

Conference of the Regional Legislative Assemblies of the European Union

CALRE 2015 PROGRAMME

1. INCREASE REPRESENTATIVENESS AND STRENGHT OF CALRE

CALRE should increasingly become the powerful, authoritative and valued voice of the Regional

European Legislative Assemblies. It should be a "megaphone", an Association which represents

our interests exponentially. It should seek to increase even more its representativeness within the

European institutions because the strength of an Association of this kind is its capacity to

represent its needs as much as possible and, through our work, the requirements of regional

territories, Local Authorities and Intermediate Entities. Calre, moreover, should continue along

the line set by its previous managements and be an effective joint platform within which we can

work together to share a strong position on the contents and the drafting of community

legislation.

2. ASSESSING THE CONTENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROGRAMME

We are at the beginning of a new European cycle. If 2014 was the year during which we voted

for the European Parliament and the new Commission was formed, 2015 will be the year during

which the new Commission and the new European Parliament will become fully operative. So it

will be possible, or even mandatory, to actively participate in this new political cycle, assessing the

merit of the key measures planned for the 2014-2020 period. For this reason, it is strategically

important:

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1. that we thoroughly examine the European Commission Programme,

2. that we especially pay attention to the **Cohesion Policy**.

3. In addition, assuming that Europe wishes to go back to grow, Europe should recognize and

enhance its diversities rather than seeking to smooth them out. **Microregional strategies** are

important instruments and Calre is a privileged venue to deal with this matter.

The greater qualitative support on the merit of community policies we, as a political and

regional representative body, can **grant**, the greater the possibility for us will be of undertaking a

cooperation and sharing ideas with the European Commission, especially during the pre-

legislative phase.

It will be very important sharing the recently published work programme of the European

Commission in order to point out the more meaningful issues on which practising the Subsidiarity

and merit control.

This topic will be put on the agenda of the First CALRE Standing Committee.

3. FOSTERING AND UPGRADING THE SUPPORT OF THE WORKING GROUPS

Working groups are a resource and an essential and absolutely necessary part of Calre.

Working groups will be increasingly asked to give their precious support by working on the

merit of policies, by carrying out in-depth analyses on the contents of the Annual Commission

Programme, with the prospect, I hope, that they will be able to provide opinions and observations

on the merit of such contents.

The Calre 2015 Working Groups are:

• Subsidiarity – coordinated by the Vice President of the Bavaria Landtag, Reinhold Bocklet.

• E-democracy – coordinated by the President of the Parliament of Andalusia, Manuel Gracia

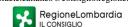
Navarro.

• Immigration, Social Politics and Human rights - coordinated by the President of the

Regional Council of Molise, Vincenzo Niro.

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CALRE PRESIDENCY 2015
Regional Council of Lombardy
Brussels: 2, Place du Champ de Mars - 1050 Bruxelles
Tel. 0032.02.51876.00 - Fax 0032.02.5187626
Via Fabio Filzi, 22 - 20124 Milano - Tel. 0039.02.67482207/06
e-mail: Raffaele.cattaneo@consiglio.regione.lombardia.it



Cohesion Policy - coordinated by the President of the Regional Council of Veneto,

Clodovaldo Ruffato.

Gender Equality – coordinated by the President of the Parliament of the National Assembly

for Wales, Rosemary Butler.

4. SUBSIDIARTY IS AND REMAINS A PRIORITY

The Subsidiarity Working Group continues to be strategic and essential to Calre. In my

opinion, next to our continuous work on the merit of the Subsidiarity check procedures and the

Early Warning System, we need to keep sharing ideas with the other European institutions on the

awareness of the political and cultural idea of Subsidiarity we have developed this year. For this, I

am thinking of, and I would like to invite the coordinator to consider the proposal of a great

European political debate, which focuses on the principle of subsidiarity involving the

political, economic, cultural and social players of the European landscape.

5. SHARING A SET OF BEST PRACTICES

The activity of the Regional Parliaments on European matters should be further implemented and

thoroughly analysed. I would like to propose a single document in which we will gather the best

practices and significant examples of management and participation in the European legislative

processes provided by some European regional parliaments. This could be a reference manual

available to all, which helps us learn the best from one another and understand what the Regions are

already implementing.

