

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

Secretary-General

COMMON ACTION PLAN 2008/2009 OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS ("COR") AND the CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF THE REGIONS WITH LEGISLATIVE POWERS ("REGLEG")

PREAMBLE

The Committee of the Regions and the Conference of Presidents of the Regions with Legislative Powers consider that it is in their common interests to agree a set of parameters and objectives to improve their working relationship.

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) is the only European Union body on which regions with legislative power are represented as of right. It is the voice of regional and local authorities in the European Union and, as such, has a crucial role to play in the EU decision making process.

REGLEG comprises seventy-three regions within the European Union that have legislative powers. These regions are responsible for transposing and implementing EU legislation and policies.

The Committee of the Regions and REGLEG already have a fruitful working relationship. Many of the members of the Committee of the Regions draw their mandate from REGLEG member governments and they play a full and constructive role in the Committee's work.

However there are concrete ways in which the Committee and REGLEG and its members can consolidate and deepen co-operation in areas of mutual interest. The establishment in 2006 of an Interregional Group of Regions with Legislative Powers, with support from the Committee of the Regions, is a good practical example of this. For the future, the work of the intergroup will be organised in a way that leads to focused input to the political process of the CoR and more visibility.

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REGLEG will cooperate with the CoR to enhance contacts between the CoR and the Council of Ministers.

This agreement aims to outline other practical mechanisms whereby the work of the CoR and REGLEG are mutually reinforcing.

OBJECTIVES

This agreement aims to enhance the existing co-operation between the Committee of the Regions and REGLEG to:

- ensure that the Committee of the Regions and REGLEG work together to maximise and defend the interests of the regions at the European level
- to contribute to the consultative work of the Committee of the Regions in particular in the field of subsidiarity monitoring
- develop a systematic and regular method of dialogue between the two organisations which will facilitate the sharing of information of mutual interest.

METHODS OF CO-OPERATION

The Secretaries-General of the Committee of the Regions and the Regions with Legislative Powers agree:

- that the President of the Committee of the Regions be invited to address the annual Conference of Presidents of Regions with Legislative Powers.
- the REGLEG Secretary-General will participate in the meetings organised between the Secretary-Generals of the CoR and the major European associations.
- that the Secretariat of the Committee of the Regions provide logistical support for meetings of the CoR Interregional Group of Regions with Legislative Powers for Members drawing their mandates from regional governments and assemblies with legislative power. The REGLEG Secretariat, together with colleagues in the CALRE Secretariat, will continue to provide administrative support to the group.
- that the CoR will invite REGLEG to the "task forces" for associations established to facilitate the contact between associations and CoR rapporteurs.
- REGLEG and the CoR will coordinate the organisation of conferences, seminars and events, and cooperate in order to enhance visibility and strength of these events. REGLEG and the CoR agree to organise together with CALRE a conference on the issue of subsidiarity in the course of 2008.

- REGLEG and the CoR will strive for high level political participation in the Structured Dialogues, especially the General Structured Dialogues on the Commission's legislative and work programme.
- the secretariats of the CoR and REGLEG will explore how to improve the coordination of their communication channels to increase the visibility and impact of their joint actions.
- the CoR and REGLEG will enhance the mutual use of the tools of communication (e.g. Newsletters, Websites, mutual presence of information stands at CoR or CALRE events, exchange of documents or reception of visitor groups). In this regard, REGLEG will explore in how far the regional publications/newsletters could introduce a regular column in which information on the European Union could be provided by the CoR president or CoR members. Support of the Lisbon Treaty ratification process will be one of the main communication goals.
- in order to bring Europe closer to its citizens the CoR and REGLEG envisage the organisation of round table debates in the member regions of REGLEG. Participants in these debates should be regional and local journalists, members of regional governments, members of the CoR and MEPs.
- the secretariats of the CoR and REGLEG will start a dialogue on implementation of the CoR's right of direct recourse to the European Court of Justice in the event of a breach of the principle of subsidiarity and the right to appeal to the Court to defend its own prerogatives.

Brussels, 19 May 2008



Gerhard Stahl



Geert Bourgeois