



One month of CEMR activities

02-03/04 (*Strasbourg*): CEMR invited the Council of Europe's Committee on Local and Regional Democracy (CDLR) to work together in the framework of its recently launched Observatory of the Charter on **Equality of Women and Men** in Local Life.⁽ⁱ⁾ Also at this occasion, Edwin Lefebvre was elected CDLR rapporteur on gender equality. Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org

02-03/04 (*Florence*): During its annual forum, **PLATFORMA** called on the European Commission to clarify its approach to multi-actor partnerships and its strategy for working with local and regional authorities in the field of EU development cooperation.⁽ⁱ⁾ It also regretted to see that the Commission's preparatory consultation on development exclusively concerns civil society organisations.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org

13/04 (*Brussels*): CEMR would like to see the European Commission's proposal for a new directive on **public procurement** shortened, notably by transferring explanatory elements to an accompanying handbook or communication. Such was outlined in a number of amendments put forward by CEMR, which also underlined the need to provide simpler and more flexible procurement rules. The amendments were presented to the European Parliament rapporteur on public procurement, Marc Tarabella.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: angelika.pothmoegele@ccre-cemr.org

18/04: CEMR launched its **new logo and graphic identity** in an effort to differentiate and modernise its image. The five colours represent the different thematic domains of CEMR's work. Thus, the blue represents "*Democracy, citizenship and enlargement*", the green "*Resource efficiency and environment*", the yellow "*Partnership, cooperation and world affairs*", the red "*Economic, social and territorial cohesion*" and the purple "*Local and regional governments as employers and service providers*".⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: pierre.vanderauwera@ccre-cemr.org

23/04 (*New York*): "*The support of local and regional authorities has never been more crucial to delivering practical results that will defeat poverty, protect the natural environment and improve disaster risk reduction.*" Such was declared by United Nations secretary general, Ban Ki-Moon, at the occasion of a meeting with a delegation of local and regional authority representatives, including CEMR. At this occasion, the delegation submitted eight recommendations with the aim of ensuring **sustainable urbanisation and regionalisation**.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: sandra.ceciarini@ccre-cemr.org

30/04: The draft programme for **CEMR's General Assembly**, to take place in Cádiz, Spain, from 26 to 28 September 2012 under the title "*Innovating in 3D: Decentralisation - Development - Democracy*", is now available online in French and English. It includes information on the different sessions, including the leaders' roundtables, the workshops, and the plenary or parallel sessions. Details on the various themes to be discussed and the speakers are also outlined.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: nina.holbrook@ccre-cemr.org

Ongoing activities

The CEMR focus group on **cohesion policy** has approved the updated version of the CEMR position paper on the future of cohesion policy, which is to be presented for approval at the meeting of secretaries general and directors of CEMR's member associations, to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 21 to 22 May 2012. Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

In the framework of the European **social dialogue** project, "*Future of the workplace*",⁽ⁱ⁾ CEMR and the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) are updating their guidelines on gender equality within local and regional administrations,⁽ⁱ⁾ which date back to 2007. The project's upcoming workshop, to be held on 16 May 2012, will discuss equality, diversity and non-discrimination, CEMR having invited its members to provide examples of implementation of these guidelines in their member municipalities and regions in view of the workshop. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

CEMR's calendar¹

16/05 (Brussels): Fourth workshop of the **social dialogue** project "*Future of the workplace*" on equality, diversity and non-discrimination, organised by CEMR and EPSU. Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

21-22/05 (Vilnius): Meeting of the **secretaries general and directors** of CEMR's member associations. Contact: cecile.grauvogel@ccre.cemr.org

Other events

08/05 (Brussels): Meeting of the European Parliament Committee on **regional development**. At this occasion, Carola Gunnarsson, CEMR political rapporteur on territorial and cohesion policy and first vice-president of SALAR, will present CEMR's position on the partnership principle.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

08-09/05: Local and Regional Government Conference on developments and trade union strategies regarding the (re)municipalisation and insourcing of local **public services**, organised by EPSU.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: christina.dziewanska-stringer@ccre-cemr.org

10/05 (Brussels): Forum on regions and cities for integrated **territorial development**, organised by the Committee of the Regions.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: alessandro.proia@ccre-cemr.org

10-11/05 (Brussels): Launch of the new Policy Forum on Development, organised by the European Commission Directorate General for development and cooperation (DEVCO). **PLATFORMA** is to be represented within the new forum.⁽ⁱ⁾ Contact: lucie.guillet@ccre-cemr.org

12/05 (Brussels): Workshop organised by the European Commission on how to take into consideration the negative impacts of **transport** on the environment in the price of these transports. Contact: marie.bullet@ccre-cemr.org

31/05 (*Brussels*): Meeting of the AFCCRE committee on “*Europe and local **public services***”.

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