6. A "MARRIAGE" TO BE CELEBRATED: THAT WITH THE COMMITTEE OF THE

REGIONS

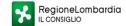
In line with the approach of my predecessors, the first body with which political relationships

had to be intensified was the Committee of the Regions which is facing a more copious

participation of the regional Parliaments' representatives.

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CALRE PRESIDENCY 2015 Regional Council of Lombardy Brussels: 2, Place du Champ de Mars - 1050 Bruxelles Tel. 0032.02.51876.00 - Fax 0032.02.5187626 Via Fabio Filzi, 22 - 20124 Milano - Tel. 0039.02.67482207/06 e-mail: Raffaele.cattaneo@consiglio.regione.lombardia.it



Given that the mandate of the Committee of the Regions is coming to an end and its renewal is due at the beginning of 2015, we should use the next few months to prepare some common work, together with the Committee of the Regions, that will involve the new Legislature from the beginning. Calre should feel at home within the Committee of the Regions and its role should be **central**. I am thus addressing my request to President Michel Lebrun to ensure that this proposal is supported, working immediately on the updating of a new effective implementation of the Protocol of cooperation with the Committee of the Regions. And maybe allowing Calre to present its working programme already during the Plenary Meeting of the 12th and 13th of February.

7. STRENGTHENING AND **INVESTING ON** THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY

DIALOGUE

The relationship with National Parliaments, the European Parliament and COSAC must be absolutely implemented so as to launch an effective inter-parliamentary system. It could be useful to the Regional Parliaments that Carle develops, by referring to concrete experiences, such as the Italian one (Subscription of the Protocol of cooperation on European matters between the Conference of the Presidents of Regional Councils and the Committee on "European policies" of the Italian Senate) a **framework protocol** between regional and national Parliaments and also a protocol with the European Parliament. It is also hoped that Calre will be able to take active part in the meetings of COSAC.

8. LET'S DEFINE OUR COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SOCIETY

The strength of CALRE will also be proportional to its ability to develop relationships and a cooperation with several public and private regional organisations operating at European level. I am thinking, for example, of economic and social organisations, universities, chambers of commerce, i.e. entities with which we could work on the items of the European political agenda. This work should be carried out in line with the subsidiarity approach by providing **opportunities**

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to meet within the Permanent Committee of CALRE and the working groups. We shouldn't be self-

referential but open, and support inclusiveness.

9. INTENSIFY RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE OTHER TERRITORIAL AND REGIONAL

ASSOCIATIONS

There is a network of institutions and organisations which continues to give voice to regional and

local expectations with which CALRE should continue to relate. I am thinking, for example, to

the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), the Assembly of the European Regions

(AER), the Conference of European Regions with Legislative Power (REGLEG) and the Congress

of the Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. With all of them we already have

collaborative relationships and Memoranda of Understanding which must be filled up with contents

and made operative.

10. THE FIRST WORLD FORUM OF REGIONAL AND SUBNATIONAL LEGISLATIVE

ASSEMBLIES

The other Conferences of regional and subnational Legislative Assemblies at world level (for

example the American NCSL, the National Assembly of Quèbec, The Japanese Local Councilors

Alliance, the TCF - Taiwan Local Councils Representatives Community Forum or the Association

of the Commonwealth Countries) represent an asset to CALRE because they allow CALRE to

understand and compare with different but valuable working methods and experiences. For this

reason, while continuing the work carried out by President Pilar Rojo Noguera, it is my intention to

develop a collaboration with all of them.

With this background we're organising the First World Forum of regional and subnational

Legislative Assemblies in Milan from the 22nd until the 24th at the same time as the annual plenary

meeting of CALRE and during the last days of EXPO 2015.

We established with NCSL in particular a significative relationship during the NCSL Executive

Committee which was held in New Orleans in January. On that occasion we put the basis for the

subscription of a Memorandum of Understanding. A CALRE delegation will join the Denver

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Executive Committee next June and the Legislative Summit expected in Seattle in August when the Memorandum will be signed.

CALRE 2015 AGENDA

DATE	CITY	CARLE'S BODY
12 th March	Brussels	1 st Standing Committee
7 th July	Brussels	2 nd Standing Committee
22 nd October	Milan	3 rd Standing Committee
22 nd - 23 rd - 24 th October	Milan	Plenary Session

World Forum of the Legislative Assemblies: 23rd and 24th October

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