currently lobbying the European Parliament's Committee on industry, research and energy (ITRE) on the European Commission's proposal for a directive on **energy efficiency**. The Committee vote is scheduled for 24 January 2012.  Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR's calendar

07/11 (Brussels): Meeting of the CEMR focus group on the future of **cohesion policy**. Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

12/12 (Brussels): Conference on "**Governing in partnership** – United to build a stronger Europe" organised by CEMR, in collaboration with the AER, CPMR and EUROCITIES.  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. Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org

18/11 (Brussels): **PLATFORMA** informal group meeting on the EU southern neighbourhood policy. Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org

29/11 (Brussels): Annual Ceremony of the **Covenant of Mayors** organised with the active support of CEMR.  Contact: axelle.griffon@eumayors.eu

29/11 (Brussels): Seminar on "**Local development as a key pillar of EU integrated territorial policies post-2013**" organised by CEMR in collaboration with COSLA and the AMR, with the support of the European Parliament Urban Intergroup.  Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

Other events

06/11 (Brussels): Panel debate on "*partnership and **multi-level governance***" in the framework of the European Commission meeting with civil society on the legislative proposals for the 2014-2020 EU cohesion policy. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

09-10/11 (Brussels): Meeting between **PLATFORMA**, civil society representatives and the European Parliament and Commission to discuss the establishment of a long-term partnership. Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org

24/11 (Poznań): High-level conference on an "*Integrated approach to **development** – a key to smart, sustainable and inclusive Europe*" in the framework of the informal meeting of ministers responsible for EU cohesion policy, territorial and urban development.  Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

25/11 (Poznań): Informal meeting of ministers responsible for EU **cohesion policy, territorial and urban development**.  Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

