

MINUTES OF THE 2ND MEETING OF CALRE 2012 STANDING COMMITTEE

Innsbruck, 31st May 2012

In the city of Innsbruck, at 16.30 hours on 31st May 2012, the CALRE Standing Committee, met at the venue of the Congress Innsbruck, under the Presidency of Mr. Fernando Jesús Manzano Pedrera —CALRE 2012 President— and with the attendance of the participants mentioned below, previously called for this purpose, in order to discuss the following:

AGENDA

1. GREETING OF THE CALRE PRESIDENT
2. GREETING OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT OF TYROL, PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF REGIONS IN THE CONGRESS, MR. HERWIG VAN STAA.
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE CALRE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 20TH MARCH 2012
4. PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITY REPORT
5. ACTIVITY REPORT OF CALRE 2012 WORKING GROUPS
6. PROJECT ON THE EXCHANGE OF INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF MUTUAL KNOWLEDGE AMONG THE CALRE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES
7. PROJECT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF ABRUZZO ON THE COORDINATION OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE REGIONAL PARLIAMENT'S COMMISSIONS COMPETENT FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN CALRE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES
8. AMMENDMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INNSBRUCK DECLARATION
9. OTHER SUBJECTS

PARTICIPANTS

As members of the Standing Committee:

- **Mr. Fernando Manzano Pedrera**, President of the Parliament of Extremadura and CALRE President
- **Mr. Nazario Pagano**, President of Abruzzo Regional Council and CALRE Vice-President
- For Belgium, **Mr. Ferdel Schröder**, President of the Parliament of the German-speaking Community of Belgium
- For Germany, **Mr. Guido Wolf**, President of the Parliament of Baden-Wurtemberg
- For Austria, **Mr. Hans Penz**, President of Parliament of Lower Austria
- For Spain, **Mrs. Arantza Quiroga Cía**, President of the Basque Country
- for Portugal, **Mr. Francisco Coelho Cabral**, President of Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region of Azores
- For the Working Group on Regional Democracy, **Mrs. Pilar Rojo Noguera**, President of the Parliament of Galicia (Spain)
- For the Working Group on Subsidiarity, **Mr. Antonio Ángel Castro Cordobez**, President of the Parliament of the Canary Islands (Spain)
- For the Working Group on Financial Federalism, **Mr. Clodovaldo Ruffato**, President of the Regional Council of Veneto (Italy)
- For the Working Group on Rural and Urban Areas, **Mr. Eros Brega**, President of the Regional Council of Umbria (Italy)
- For the Working Group on Equality and Equal Gender Opportunities, **Mrs. Rosa Zelger Thaler**, President of the Regional Council of Trentino (Italy)

As guests:

- **Mr. Herwig Van Staa**, President of the Parliament of the Chamber of the Regions of the Congress for Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and President of the Parliament of Tyrol
- **Mr. Igor Radojicic**, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska
- **Mr. D. Christian Gsodam**, observer from the Committee of the Regions

Mr. Francisco Javier Ciriero Soletó –CALRE Secretary-General and Secretary-General of the Parliament of Extremadura— also attends the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #1. GREETING OF THE CALRE PRESIDENT

CALRE President opens the session at 16.30. He welcomes all the attendants and thanks them for their attendance. He particularly thanks President Mr. Van Staa —host of the International Conference— for the celebration of this Standing Committee meeting under the framework of the conference.

He also excuses the absence of those members of the Standing Committee who have not been able to attend the meeting or of those who will arrive later.

Then, the President introduces Mr. Igor Radojicic —President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska in Bosnia-Herzegovina, with whom he has got a meeting and whom he has invited to attend this meeting— to the members of the Standing Committee.

Then, in order to start with the second item of the agenda, he gives the floor to Mr. Van Staa.

AGENDA ITEM #2. GREETING OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT OF TYROL, PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF REGIONS IN THE CONGRESS, MR. HERWIG VAN STAA.

The President of the Chamber of the Regions in the Congress and President of the Parliament of Tyrol, Mr. Van Staa, thanks CALRE President for having accepted to hold this meeting within the framework of the International Conference that is celebrated at the same time in Innsbruck, at the initiative of the Council of Europe, and where the Congress, REGLEG and the Committee of

the Regions are also present and he says he hopes interesting meetings and successful conclusions could be drawn.

Furthermore, he reminds those present he knows very well how CALRE works since he was the CALRE President some years ago and finally, he wishes everyone they will enjoy the beauty of Tyrol, and he gives the CALRE President a book, as a friendship sign and as a souvenir of this visit to the city of Innsbruck.

The CALRE President thanks Mr. Van Staa for the gift and also for his speech. On the other hand, he takes the opportunity to express the Italian delegation present at the meeting, his most sincere congratulation to the President of the Parliament of the Region of Sicily for his election as the Coordinator of the Conference of the Presidents of the Italian Regional Parliaments, and also to transmit his sorrow for the dead and injured people due to the last earthquakes in the north of Italy.

AGENDA ITEM #3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE CALRE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 20TH MARCH 2012

In accordance with Article 10 of CALRE's Rules, the President presents the minutes of the previous Standing Committee meeting held in Brussels on 20th March 2012.

Since there are no objections to its contents, it is unanimously approved by consent by the members of the Standing Committee who are present.

AGENDA ITEM #4. PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITY REPORT

The CALRE President informs about the activities carried out during his Presidency since the last Standing Committee, and among those he highlights the meeting with the President of the European Parliament, in which it was suggested the implementation of collaboration lines between both bodies, or his attendance to the 5th Summit of Cities and Regions in Europe held in Copenhagen on 22nd and 23rd March, where he made a brief speech to express CALRE's position on the subject which was discussed at the mentioned Summit.

Within the framework of this Summit, he had the opportunity of meeting the President of the Committee of the Regions, Mrs. Bresso, with the aim of discussing an eventual signing of a new collaboration agreement, where it would be included the possibility of CALRE having a member in the Committee of the Regions with a vote.

He also had the opportunity of greeting the President of the European Commission, Mr. Barroso, whom he explained the aims of the institution he represents this year, and that will be discussed in greater detail in the meeting he will hold with him, probably in June, together with all the representatives of the European regional associations.

Finally, he explains the results of the meetings held in Innsbruck with Mr. Van Staa —President of the Chamber of the Regions in the Congress, and present at the Standing Committee— with Mr. Radojicic —President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska— as he had previously said, and with Mr. Lambertz —President of AEBR and of the Governance Committee of the Congress— with whom he has agreed to make a collaboration document between both associations that will be submitted for the consideration of the members of the Conference.

Similarly, he informs the members of the Standing Committee on the future celebration, in the month of July, of a summer course at the venue of the Parliament of Extremadura, jointly organised with the University of Extremadura, and that will discuss the foreign relations with the regional Parliaments in the European Union. He invites all the attendants to the course and ends his speech by reviewing the CALRE agenda for the current year, reminding that the next Standing Committee meeting will be held on 13th July in Cardiff, and points out that it is still under negotiation the possibility of holding a fourth meeting in Germany in September.

Mr. Penz —President of the Parliament of Lower Austria— asks the floor, firstly to praise the intention of CALRE's President to foster the relations with the Congress and also to express his praise to Mr. Van Staa for the organisation of the International Conference that is taking place. He also thanks the President the initiative of inviting the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska, since his opinion is very positive for the future integration of its country in the European Union.

The President welcomes the President of the Basque Country —and President of COPREPA— who has just joined the meeting and gives the floor to Mr. Radojicic.

The President of the National Assembly of Srpska, thanks the opportunity given to him by the CALRE President to attend this meeting and briefly describes the situation in his Republic, and ends expressing his wish of being part of the Conference in the future.

The CALRE President, giving the fact that Mr. Wolf, President of the Parliament of Baden-Wurtemberg has just arrived, takes the opportunity of asking him

about the negotiations for holding the 4th Standing Committee at the venue of any of the German regional Parliaments.

Mr. Wolf apologizes for his delay and informs the attendants that they are still seeing all the possibilities for holding the mentioned meeting, and says he hopes he will soon be able to give an answer shortly.

AGENDA ITEM #5. ACTIVITY REPORT OF CALRE 2012 WORKING GROUPS

Firstly, Mrs. Rojo Noguera —President of the Parliament of Galicia and coordinator of the Working Group on Regional Democracy— speaks to inform on the lines of work for the current year, encouraging the rest of the CALRE members to participate in the activities proposed by his group. Finally she says that, when the Standing committee finishes there will be a meeting for the start-up of the Twin a Region project with the Congress.

The CALRE President speaks to excuse the non-attendance of Presidente Mrs. Butler and the Presidents Mr. Rotger and Celdrán.

Secondly, Mr. Ruffato, President of the Regional Council of Veneto, coordinator of the Working Group on Financial Federalism, speaks and explains the specific actions proposed for this year, which will continue the work previously carried out and announces a seminar that will be held on 17th and 18th June in Venice, being the conclusions of it explained in the Plenary Assembly in November.

Thirdly, Mr. Brega —President of the Regional Council of Umbria and coordinator of the Working Group on Rural and Urban Areas— speaks to explain the document on remarks to the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) that he pretends to present to the AGRI Commission of the European Parliament and that has sent to the Presidency. He then submits it for the consideration of those present with the intention that, once their contributions are incorporated, it will be sent to the said European institution.

The President considers this agenda item should be treated on the agenda item #9, and thus he gives the floor to Mrs. Zelger —President of the Regional Council of Trentino-Alto Adige and the coordinator of the Working Group on Equality and Equal Gender Opportunities. President Zelger explains the activities developed by this group —among them, a questionnaire sent to all the members of the group. Furthermore, she insists on the scheduling problems when trying to hold the meetings of the working groups and she also explains that her Parliament offered their facilities to hold the 4th Standing Committee but the proposal has not been feasible due the lack of agreement on the dates.

Bearing this in mind, she proposes the creation of a working plan for next year that includes all the meetings of the CALRE bodies.

The CALRE President welcomes President Castro who has just joined the meeting and he says he is in favour of the proposal done by President Zelger of elaborating a working schedule of the Conference at the beginning of every year.

Finally, Mr. Castro Cordobez —President of the Parliament of the Canary Islands which coordinates the Working Group on Subsidiarity— speaks. He details the CALRE members that are part of this group and the works carried out, which are the result of the first meeting the group had at the end of April. