WORKING GROUP

ON E-DEMOCRACY

WORKING PLAN 2014

Coordinator: Manuel Gracia Navarro

President of the Parliament of Andalusia

1.- INTRODUCTION

During the CALRE Plenary Assembly held in Brussels on 21 and 22 October 2013, the President of the Parliament of Andalusia, Mr. Manuel Gracia Navarro, took the responsibility and commitment to continue coordinating, for second consecutive year, the Working Group on "e-Democracy".

The e-Democracy is based on the use of information technology and communication (ICT) in order to promote citizen participation and other institutions in the process of political decision making, develop interaction to increase transparency and citizens' trust in their institutions.

The development of e-democracy tools to promote citizen participation is even more essential in these times when the European Union is going through a difficult situation, given the economic and financial crisis, which has caused a social crisis and citizens' trust in democratic institutions.

The distance between citizens and their institutions must be combated and reduced. The European citizens claim to have a more active participation in the political decision making of modern parliaments. In this regard, it is crucial promote the concept of Open Parliament.

In this way, moving towards a more participatory democracy is to strengthen and ensure the legitimacy of the democratic system as a whole.

2.- OBJECTIVES

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The goals set in the working group E-Democracy during 2014 are as follows:

- Share good practice proposals on e-democracy to move towards a more participatory and modern democracy that responds to the demands of citizens.

- Continue to deepen the knowledge of the development of e-Democracy in the Legislative Assemblies of the CALRE.

- Further analysis tools and new channels of communication and participation of citizens with parliaments of European regions of CALRE.

- Increase knowledge on innovative projects that establish links between parliaments and citizens interact to increase public confidence in the institutions.

- Propose strategies based on e-democracy to all members of CALRE to attract young people to the interest by Public, Social issues and Politics.

- Foster relationships with research groups on participatory democracy from the Universities of CALRE regions' members.

- Increase the transparency and accountability of parliamentary activity.

- To share practices of "Open Parliament" between regional legislative assemblies of CALRE.

- Propose commitments CALRE all members to implement e-democracy in our parliaments.

- Develop proposals to move towards a more participatory and modern democracy to meet the demands of citizens.

3.- WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

The following Presidents of Assemblies are members of the Working group on e-Democracy:

WORKING GROUP E-DEMOCRACY 2014		
COUNTRY	PRESIDENT	PARLIAMENT
Coordinator SPAIN	 **Manuel Gracia Navarro (Coordinator)**	**Parliament of Andalusia**
SPAIN	 **Pilar Rojo Noguera**	**Parliament of Galicia** **President of CALRE**

SPAIN	 **Pedro Sanjurjo González**	**Junta General del Principado de Asturias**
SPAIN	 **Fernando Jesús Manzano Pedrera**	**Parliament of Extremadura**
SPAIN	 **Francisco Celdrán Vidal**	**Parliament of Murcia**

BELGIUM	**Françoise Dupuis**	**Parliament of the Region Brussels-Capital. Vicepresident of CALRE**
BELGIUM	**Jean-Charles Luperto**	**Parliament of the French Federation Wallonia-Brussels**
BELGIUM	**Patrick Dupriez**	**Parliament Wallon**
BELGIUM	**Bart Martens**	**Member of Bureau of the Flemish Parliament**

AUSTRIA	**Majcen Franz**	**Parliament of Styria**
AUSTRIA	**Brigitta Pallauf**	**Parliament of Salzburg**
FINLAND	**Britt Lundberg**	**Parliament of the Åland Islands**
ITALY	**Vicenzo Niro**	**Regional Council of Molise**

ITALY	**Emily Rini**	**Regional Council of the Aosta Valley**
ITALY	**Eros Brega**	**Conference of Presidents of Legislatives Assemblies of the Regions and Autonomous Provinces.** **Regional Council of Umbria**
ITALY	**Stefano Fracasso**	**Consigliere of the Regional Council of Veneto**
PORTUGAL	**Ana Luísa Luís**	**Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region of the Azores**

UNITED KINGDOM (WALES)	Rosemary Butler	National Assembly for Wales

Independently of belonging as members to the group, the Parliament of Andalusia invites all parliaments of CALRE to make contributions and actively participate in the activities organized by the working group in order to foster a debate that brings diversity and enriches all regional Assemblies of CALRE.

