

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

Brussels, 27 June 2006

95th MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

- 7 July 2006 -

ITEM 11b)

COOPERATION WITH EUROPEAN REGIONAL AND LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Submitted by the Secretary-General

FOR INFORMATION

MEMO FOR COR BUREAU MEMBERS

95th MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

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Cooperation with European Regional and Local Associations

Introduction

In the Bureau decision on 14 May 2002 on *Cooperation with European associations representing local and regional authorities* (R/CdR 106/2002 item 11), the Secretary-General was empowered to put in place a number of measures to increase cooperation with the associations. This cooperation is now systematic and monitored through the tri-annual meetings held between the Secretaries General of the Associations and the Secretary-General of the CoR.

The cooperation between the CoR and the major European Associations materialises through the structured dialogue, the presence of the Association Presidents or representatives amongst the speakers at CoR seminars and conferences, the Open Days, the presence of the President of the CoR at the Annual Assemblies of the major European Associations and the publication of common action plans that have been drawn up with all the major European Associations. This document presents the members of the Bureau with an overview of the action plans in force during 2005/2006.

It should be noted that since the last report *Cooperation with European regional and local associations* (CdR 115/2005), the administration has prepared an adaptation of the action plans for 2006. The adapted new action plans can be found in R/CdR 191/2006 item 11b) Appendix 2.

Further information and the updated profiles and work programmes of the major European Associations for the second semester of 2006 can be found on the CoR website at www.cor.europa.eu/en/activities/list_of_association.htm.

1. The Action Plans

Action plans were signed for 2005/2006 with the following associations: AER; Eurocities AEBR; CALRE; CEMR; CPMR; AEM. The Secretary General also signed a Declaration of common interest with a national association, the Union of Cyprus Municipalities.

The areas of cooperation listed in the various action plans are as follows:

- **Involvement of association expertise in selected task forces set up by the CoR in order to support the work of the rapporteurs** (CEMR; CPMR; Eurocities; AEBR)
- **Cooperation in the dialogue between the European Commission and the Associations** (CEMR; CPMR; EUROCITIES)

- **Participation in joint conferences (Eurocities; CEMR; CPMR)**
- **Cooperation in Subsidiarity monitoring (CALRE; REGLEG, CEMR, national associations)**
- **Cooperation on Regional Policy, Territorial Cooperation and the Lisbon Strategy**
- **Joint activities in Communication (CEMR; Eurocities; CPMR)**

1.1 Involvement of association expertise in selected task forces set up by the CoR for the consultation works

Following the work programmes of the commissions presented to the Bureau in April 2005 (R/CdR 62/2005 item 8) a number of task forces have been established in which the associations contributed with their specific expertise to the work of the rapporteurs in the drawing-up of opinions. Contributions take the form of written position papers and/or preparatory meetings with the rapporteur and/or their experts. As reported to the bureau in July 2005 on the previous period (CdR115/2005 item 14) such task forces were established for numerous opinions across all the CoR commissions. A list of the task forces established since July 2005 can be found in R/CdR 191/2006 item 11b) Appendix 1.

All action plans now specify the policy areas where associations would like to be consulted and opinions for which a consultation could be useful are identified at an early stage. Associations are invited to specific CoR events and representatives of associations are included in the list of speakers.

1.2 Participation in joint conferences

In 2005 the President of the CoR was invited to address the annual general meetings of most of the major European-wide and national associations. He thus attended the CALRE annual meeting in Barcelona on 24-25 October, the REGLEG annual meeting in Munich on 21 November; the AGM of CRPM (in Madeira on 2-4 November) and was represented by the First Vice-President at the AGM of Eurocities (19-22 November in Lyon). At such meetings the President or his delegate were able to communicate CoR political priorities to the inviting association.

Beyond the President's participation in the Associations' Annual General Meetings, there was cooperation and CoR presence in 12 events organised by the associations. The participation of CoR members in conferences organised by the associations has increased over the last year as a result of the action plans, as has the presence of association representatives in CoR-organised conferences. A detailed list of events can be found in R/CdR 191/2006 item 11 b) Appendix 1.

1.3 Cooperation on Subsidiarity monitoring

Based on the different action plans CALRE, REGLEG and CEMR took part in the first pilot phase for the establishment of the CoR's subsidiarity monitoring network. The test phase was presented by the President of the Committee to the CALRE working group on subsidiarity monitoring in Barcelona on 9 June 2005 and to the REGLEG Annual Conference in Munich on 21 November 2005.

