



<p><b>European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Local and Regional Government</b></p> <p><b>Summary report of the plenary meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006 (Brussels)</b></p>
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### **1. Welcome and adoption of draft agenda**

Anders Hammarbach, chair of EPSU's Committee on Local and Regional Government, chaired the meeting for the first time, replacing Mr Aleksander Aagaard, the former chair of CEMR's Employers Platform.

Following a *tour de table* of participants (see list in annex), the draft agenda for the meeting was adopted.

### **2. Assessment of the implementation of the 2004-2005 work programme**

A written report on the implementation of the 2004-2005 work programme was presented to the Committee (see Annex 1).

Both CEMR and EPSU members expressed their satisfaction with the results and considered that the activities undertaken in the past two years provided a solid basis for the future. It was acknowledged that the two organisations can build on their first work programme to further strengthen participation in the Committee and to continue to identify and find responses to areas of common interest.

*The report was adopted.*

### **3. Presentation, discussion and adoption of the 2006-2007 work programme**

The draft work programme was presented to the Committee.

After discussion, a number of modifications were agreed, i.e:

- The issue of promoting life-long learning will be integrated into the discussions on demographic ageing rather than being tackled as a separate item;
- Similarly, work in the equality field will be focused on gender equality plans rather than monitoring the application of the relevant EC legislation, with a view to make the work programme more manageable;
- the reference to the Green Paper on new forms of work organisation will be omitted for the time being (until the parties see the actual EC proposal).

*The work programme was adopted<sup>1</sup>.*

#### **4. Working group on addressing the demographic challenges (6<sup>th</sup> June)**

A number of comments were made to help prepare the first discussion on this item at the working group meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June. These referred to:

- Adopting a multi-generational approach (taking account of the needs of young people as well as older workers);
- The development of life-long learning, re-skilling and career paths opportunities;
- Strategies to attract young workers into public administration and services (including by making job satisfaction more visible; recruiting ethnic/immigrant communities; possibly reducing education requirements);
- Anticipating changes in the quality and types of service provision (particularly in the elderly care and education sectors);
- Promoting the gradual retirement of workers and the transfer of their knowledge through mentorship schemes;
- Addressing the lack of statistics on age profiles.
- Tackling the macro-economic aspects of the demographic challenge (e.g. its impact on local authority finances and on the comparability of wages and working conditions with the private sector);
- increasing the decentralisation of responsibilities to the local and regional levels.

Colleagues also referred to recent studies conducted by the Dublin Foundation, notably on comparing the levels of productivity in the public and private sectors and on the role of collective bargaining in developing measures to reconcile work and family life.

*The Secretariat will take these comments on board in preparing an agenda for the June meeting.*

#### **5. Promoting social dialogue in the new Member States and in candidate countries**

Tina Weber (ECOTEC Consulting) presented the main findings of the 2005 study (see her presentation attached), discussed at the Conference on 14 October 2005 in Budapest.

In the ensuing discussion, EPSU and CEMR members stressed the need to focus both on the content and the process of social dialogue, and to support the development of social dialogue structures at sectoral level.

*These points, which are also mentioned in the minutes of the Conference in Budapest, will be followed up at the working group meeting on capacity building on 20 March 2006.*

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<sup>1</sup> The programme as adopted is available on the website of CEMR:  
[http://www.ccre.org/champs\\_activites\\_detail\\_news\\_en.htm?ID=721&idca=3124](http://www.ccre.org/champs_activites_detail_news_en.htm?ID=721&idca=3124)

## **6. Any other business**

The Commission reported that there is some uncertainty over the meetings scheduled to take place in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

CEMR and EPSU secretariats will follow this up and inform the members accordingly.

(.../...)

## **ANNEX: List of participants to the meeting**

### **CEMR:**

Radka SOUKUPOVA, SMOCR (Czech Republic); Jesper KELSTRUP, LGDk/Brussels office (Denmark); Ille ALLSAAR, Association of Estonian Cities (AEC), Anne-Ly REIMAA, AEC/Brussels office (Estonia); Jorma Palola and Marja TAST, Commission for Local Authority Employers (Finland); Uwe LÜBKING, DSTGB, Andrea VONTZ, German Association of Cities/Brussels office (Germany); Dimitrios BIRBAS, KEDKE, Katerina KARAVOLA, KEDKE/Brussels office (Greece); Eamonn HUNT, LGMSB (Ireland); Sigita KASPARAITIS, Vilkauskis District Municipality and Audrone VAREIKYTE, Association of local authorities in Lithuania, (Lithuania) ; Aase ERDAL & Dag Bjørnar JONSRUD, Marit SCHWEIKER, NALRA/Brussels office (Norway); Jokin BILDARRATZ SORRON, Mayor of Tolosa/EUDEL, Mar ZABALA, EUDEL (Spain); Claes-Håkan JACOBSON, SALAR (Sweden); James MUTTER, COSLA, Kelvin SCORER, and Phil White, Employers' Organisation for Local Government (United Kingdom).

For the Secretariat: Angelika POTH-MÖGELE & Asli OZCERI.

### **EPSU :**

ANDREAOU Christakis, PASYDY (Cyprus); JØRGENSEN Peter Kvist, FOA, RASTEN Bengt, DKK (Denmark); LIIVAMÄGI Kalle, ROTAL (Estonia); KEHÄLINNA Heikki, JHL (Finland); BECUWE Serge, FO Santé (France); BERNARD Joëlle and LE TOURNEUX Yves,, CFDT Interco, BOUVERET Lise, CGT (France) ; STERNATZ Renate, Ver.di (Germany) ; NIKITAS Giannis, ADEDY (Greece); PETRAITIENE Irena, LVDPS (Lithuania); BERGER Sveinung, KFO (Norway); HAMMARBÄCK Anders, SKTF (Sweden); JONSSON Anders, Kommunal? NIELSEN Dan, SKTF (Sweden).

For the Secretariat: Penny CLARKE

### **Other :**

Tina WEBER, ECOTEC Consulting  
François ZIEGLER, European Commission

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