

Working Group on e-Democracy

*Coordinator: Mr. Juan Pablo Durán Sánchez,
President of the Andalusian Parliament (Spain)*

Activity report III CALRE Standing Committee

Milan, 22 October 2015

On 16 April last, after the regional elections of 22 March, Mr. Juan Pablo Durán Sánchez was elected President of the Andalusian Parliament.

After being elected, president Durán expressed to the president of CALRE, Mr. Raffaele Cattaneo, both his commitment to the Conference of the European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE) and his satisfaction at being part of this body as a member of the Standing Committee and coordinator of the Working Group on e-Democracy.

During this new Legislature, the Andalusian Parliament, as coordinator of the WG on e-Democracy, is maintaining the lines of action set up in the Working Schedule presented at the First Standing Committee in March, which is available both on CALRE website (www.calrenet.eu) and on the space dedicated to CALRE on the website of the Andalusian Parliament (www.parlamentodeandalucia.es/opencms/export/portal-web-parlamento/calre/calre.htm).

The CALRE Working Group on e-Democracy, in its 2015 edition, consists of eighteen regional parliaments and assemblies from six European countries:

Styria (Austria), Salzburg (Austria), Vlaans (Belgium), Walloon Region (Belgium), Wallonia-Brussels (Belgium), Andalusia (Spain), General Council of the Principality of Asturias (Spain), the Canary Islands (Spain), Extremadura (Spain), Galicia (Spain), Murcia (Spain), Åland Islands (Finland), Abruzzo (Italy), Lombardy (Italy), Molise (Italy), Piedmont (Italy), Umbria (Italy) and the Azores (Portugal).

Second quarter 2015

Once the objectives for the first quarter of the year were achieved, and both the Working Programme and the incorporation of the WG members defined, the second quarter was dedicated, as had been previously established, to data collection for the preparation of the studies on e-Democracy and Transparency as provided for in the lines of action of the Working Group.

In April, all the parliaments and assemblies of CALRE were sent two questionnaires to prepare the *“Report on Good Practice and Innovative Projects on e-Democracy”* and the study on the *“Implementation of Public Transparency in European regional assemblies and parliaments”*.

The questionnaire on e-Democracy maintains items and control questions similar to those of the 2013 and 2014 forms in order to evaluate the evolution of the implementation and development of e-Democracy over the three editions of the WG.

The specific study on Transparency, one of the novelties of this year’s edition, has a design similar to that established by the agencies and bodies assessing Transparency in public institutions internationally, although, in this case, it has been adapted to the activity and demand for information generated by legislative assemblies.

Third quarter 2015

The third quarter of this year has been dedicated to processing the data of the questionnaires sent in April and to preparing the reports on e-Democracy and Transparency in the CALRE assemblies and parliaments. Altogether, 26 parliaments have collaborated with the Working Group on e-Democracy by completing the questionnaires for the study.

The Andalusian Parliament would like to express its satisfaction and thank the CALRE assemblies for their response and participation in this edition,

which has increased by 20 percent over the 2013 (21 participants) and 2014 (22 participants) editions.

Fourth quarter 2015

On 5 and 6 October 2015, the CALRE Working Group on e-Democracy held a meeting at the Andalusian Parliament (Seville, Spain) with thirty representatives, including seven presidents from twelve assemblies and parliaments belonging to the WG on e-Democracy for this edition.

During this meeting, the studies on e-Democracy and Transparency in CALRE assemblies and parliaments were presented, in compliance with the lines of action established in the Working Programme of the Group on e-Democracy and with the objectives set up at the beginning of this year.

This meeting also had the attendance of the experts Mr. César Calderón, a specialist in Open Government, Transparency, Participation and Communication, and Mr. Manuel Becerril González de la Mata, Secretary of the Spanish Delegation of the European Foundation for the Information Society, who participated in the panel on *“Proposals for the improvement of e-Democracy, Citizen’s Participation and Transparency”*. During the meeting, models of good e-Democracy and Transparency practices were presented by the parliaments of Salzburg (Austria) and Cantabria (Spain).

The meeting concluded with the presentation of the final document containing the conclusions and proposals made by the Working Group on e-Democracy, which will be submitted to the Plenary Assembly of the Conference of the European Regional Legislative Assemblies.

Seville, 14 October 2015