



Conference of the Regional Legislative Assemblies of the European Union

## CALRE 2015 PROGRAMME

### 1. INCREASE REPRESENTATIVENESS AND STRENGTH 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:



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.

- 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.

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 Calre 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**



**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 22<sup>nd</sup> until the 24<sup>th</sup> 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

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 <sup>th</sup> March	Brussels	1 <sup>st</sup> Standing Committee
7 <sup>th</sup> July	Brussels	2 <sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee
22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Milan	3 <sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee
22 <sup>nd</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Milan	Plenary Session

### World Forum of the Legislative Assemblies: 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October