



European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Local and Regional Government

Working group meeting of 31st October 2006

from 9h30 to 16h00 at the Centre Borschette
(36 Rue Froissart, 1040 Bruxelles)

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to our next working group meeting of the sectoral social dialogue Committee, which will take place on 31st October in Brussels at the “Borschette” meeting centre.

This meeting will address the following issues that are currently on the agenda of our Committee, as part of the implementation of our 2006-2007 work programme:

1. The drawing up of a joint CEMR-EPSU document on age management in local and regional government. This has been suggested at our working group meeting of 6th June 2006, which addressed demographic issues. The joint text could take the form of either voluntary guidelines on age management, or a joint response to the upcoming consultation by the European Commission of the European social partners on measures to facilitate work-life reconciliation, which should be available by the time of our meeting. As a first step towards the production of such a joint text, we would like to invite you to present and distribute at our meeting of 31st October material on existing joint arrangements (toolkits, voluntary guidelines, collective agreements, etc) developed by trade unions and employer organisations to specifically support work-life reconciliation and/or active ageing in local and regional government¹. In countries where such measures do not exist, EPSU and CEMR members will be invited to provide their views on the commitments that a joint text developed at European level could include from their perspective.
2. The joint statement on social dialogue in local and regional government, which will be adopted at our plenary meeting of 29th November 2006. A first draft of this statement will be circulated to you shortly, by separate mailing.
3. The CEMR-EPSU project on evaluating the experience in different forms of service provision, which we plan to submit to the European Commission and hope to carry out in 2007 with the EU's financial support (see enclosed summary of the project).

Please find enclosed the draft agenda for the meeting. You will also find attached, a participation form which we ask you to return to our respective secretariats by 18th October.

The European Commission will reimburse after the meeting the travel and accommodation costs for up to 30 participants (15 CEMR, 15 EPSU) from the 25 EU Member States only.

Yours sincerely,

Carola Fischbach-Pyttel
EPSU General Secretary

Jeremy Smith
CEMR General Secretary

¹ An example of such measures is given by a “guidance document on work-life balance”, which was developed in 2001 in the UK. See: http://www.lge.gov.uk/our_work/publications/findingbalance.html



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DRAFT PROGRAMME (*version 2.10.2006*)

- 09h30 **Welcome, introduction and presentation of participants**
- 09h45 **Follow-up to the working group meeting of 6th June on addressing demographic changes**
- Presentations of jointly agreed texts by CEMR and EPSU members on promoting work-life reconciliation and/or active ageing in local and regional government
 - Discussion on the content of a possible CEMR-EPSU document on age management in local and regional government (voluntary guidelines or joint response to the upcoming EU consultation on work-life reconciliation)
- (12h30-14h00: Lunch break)*
- 14h00 **Joint statement on social dialogue in local and regional government**
- First exchange of views on the basis of a draft text of the statement
- 15h00 **Joint CEMR-EPSU project on evaluating the experience in different forms of service provision**
- Discussion on the proposed content and methodology
 - Exchange of information on local and regional government practices that could be selected as case studies for the project
 - Setting up of a steering group to supervise the project (+/- 5 members per side)
- 16h00 **Close of the meeting**