

Council of European Municipalities and Regions
Conseil des Communes et Régions d'Europe

CCRE
CEMR



Presentation of the
EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR EQUALITY
of women and men in local life

FEMCITIES Conference - Vienna
December 2007

INTRODUCTION TO CEMR

- ★ members in 36 countries
- ★ 49 national associations of local and regional authorities
 - *In Lithuania: Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania - Lietuvos Savivaldybiu Asociacija*
- ★ 100 000 towns and regions
- ★ **President:** Mayor and Governor of Vienna, Dr Michael Häupl
- ★ **Secretariat General:** Jeremy Smith and a team of around 20, working in Paris and Brussels





Activities

- ★ Influencing **European legislation**
- ★ Strengthening the local and regional **contribution** to the development of the EU
- ★ Supporting **exchanges of experience** at local and regional level
- ★ Cooperating with our **partners** in the world

Fields of activity



- ★ Employment
- ★ Energy
- ★ Environment
- ★ **Equal opportunities**
- ★ Governance & future of the EU
- ★ Information society
- ★ International local government
- ★ Local and Regional democracy
- ★ Local and regional government as an employer
- ★ North-South Cooperation
- ★ Public services / Procurement
- ★ Regional Policy
- ★ Social affairs
- ★ Sustainable development
- ★ Town twinning
- ★ Transport
- ★ Urban and rural policies

CEMR and W/M equality

➤ before the Charter (1/3)

- ★ 1983: 1st Conference of European women elected representatives of local and regional authorities, in Pisa
- ★ Followed by conferences of: Santiago de Compostela (1986), Antwerp (1988), Heidelberg (1992), Dublin with over 600 European women elected representatives (1995)
- ★ 1991: creation of a Standing Committee of women elected representatives of local and regional authorities for the participation of women in local political life

Current Chair: **Vicenta Bosch Palanca**, Mayor of Bonrepos i Mirambel / Spain



CEMR and W/M equality

➤ before the Charter (2/3)



- ★ Since its creation, CEMR's Committee of women elected representatives of local and regional authorities has organised seminars for training, information, awareness raising and networking to encourage women's participation in local political life in all countries where CEMR has members
- ★ The Committee also carries out lobbying of Institutions on the importance of undertaking proactive measures for equality

CEMR and W/M equality

➤ before the Charter (3/3)

- ★ 2003: launch of the project “The European Town for Equality”, with the support of the European Commission, circulating examples of best practice for gender equality in European towns
- ★ 2005: publication of the methodology “The Town for Equality”



The European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life



- ★ Project launched in 2005 to promote the political commitment of local and regional authorities to achieve greater equality for their people
- ★ Support from the European Commission:
under 5th community action programme for equality between women and men
- ★ Drawn up in 2005-2006 by CEMR in collaboration with the project partners and its national associations of European local and regional authorities (Final Conference in February 2006, Brussels)
- ★ An outcome reconciling different visions of equality in Europe

Project partners

- ★ National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria
- ★ Union of Cyprus Municipalities
- ★ Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic (SMO CR)
- ★ Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities
- ★ French Section of CEMR (AFCCRE)
- ★ German Section of CEMR (RGRE)
- ★ Central Union of Municipalities and Communities of Greece (KEDKE)
- ★ Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities (TÖOSZ)
- ★ Italian Section of CEMR (AICCRE)
- ★ Tuscan Federation of AICCRE
- ★ Association of Luxembourg Towns and Municipalities (SYVICOL)
- ★ Association of Polish Cities (ZMP)
- ★ Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP)
- ★ Basque Association of Municipalities (EUDEL)
- ★ City of Vienna
- ★ City of Saint Jean de la Ruelle
- ★ City of Frankfurt am Main
- ★ City of Cartagena
- ★ City of Valencia
- ★ Agency of Time and Mobility Belfort-Montbéliard
- ★ Standing Committee Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of the Local and Regional Authorities (COPPEM)



Objectives of the Charter



- ★ Addressed to local & regional governments: levels **closest to the citizens**
- ★ So that local actors take a **strong and formal public commitment** to the principle of equality by signing the Charter
- ★ Encourages signatory authorities **to engage** with the institutions and organisations in their territories, promoting achievement of **real equality in practice**



The Charter: 5 major sections (1/2)

- ★ Introduction and preamble:

Defining the aims, reaffirming the principle of subsidiarity (action taken at level with the most appropriate competence for a given task), equality reaffirmed as fundamental right

- ★ Part I: 6 fundamental principles

- ★ Part II: commitments taken by signatory

The Charter: 5 major sections (2/2)



- ★ Part III: measures laid out by area of competences of local & regional authorities: 30 articles presented under following areas:

- Democratic accountability
- Political role
- General framework for equality
- The employer role
- Public procurement and contracts
- Service delivery role
- Planning and sustainable development
- Regulator Role
- Twinning and international co-operation

THE CHARTER IS ... (1/2)



- ★ A European text, taking into account the different competences of European local and regional authorities, in their different forms from one country to another
- ★ A legal instrument, laying down rights
- ★ Based on the principle of egalitarian democracy, demanding political equality of women and men

THE CHARTER IS ... (2/2)



- ★ **Practical:** the Charter does not only present basic rights, it proposes **concrete methods** by which these can be pursued
- ★ Based on **gender analysis** (W/M gendered statistics)
- ★ **Proactive**, it goes beyond condemning the persistence of inequalities, and encourages positive actions

THE CHARTER AND CEMR



- ★ **A political instrument of CEMR:** adopted by the elected representatives of our Policy Committee, launched during the Innsbruck General Assembly (2006), promoted by the national associations
- ★ **A major success:** signatures from 600 local & regional authorities (at October 2007)
- ★ **Now exists in no less than 16 languages:**
cestina - Deutsch - eesti keel - ελληνικά - English - español - euskara - français - italiano - latviesu valoda - Magyar - Nederlands - português - slovenčina - suomi - svenska
- ★ A demanding text, but which can be **implemented gradually**

CEMR WORKING FOR EQUALITY - 25 YEARS OF ACTION



★ **20-21 February 2008, Pisa/Italy: final stage of the project**

European Conference of Local and Regional Elected Women Representatives,
“ACT LOCALLY FOR EQUALITY”

Information:

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FOR MORE INFORMATION +

★ To download your copy of the Charter:

http://www.ccre.org/docs/banner_charter_en.doc



**THE EUROPEAN CHARTER
FOR EQUALITY OF WOMEN AND MEN IN LOCAL LIFE**

A Charter for Europe's local and regional governments to commit themselves to use their powers and partnerships
to achieve greater for their people

I the under-signed (name of signatory)
holding the office of
In (name of local / regional government)

by this my signature confirm that the above-mentioned authority has formally agreed to adhere to the European Charter for Equality
of Women and Men in Local Life, and to comply with its provisions, and that I am duly authorized to act on its behalf in this matter.

Signed
Dated.....

I agree to send a signed and completed copy of this form to the Council of European Municipalities and Regions
as promoter of the Charter, at the following address :


The Secretary General
Council of European Municipalities and
Regions
15 rue de Richelieu
F-75001 Paris - France