In addition to this, 6 national associations participated in the first test of the subsidiarity network. Several other European and national associations have already indicated their interest for the second test, which has been launched by the Bureau for the second half of 2006.

1.4. Cooperation on Regional Policy, Territorial Cooperation and the Lisbon Strategy

The CoR and the major European associations continued to join forces in order to represent the interest of local and regional authorities as regards the reform of the EU's regional policy. In this context representatives of the associations took part in the different events and hearings of the CoR regarding the discussion on the Financial Perspectives of the European Union and the reform package of the Structural Funds regulations.

This cooperation was in particular close as regards the project of the "European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation", an initiative launched by the CoR in 2000. The associations also participated in the preparation and the discussion during the first Territorial Dialogue organised by the Committee of the Regions on 1 March 2006 in view of the Spring Council and the progress on the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy.

1.5 Joint activities in Communication

Over the past years the CoR has succeeded in publishing a number of articles signed by either the President or Secretary-General in various newsletters of European and/or national associations of local and regional authorities. During the Plenary session of June 2006 the Committee organised a workshop with editors of 36 periodicals of associations in order to discuss how to further deepen the cooperation. As a concrete result of this, further associations have agreed to reserve a regular column for the CoR in which the institution can present its political and consultative works and the President of the Committee will be able to communicate on European issues. Visibility of the CoR through "branding" at Association events and vice versa has been improved (for example, the Associations' stands at CoR events, patronage of associations events or the invitation of associations to organise their events in the CoR building).

Appendix 1 – Table of task forces and conferences

Appendix 2 – Newly signed action plans in 2005/2006

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ITEM 11b) – APPENDIX 1

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TASK FORCES JULY 2005- JUNE 2006 (CONSULTATION OF ASSOCIATIONS IN CoR OPINIONS)

OPINION	CoR REFERENCE	COMMISSION RESPONSIBLE	RAPPORTEUR	COOPERATION WITH ASSOCIATIONS
Decentralised Cooperation	CdR 224/2005	RELEX	Ms Juliette Soulabbaille (FR/PES)	Consultation of Eurocities and Arc Atlantic; future cooperation in this field is envisaged
10 th Anniversary of Barcelona Process	CdR 142/2005	RELEX	Ms Anna Terron i Cusi (E-PSE)	Eurocities submitted a written contribution (10/05)
Enlargement Package 2005	CdR 115/2006	RELEX	Mr Franz Schausberger (AT/EPP)	Consultation of AER
The Hague Programme: Freedom, Justice and Security Action plan		CONST	Mr Ivo Opstelten (NL-ALDE)	Consultation of AER and Eurocities on 06/07/2005
Resolution on the protection of minorities	CdR 53/2006	CONST	Mr Boris Sovič (SI/PES), Mr Eberhard Sinner (DE/EPP)	Associations participated in the round table on 12/12/2005
Strategic Guidelines for Cohesion Policy	CdR 140/2005	COTER	Mr Alain Rousset (FR/PES)	Written contribution from AEBR, CPMR, and Arc Atlantic
Cohesion policy and cities	CdR 38/2006	COTER	Mr Haupl (AT/PES)	Written contribution from CEMR and Eurocities

OPINION	CoR REFERENCE	COMMISSION RESPONSIBLE	RAPPORTEUR	COOPERATION WITH ASSOCIATIONS
<u>Outlook report on the Implementation of the Landfill Directive (1999/31 EC) at regional and local level</u>	CdR 157/2005	DEVE	Mr Wim Van Gelder (NL/EPP)	Intensive cooperation with Eurocities and CEMR – participation in the survey underlying the study, participation in a round table
Winning the Battle Against Global Climate Change COM(2005) 35 final	CdR 65/2005	DEVE	Mr José Macário Correia (PT/EPP)	Consultation of Eurocities
Report on the implementation of the EU Forestry Strategy COM(2005) 84 final	CdR 213/2005	DEVE	Mr Enrico Borghi (IT/ALDE)	Written contribution from AEM
Ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe. COM(2005) 447 final	CdR 214/2005	DEVE	Mr Helmut Jahn (DE/EPP)	CEMR and Eurocities participated in a round table discussion and submitted written contribution
Promotion of clean road transport vehicles COM(2005) 634 final	CdR 395/2005	DEVE	Ms Ewa May Karlsson (SE/ALDE)	Written contribution from CEMR
Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of COM(2005) 666 final and Proposal for a directive on waste COM(2005) 667 final	CdR 47/2006	DEVE	Mr. Laust Grove Vejstrup (DK/PPE)	CEMR and Eurocities participated in a round table discussion and submitted written contribution. Written comments also from ACR+
Implementing the Community Lisbon Programme: A policy framework to strengthen EU manufacturing - towards a more integrated approach for industrial policy COM(2005) 474	CdR 39/2006	ECOS	Mr Onno Hoes (NL/ALDE)	A meeting between AEM and Rapporteur

