



MUNICIPAL NEWS

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NEW PREMISES FOR THE BRUSSELS OFFICE OF THE UNION OF CYPRUS MUNICIPALITIES

Two years after its initial opening, the Brussels Office of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities, has now moved to its new location.

As of April 2, our Brussels Office, along with the Offices of National Associations of local authorities from the majority of EU Member States, the association Eurocities and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions have a new common address, in the **European House of Cities Municipalities and Regions**.

This new common effort will facilitate collaboration among all its participants, while strengthening the presence of Local Authorities from the participating National and European Associations in Brussels.



Just like our previous premises, our new Office is located in the centre of Brussels (*Square de Meeûs 1, B-1000, Brussels, Belgium*), close to the European Parliament and the so called "European Triangle".

NEW PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE UNION OF CYPRUS MUNICIPALITIES

The General Assembly of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities for the election of a new President and Executive Committee of our Association took place on February 22, 2007.

Mr Andreas Christou, Mayor of Limassol was unanimously elected as the new President of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities. Regarding the Executive Committee, which, according to our Statute has eleven members (including the President), the following members were elected by consensus for the municipal period 2007-2011:

1. Savvas Vergas - Mayor of Pafos
2. Athos Eleftheriou - Mayor of Lapithos
3. Savvas Eliofotou - Mayor of Strovolos
4. Loucas Iatrou - Mayor of Lakatamia
5. Eleni Loucaidou - Mun. Councillor of Nicosia
6. Eleni Mavrou - Mayor of Nicosia
7. Christos Messis - Mayor of Mesa Yitonia
8. Andreas Moiseos - Mayor of Larnaca
9. Charalambos Pittas - Mayor of Morphou
10. Kostakis Hadjidakou - Municipal Councillor of Famagusta



The new Executive Committee held its first meeting immediately after its election and elected Mr Christos Messis, Mayor of Mesa Yitonia (who held this rank during the previous municipal period) as its Vice-President.

During that first meeting, the Executive Committee decided to meet again soon a second time to define the main objectives and priorities of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities for the new municipal period.

Renewed Declaration of Common Interest between the Union of Cyprus Municipalities and the Committee of the Regions

The successful implementation of the initial Declaration of Common Interest between the Secretariat of the Committee of the Regions and the Secretariat of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities during 2006, has encouraged the two parties to sign a new Declaration for the year 2007.



The new Declaration was signed in Brussels on January 24, 2007 by the Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions, Mr. Gerhard Stahl, and the General Secretary of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities, Mr. Athos Germanos, and sets a framework for the cooperation of the two parties on a number of issues like:

- the participation of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities in the regular structured dialogue between the President of the European Commission and associations of regional and local authorities
- the offer of expertise and advice from the Union of Cyprus Municipalities to the Committee of the Regions on issues concerning the Local Authorities of Cyprus
- the enhanced monitoring of the implementation of the principle of subsidiarity
- the enhanced coordination of the communication channels of the two parties and
- the increase in possibilities for mutual participation in conferences organised by each party.

More precisely, under the declaration, the Committee of the Regions Secretariat agrees to include again for the year 2007 the Union of Cyprus Municipalities among the National Associations which are invited to take part in the regular structured dialogue between the President of the European Commission and associations of regional and local authorities.

For its part, the Union of Cyprus Municipalities states that it will inform the Committee of the Regions if it foresees any specific problems arising in Cyprus from the

implementation of proposed EU legislation.

The declaration highlights the expertise that the Union of Cyprus Municipalities can bring to the work of the Committee of the Regions, such as support for its Commissions in their assistance to rapporteurs and assistance to monitor the implementation of the principle of subsidiarity.

The Secretaries General also pledge to continue taking steps for the improvement of the coordination of their communication channels (websites, newsletters) and to maximise possibilities for mutual participation in conferences organised by each party.

In particular, they stress the point that within the framework of their renewed collaboration they would co-organise in April 2007 two seminars in Cyprus, with the participation of CoR members and staff as speakers. The first seminar would be on the subject of Participatory Democracy and the second one on the subject of Public-Private Partnerships.