4.- ACTION LINES

The working group on e-Democracy will focus on the development of two main lines of action:

4.1. Analysis of good practices and innovative projects of e-Democracy, transparency and citizen participation in parliaments of CALRE

4.2. E-Democracy system with specific objectives in each phase of the e-Democracy

The development of each action line will be:

4.1. Analysis of good practices and innovative projects of e-Democracy, transparency and citizen participation in Parliaments of CALRE

Taking into account the results of the comparative study Report on e-Democracy of the Parliaments of CALRE approved by the working group e-Democracy last year, during 2014 we will develop an **Analysis of best practices in e-Democracy, transparency and citizen participation** of the Regional Legislative Assemblies of CALRE.

This line of work will focus on analyzing innovative projects of e-Democracy, transparency and citizen participation in the regions of the European Union.
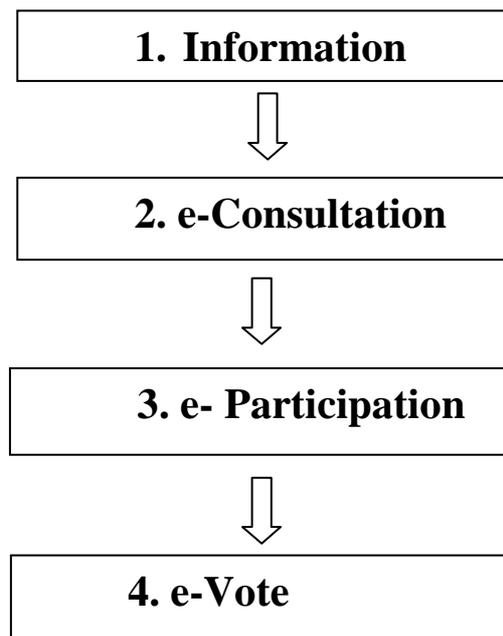
From the Parliament of Andalucía we are developing an innovative project on e-Democracy, transparency and citizen participation through the creation of a **Transparency Portal on the web of the Parliament.**

Besides this project, the working group will analyze other innovative projects of Parliaments of the European Union.

During the seminar meeting of the Working Group on e-Democracy, the **Report of good practices and innovative projects of e-Democracy, transparency and citizen participation** will be presented in the Parliament of Andalusia. This seminar will feature experts in the field and debate of working group members.

4.2. E-Democracy system with specific objectives in each phase of the e-Democracy

The e-Democracy system will consist of setting concrete targets for improving e-Democracy, based in each of its phases, showing the degree of participation and interaction between citizens and parliaments.

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│     1. Information       │
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│     2. e-Consultation    │
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┌─────────────────────────┐
│     3. e- Participation  │
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│       4. e-Vote          │
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This system will include e-Democracy tools such as spaces for consultation on the website of parliaments to perform citizenship questions and convey their concerns in order to analyze how to incorporate them into Parliament legislative activity. It will also be analyzed with tools of participation in formal social networks parliaments (Facebook, Twitter and Youtube) allowing stay connected and interact with citizens, with strategies for society as a whole, with special emphasis on youth.

The system will mark specific objectives on e-Democracy to be developed by the parliaments in the present and future, by the

agreement of the group members to implement e-democracy tools in our parliaments.

At the Plenary Assembly of the CALRE 2014, the results of the analysis, the conclusions of the expert seminars and the most innovative and new projects on e-Democracy will be presented.

5.- WORKING GROUP'S SCHEDULE

The calendar of activities of the CALRE working group on e-Democracy is as follows:

- **Octubre 22, 2014:** Appointment of Mr. Manuel Gracia Navarro, President of the Parliament of Andalusia, as Coordinator of the CALRE Working Group on e-Democracy 2014 in the Plenary Assembly of Brussels (Belgium) for second consecutive year.

- **From February until March 11, 2014**: Incorporation of the members to the Group on e-Democracy.

- **March 28, 2014**: I Standing Committee of CALRE 2014 in Brussels.

- **April/May 2014:** Compilation of innovative projects and best practices in e-Democracy, transparency and citizen participation of parliaments of CALRE.

- **June 12 and 13, 2014:** The Working group meeting and seminar on e-Democracy will be held in the Parliament of Andalusia, located in Seville. In this meeting, the **Report of good practice and innovative projects of e-Democracy, transparency and citizen participation** will be presented.

- **November 2014:** Presentation of the final report of the working group in the Plenary Assembly of the CALRE.