OPINION	CoR REFERENCE	COMMISSION RESPONSIBLE	RAPPORTEUR	COOPERATION WITH ASSOCIATIONS
Public-Private Partnerships and Community Law on Public Procurement and Concessions	CdR 41/2006	ECOS	Ms Bożena Ronowicz (PL/EA-UEN)	A meeting between CEMR and Rapporteur and her expert
Women and Poverty in the European Union	CdR 151/2005	ECOS	Ms Mireille Lacombe (FR/PES)	Written contribution from Eurocities 07/06/05
Community Action for the European Capital of Culture 2007-2013 COM(2005) 209	CdR 251/2005	EDUC	Mr Seamus Murray (IE/UEN-EA)	Associations consulted on 31/08/2005; written contribution from AVEC
European Youth Pact and promoting active citizenship. COM(2005) 206	CdR 253/2005	EDUC	Mr Roberto Pella (IT/EPP)	Associations consulted on 17/10/2005
Key competences for lifelong learning COM(2005) 548	CdR 31/2006	EDUC	Ms Christina Tallberg (SE/PES)	Associations consulted on 17/02/2006
A roadmap for equality between women and men COM(2006) 92	CdR 138/2006	ECOS	Ms Claudette Abela Baldacchino (MT/PES)	Associations CEMR, REVES, UDITE consulted on 19/06/2006
Coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the pursuit of television broadcasting activities COM(2005) 646 final	CdR 106/2006	EDUC	Mr Karl-Heinz Lambertz (BE/PES)	Eurocities, CEMR, AER, AEM, CRPM, CALRE consulted on 10/07/2006

COLLABORATION IN CONFERENCES AND FORUMS BETWEEN CoR AND ASSOCIATIONS

CONFERENCE/ FORUM	COMMISSION RESPONSIBLE	ASSOCIATION INITIATIVE	PLACE	DATE	COOPERATION WITH ASSOCIATIONS
Reform of Cohesion Policy	COTER		Krakow	19/09/05	Participation of ARFE, CRPM; Eurocities; Arclatin, President of Diputacion de Barcelona
2 nd Subsidiarity conference	CONST		London	29 /11/05	Participation of CEMR, CPMR, Eurocities, AER
E-government	EDUC		UK	22/09/05	Eurocities presented a project
Launch of the EU's Build-For-All programme	ECOS	CEMR / EUROCITIES	Brussels	22/11/05	CEMR and Eurocities organised
Delocalisation of European enterprises	ECOS		Edinburgh	28/11/05	Eurocities, CEMR invited
Conference on rural development	DEVE	AER organised	Gloucester UK	20-21/10/05	Participation of AER; Bertrand, Day held speeches
RELEX External meeting on Enlargement	RELEX		Cyprus	15/09/05	Participation of CEMR, AER, CLRAE
Regions boosting the Lisbon Strategy	ECOS	AEM	Brussels	15-16/11/2005	Associations participated
Regions and Cities as Catalysts for Research and Innovation	ECOS		Brussels	05-07/07/2005	Associations participated
EU Urban Policies for Dynamic Cities	COTER		Brussels	25-27/04/2006	Participation of CEMR and Eurocities' Presidents

CONFERENCE/ FORUM	COMMISSION RESPONSIBLE	ASSOCIATION INITIATIVE	PLACE	DATE	COOPERATION WITH ASSOCIATIONS
Mutual Learning Platform – Research policy at the local and regional level	Policy analysis service		Brussels	06-07/07/2005	Participation of Eurocities, CEMR
Territorial Dialogue Lisbon Strategy	Policy analysis service		Brussels	01/03/2005	Participation of AER, AEBR, Eurocities, CPMR, CEMR, ARF