

## **DRAFT PROGRAMME**

(as of 21 November 2013)

### **“1953-1988-2013: Decentralisation at a crossroads”**

#### **Joint seminar between CEMR and the Congress**

Strasbourg, 26 November 2013, Room 1, Palais de l'Europe

*Interpretation: English/French/German/Italian/Spanish*

#### **Seminar and workshops moderator:**

**Mr Alex TAYLOR, Multilingual Journalist, TV and Radio moderator**

#### **10.00 OPENING SESSION**

##### Opening statements

- Congress President, Mr **Herwig VAN STAA**
- CEMR President, Mr **Wolfgang SCHUSTER**

*What is the situation of decentralisation in Europe? Does local democracy remain relevant today as the foundation of the European democratic system?*

#### **10.30 WORKSHOP I: “CRISIS AND TEMPTATION TO RECENTRALISE: BETTER GOVERNANCE AT THE EXPENSE OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY?”**

##### Keynote address:

- Mr **Giorgio ORSONI**, Mayor of Venice (Italy), Vice president of CEMR and President of AICCRE Veneto.

##### Speakers:

- Representative of the Strasbourg City Hall (France) (tbc)
- Mr **Clemens LAMMERSKITTEN**, Member of Lower Saxony Parliament (Germany) and Vice-President of the Congress
- Ms **Ibone BENGOTXEA**, Deputy Mayor of Bilbao (Spain) and President of the Association of Basque Municipalities-EUDEL

*Discussion: What is the meaning of local democracy in a Europe hit by the crisis? Can the devolution of power be reversed through current recentralisation trends? How to advance in local democracy against this background?*

#### **11.30 COFFEE BREAK**

## 11.45 WORKSHOP II: “TOWARDS POLITICAL PARTNERSHIP: FOSTERING DIALOGUE BETWEEN LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS”

Keynote address:

- Mr **Anders KNAPE**, Councillor of Karlstad (Sweden), President of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) and Vice-President of the Congress

Speakers:

- Mrs **Sevdia UGREKHELIDZE**, Member of Tbilisi Assembly (Georgia) and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair of the Governance Committee of the Congress.
- Ms **Corrie NOOM**, Alderman of Zaanstad (Netherlands) and President of G32-Network organisation of Dutch Cities (Section Social Policies).
- Ms **Francine CRETТАZ**, Secretary General of the Swiss Association for the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (ASCCRE).

*Discussion: How to ensure the relevance and effectiveness of the regional and local contribution to national and European policy-making? How to strengthen partnership and political dialogue between national governments and local authorities, beyond service delivery?*

## 13.00 LUNCH

## 14.30 WORKSHOP III: “THE FUTURE OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY: DO WE NEED TO ADAPT THE EUROPEAN CHARTER OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT?”

Keynote address:

- Mr **Jan OLBRYCHT**, Member of the European Parliament for Silesian Voivodeship (Poland), Vice-Chair of the European Parliament's Group of the European People's Party, President of the URBAN Intergroup

Speakers:

- Mr **Lars O. MOLIN**, Chairman of the City Council of Örebro (Sweden) and President of the Monitoring Committee of the Congress
- Mr **Jean-Claude FRÉCON**, Member of the Municipal Council of Pouilly-lès-Feurs (France), Member of the French Senate and President of the Congress Chamber of Local Authorities
- Ms **Sonia DUBOURG-LAVROFF**, Deputy Mayor of Bordeaux (France) and Chair of the CEMR Committee on Governance and Citizenship

*Discussion: Reconciling global and local: can we decentralise while globalising?*

## 16:15 COFFEE BREAK

## 16.30 – 17.30 CLOSING SESSION

Round table, including the chairs of the three workshops

Closing statements and presentation of a joint declaration of the Presidents

- CEMR President, Mr **Wolfgang SCHUSTER**
- Congress President, Mr **Herwig VAN STAA**