

Three months of CEMR activities

July

05/07 (Brussels): The CEMR Employers' Platform and the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) welcome the European Commission guide on **socially responsible public procurement**.⁽ⁱ⁾ They however recall that certain benefits will be better felt throughout the procurement contract's lifespan if a more socially responsible procurement policy and the good practices of the Commission's guide are adopted.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

11/07 (Brussels): **PLATFORMA** expressed its interest in seeing the non-state actors and local authorities thematic programme reinforced through increased funding in the external action budget of the next EU multiannual financial framework. Such was expressed at the occasion of a meeting between PLATFORMA representatives and the European commissioner for development, Andris Piebalgs.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org

15/07 (Brussels): The added-value of the European social fund (ESF) is clearly demonstrated in comparison to other funding methods whenever **local development** approaches are applied in its implementation. Such was CEMR's main message in a letter sent to the European Commission Directorate General for employment. CEMR also underlined that better results can be achieved by making the ESF a key instrument in support of local development partnership approaches.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

August

06/08 (Brussels): The content of **urban mobility** plans should not be defined too specifically at EU level, in order to leave room for manoeuvre for local and regional authorities. This was the main message conveyed by CEMR⁽ⁱ⁾ and the Union of Cities and Municipalities of Wallonia during a meeting with Mathieu Grosch, European Parliament rapporteur for the white paper on transport.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

29/08 (Brussels): Less than a month before the European **Congress on Citizenship and Twinning**, CEMR interviewed its president Wolfgang Schuster, mayor of Stuttgart, whose "hope is that the Congress will have a strong impact on the town twinning movement and on European citizenship at both the local and European levels. Our aim must be to not only focus on town twinning but also on European citizenship and on new forms of local and regional partnerships".⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: sandra.cecianini@ccre-cemr.org / manuella.portier@ccre-cemr.org

September

01/09 (Brussels): A publication showcasing the results of the European Local Authorities Competition (ELAC) for **migrant elders**, of which CEMR is a partner, has been published in English and German, enabling a wider audience to access information about initiatives on the quality of life of migrant elders. ⓘ Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@cce-cemr.org

07/09 (Brussels): European municipalities and regions can now explore the potential of the EU **LIFE+ programme** and learn from the experiences of existing projects thanks to the newly released publication "*LIFE and local authorities: Helping regions and municipalities tackle environmental challenges*", published in collaboration with CEMR. ⓘ Contact: marie.bullet@cce-cemr.org

12/09 (Paris): Awareness-raising campaigns should focus on the millennium development goals and the support given to local government associations in partner countries should be increased in order to ensure the strengthening of institutions. These were among the changes put forward by **PLATFORMA** for the upcoming call for proposals of the non-state actors and local authorities programme. The call is to be published on 1 November 2011. Contact: lucie.guillet@cce-cemr.org

15/09 (Brussels): **Public procurement** rules must be simplified and provide more flexibility for contracting authorities, as lobbied by CEMR prior to the European Parliament vote in plenary on the reform of procurement directives, scheduled for October 2011. CEMR also advocates increasing the threshold levels from which a procurement procedure becomes applicable and increasing negotiation opportunities for suppliers in all procurement procedures, so as to achieve a balance between the procedure and result. ⓘ Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@cce-cemr.org

15/09 (Brussels): CEMR submitted a response to the consultation on the review of the EU **air policy**, which included suggestions for improving the policy and feedback on the challenges of implementing EU air legislation at the local level. The response was drafted by the CEMR focus group on air quality, with the aim of influencing the review process leading to new legislation on air for 2013 and beyond. ⓘ Contact: marie.bullet@cce-cemr.org

29/09 (Warsaw): The National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALA) was unanimously approved as the newest member of CEMR, at the occasion of a CEMR **Executive Bureau** meeting. Also discussed were governing in partnership and the impact of the Polish EU presidency priorities on local and regional authorities, with Waldemar Slugocki, undersecretary of state in the Polish ministry for regional development. ⓘ Contact: nina.holbrook@cce-cemr.org

29/09-01/10 (Rybnik): CEMR calls on the European Commission to strengthen the 2014-2020 "*Europe for citizens*" programme based on a symbolic budget of one euro per citizen, or a total of €495 million. This call was issued in the final declaration adopted during the European **Congress on Citizenship and Twinning**, in order to ensure a continued support of twinning links and the extension of partnership possibilities to countries to the east and south of Europe. ⓘ Contact: sandra.cecianini@cce.cemr.org / manuella.portier@cce-cemr.org

30/09 (Brussels): There is a lack of concrete proposals for the financing of **urban mobility** in the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework and in the draft regulations for structural funds. Such was voiced by CEMR in its capacity as member of the advisory board of the European study on the financing needs of sustainable urban mobility

launched by the Directorate General for mobility and transport. Moreover, the Commission announced it would publish a new study on urban road pricing and invited CEMR to be one of the stakeholders involved. Contact: marie.bullet@cce-cemr.org

Ongoing activities

PLATFORMA's working group on aid effectiveness and United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) are working towards advocating a stronger recognition of the role of local governments in aid distribution and an increased level of support for decentralisation. This advocacy work is to be undertaken at the occasion of the High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in Busan, South-Korea, from 29 November to 1 December 2011. Contact: lucie.guillet@cce-cemr.org

CEMR is preparing a position paper on the European Commission's proposal for the 2014-2020 **multi-annual financial framework**. Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@cce-cemr.org

CEMR is preparing a response to the European Commission proposal on state aid rules in the framework of **services of general economic interest**.ⁱ Contact: angelika.poth-moegele@cce-cemr.org

CEMR is currently lobbying the European institutions in order to amend the directive on **energy efficiency**, especially in relation to the renovation of public buildings, financing, public procurement and spatial planning.ⁱ Contact: marie.bullet@cce-cemr.org

CEMR is working together with the Assembly of European Regions (AER), the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and EUROCITIES to launch a joint initiative to involve local and regional authorities in contributing to **Europe 2020 strategy** objectives. The joint initiative is to seek political support from the European Commission in order to raise awareness, to allow for exchanges and to provide technical assistance for the setting-up of pilot projects in municipalities and regions. Contact: boris.tonhauser@cce-cemr.org

CEMR is working on the organisation of the Annual Ceremony of the **Covenant of Mayors**, which is to take place on 29 November 2011 at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium.ⁱ Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@eumayors.eu

CEMR's calendar¹

13-14/10 (Brussels): **PLATFORMA** steering committee, followed by a meeting of the working group on "Local and Regional Authorities in European Development Policy: Formulation of Policies and Support Mechanisms". Contact: lucie.guillet@cce-cemr.org

21/10 (Brussels): **Sectoral social dialogue** committee working group, composed of CEMR and EPSU. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@cce-cemr.org

27/10 (Warsaw): Final Conference on the implementation of **third-party violence** guidelines, in the framework of the European multi-sectoral social dialogue project on third-party violence. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@cce-cemr.org

27-28/10 (Cádiz): Meeting of the **secretaries general and directors** of CEMR's member associations. Contact: nina.holbrook@cce-cemr.org

Other events

06/10 (Brussels): Ad-hoc meeting on the new proposals for **state aid and public procurement** legislation with European Commission representatives. Contact: angelika.-poth-moegele@ccre-cemr.org

12/10 (Brussels): **Covenant of Mayors** workshop on the experiences of cities and regions with access to funding at a local, regional, national and/or European level.  Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

17-20/10 (Strasbourg): Plenary session of the **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities** of the Council of Europe.  Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

20/10 (Brussels): Workshop on **social dialogue** funds for the twelve newest member states, organised the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities and Innovation Norway, in collaboration with CEMR. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

20-21/10 (St. Pölten): High-level local and regional summit on the post-2014 European **cohesion policy** with the participation of EU regional policy commissioner, Johannes Hahn, organised by the Assembly of European Regions (AER) and the state of Lower Austria (Niederösterreich). CEMR cohesion and territorial policy rapporteur, Carola Gunarsson, is to speak at this occasion.  Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

24-25/10 (Warsaw): Conference on effective instruments for **territorial development** organised by the Polish EU presidency. CEMR rapporteur on cohesion and territorial policy, Carola Gunarsson, will speak during the session on urban-rural linkages.  Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

2-4/11 (Kiev): 17th bi-annual conference of **ministers responsible for local and regional government** in the member states of the Council of Europe.  Contact: boris.tonhauser@ccre-cemr.org

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

