



**THE EUROPE WE LOVE, THE EUROPE WE NEED!
CEMR - Building Europe from the ground up for 60 years
Friday 28 January 2011, Geneva**

Programme

*International Telecommunication Union
Place des Nations, 1202 Genève*

14.00 Reception of participants and welcome address

- **Sandrine Salerno**, Mayor of Geneva
- **Wolfgang Schuster**, President of CEMR, Mayor of Stuttgart
- **Françoise Jeanneret**, President of ASCCRE, Councillor of Neuchâtel

14.30 1st Round table: From the European Charter of Municipal Liberties to Multilevel Governance

In 1953, at the first General Assembly of the Council of European Municipalities in Versailles, CEMR's predecessor organisation agreed the first common statement of local elected representatives of principles which should be at the foundation a truly democratic state – that good governance cannot be a top-down arrangement. Then in 1985, the Council of Europe's European Charter of Local Self-Government was opened for signature. Now, over five decades since launching the European Charter of Municipal Liberties, its principles are guiding CEMR's work with its member associations and partner organisations and European institutions to build a true partnership based on the respect of all levels of governance, known as 'multilevel governance'.

*Moderated by **Jeremy Smith**, former Secretary General of CEMR*

- Introductory presentation and background: **Jean-Marie Palayret**, Director of the Historical Archives of the EU, European University Institute, Florence
- **Professeur Nicolas Levrat**, Director of the European Institute of the University of Geneva
- **Keith Whitmore**, President of the Congress of the Council of Europe
- **Annemarie Jorritsma**, Co-President of CEMR, Mayor of Almere

- **Exchange with CEMR members**

16.00 *Coffee break*

16.30 2nd round table: Builders of Europe for 60 years... and looking ahead! CEMR's contribution since 1951 and perspectives for the future

60 years ago in Geneva, a group of local elected representatives decided to actively participate in the construction of the future Europe by promoting the emergence of local democracy and the autonomy of local (and later regional) authorities. Today, CEMR gathers 53 member associations from 39 countries throughout Europe, united in their dedication to work on behalf of their local and regional governments, aiming at providing good quality of life to their citizens while looking for sustainable solutions to meet today's and future challenges.

The world has changed remarkably and Europe is not the same as in 1951, and this also finds its reflection within CEMR. This session will provide both a historic view of CEMR's contribution over the past 60 years, and a forward-looking view of what perspectives we can offer for the "territorial Europe" in the 2050 horizon.

*Introduction and moderated by **Elisabeth Gateau**, former Secretary General of CEMR*

- **Aina Calvo Sastre**, Co-President of CEMR, Mayor of Palma de Mallorca
- **Jan Olbrycht**, Member of the European Parliament, former CEMR Vice-President
- **Arnoldas Abramavičius**, Mayor of Zarasai District Municipality, member of the Committee of the Regions
- **Wolfgang Schuster**, President of CEMR, Mayor of Stuttgart

➤ **Exchange with CEMR members**

❖ Concluding address by **Wolfgang Schuster**, President of CEMR, Mayor of Stuttgart

18.00 Ceremony with former presidents and key figures of CEMR

Animated by Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General of CEMR

19.00 Cocktail offered by the ASCCRE

20.00 *Transfer by bus to the Grand Théâtre*

20.30 Dinner offered by the City of Geneva

(Opéra – Grand Théâtre de Genève, Place Neuve 5, 1204 Genève)

Around 23.00: Return to the hotels by bus