The initial declaration was signed by Mr. Gerhard Stahl, and Mr. Athos Germanos, on September 9, 2005 and has substantially enhanced cooperation between the two organisations.

It is also important to note that that the initial declaration has been the first ever to be signed between the Committee of the Regions and a National Association of Local Authorities.

The renewal of the agreement for 2007 constitutes an indication of the satisfaction of the two parties for their collaboration until now, as well as of their common wish to further develop their collaboration in the aforementioned issues, and it is expected to turn out to be particularly beneficial for the Municipalities of Cyprus.

**UCM Brussels Office:
OPEN DAYS – European
week of Regions and Cities
PARTNER OFFICE**

The Brussels Office of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities has now been officially declared as the Head Office of one of the biggest conglomerates (*Network of Eastern External Border Regions*) participating in this year's edition of the Open Days - the European Week of Regions and Cities.



The 5th *OPEN DAYS-European Week of Regions and Cities* will be held between 8 and 11 October 2007 in Brussels for about 3,000 expected regional policy experts and practitioners.

Organised by the Committee of the Regions, the European Commission's Regional Policy Directorate General and a great number of regions, cities and other institutions and private partners from all over Europe, this year's headline is: "Making it happen: regions deliver growth and jobs".

About 100 workshops and sessions will focus on the new generation of cohesion policy programmes, which will be implemented in the course of 2007 in all European regions.

**CEMR twinning conference:
Rhodes, Greece, 10-12 May**

How to develop new types of twinning in my town? How to benefit from financial support? How can twinning contribute to social inclusion? These are but a few questions that will be addressed at the *Twinning for tomorrow's world* conference that the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) will be organising in Rhodes, on 10-12 May 2007, at the invitation of the Rhodes municipality and the Central Union of Municipalities and Communities of Greece (KEDKE), and with the support of the European Commission.



For over half a century CEMR has been the standard-bearer of twinning in Europe; CEMR's contribution, for instance, has been crucial to the creation of a European programme to support twinning: a programme which has helped to develop that movement.

As the link between municipalities and the European institutions, CEMR's brief is also to ensure that this programme be adequately funded and structured so that a maximum of municipalities may benefit from it.

The Rhodes conference will coincide with the launch of the European Commission's «Europe of citizens» (2007-2013) programme, a substantial part of which is about funding twinning.

This new programme will be simultaneously presented in Brussels and Rhodes via a live video-link, making it possible to hear European Commission representatives describe the programme as well as to ask them questions that matter to you.

In working groups, we will debate the added value of twinning in a number of issues that are relevant to European municipalities, such as social inclusion, involving young people in local life, protecting cultural heritage, local economic development... We will also see how developing relations with towns across the world can help build an open Europe.

The Rhodes conference will also be your chance to meet mayors from over forty countries, to meet your future twinning partners, to tell them about your municipality and to discover theirs.

Around 600 participants are expected, representatives of small municipalities or large cities from Europe and beyond, citizens active in twinning, associations of local government, representatives of European institutions and international experts.

From 10 to 12 May 2007, Rhodes will be the center of European twinning. As a participant, you will be able to help imagine and define innovative and efficient twinning actions for Europe in the 21st century.

**Anders Knappe
Chair of twinning working group of
the Council of European Municipalities and
Regions (CEMR)**

For more information and registration to the conference, you can visit: www.ccre.org

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THE UNION OF CYPRUS MUNICIPALITIES

The Union of Cyprus Municipalities was established in 1981. Even though membership is voluntary, all municipalities (33), accounting for 65 per cent of the population of Cyprus, are represented.

The main objective of the Union is to contribute to the development of local government autonomy, as well as to act as spokesman of local government interests vis-à-vis the central government and other national organisations and institutions.

The Union's decision-making power is vested in the General Assembly, which may look into and decide for all issues. The Executive Committee implements decisions taken by the General Assembly. The President of the Union represents the Union before any authority, while the Secretary is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Union.

The Union follows closely and participates in international activities related to Local Authorities and in recent years, especially after the accession of the Republic to the EU, it takes an active stand and develops relations with organisations, institutions and departments of the European Union that concern Local Authorities. In this regard, the Union has, since July 2005, opened an Office in Brussels.

UNION OF CYPRUS MUNICIPALITIES

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