

Inter-communal cooperation

Seminar

**Thursday, 29th September 2005
9.30 – 16.30**

**Hotel Eurovillage
Boulevard Charlemagne 80
1000 Bruxelles**

Purpose of the seminar:

Over the past years, local and regional authorities have set up a wide range of organisational structures in order to provide services to their citizens. Besides the 'classical' form of self-provision, different forms of public-private-partnerships and cooperation between local and regional authorities have been established.

In recent months however, CEMR has noticed that this development increasingly attracts the European Commission's attention. Currently, the Commission services are in the process of investigating to what extent European internal market rules ought to apply to these forms of organisation. Likewise, the European Court of Justice with its respective decisions on the provision of public services has caused some concerns among local and regional government. The most prominent case is the decision of the „Stadt Halle“ case (C-26/03); further cases are pending or in the pipeline.

The objective of the seminar is twofold: Firstly we want to exchange information on how inter-communal cooperation is organised within the Member States. We will have a presentation of the results gained from a survey among our members, followed by case studies from several member associations.

The second part of the seminar offers the opportunity to get the European Commission's opinion on these questions of this issue and to be informed about decisions of the European Court of Justice dealing with related issues.

Finally, we would like to identify CEMR's opinion on this important topic, which will help us to find a common perspective for the political debate.

Who should attend?

The seminar aims to address representatives from local and regional government; politicians as well as experts / officers who deal with inter-communal cooperation. Their interest and expertise would be welcomed for an exchange of information and experience and for a lively discussion with representatives from the European institutions.

Brussels, July 2005

Jeremy Smith
Secretary General

Draft Programme

- 9.30 Opening and introduction: **Jeremy Smith**, Secretary General CEMR
- 9.45 Inter-communal cooperation in practice:
Presentation of the result of a survey among CEMR members: **Zelal Ates**, German association of local enterprises
- 10.00 Inter-communal cooperation from the public enterprises' perspective: Intervention from a representative of CEEP
- 10.15 Presentation of case studies from CEMR member associations
- Inter-municipal cooperation in Flanders: **Christof Delatter**, Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities
 - Overview of the situation in Germany, including reflections on possible legislative changes: **Barbara Meißner**, German Association of Cities
 - Inter-communal cooperation in France: **Michael Carrara**, Services 'Intercommunalité', Association des Maires de France (AMF) and **Jean Marie Martinez**, Director General of the services of the "Communauté d'Agglomération Dracénoise" (Var) (*community of municipalities*)
 - Inter-communal cooperation in the United Kingdom: **Lee Digings**, Local Government Improvement & Development Agency for local government
 - Inter-communal cooperation in the Czech Republic: **Lukáš Vána**, Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic
 - Inter-communal cooperation in Finland: **Juha Myllymäki**, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities
 - Inter-communal cooperation in Spain (tbc)
- 12.15 Inter-communal cooperation with regard to European public procurement regulation: Presentation from the European Commission, DG Internal Market, Directorate C.3 Formulation and Enforcement of Public Procurement Law II: **Robert Wein**
- 13.00 – 14.00 - - - Lunch break - - -
- 14.00 **The impact of case law on inter-communal cooperation**
Panel discussion, moderated by **Jeremy Smith** and with the participation of:
Viktor Kreuzschitz, legal adviser to the European Commission's legal service
Dr Rita-Maria Kirschbaum, Cabinet Judge Josef Azizi, European Court of Justice, Court of First Instance
Anna Eklund, Legal adviser, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
Dr. Stephanie Springer, Legal adviser, Representation of Lower Saxony (Germany)
- 15.30 Discussion and Conclusions about CEMR's perspective in the debate
- 16.30 End

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Technical information

- Languages: English, French, German
- Location : Hotel Eurovillage, Boulevard Charlemagne 80, B – 1000 Bruxelles (close to the Rond-Point Schuman and the Berlaymont building). See map on the hotel web site : <http://www.eurovillage.be> (under contact)
- Hotels: *Hotel Eurovillage*
Boulevard Charlemagne 80, 1000 Brussels (tel : +32/2/230.85.55, fax : +32/2/230.56.35, e-mail : reservation@eurovillage.be).
Rate in relation to this meeting : € 130 (+ € 17 for breakfast) (please mention that you are attending a CEMR meeting on 29.09.2005)
- We also have preferential rates in the two hotels below, which are very close to CEMR and 15 minutes walk from the venue:
- Renaissance Brussels Hotel*
rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Brussels (tel : +32/2/505.29.29, fax : +32/2/505.22.76). CEMR preferential rate: € 165 (+ € 24 for breakfast) until end 2005
- Hotel Léopold*
rue du Luxembourg 35, 1050 Brussels (tel : +32/2/511.18.28, fax: +32/2/514.19.39)
CEMR preferential rate: € 112 (+ € 18 for breakfast) until end 2005
- Registration: Registrations are requested by 25th September (see attached registration form)
- Contact: Further information concerning the content:
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REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Function: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please return the registration form **at the latest by 25th September 2005** to CEMR

Fax: + 32 2 511.09.49; e-mail : valerie.solle@ccre-cemr.org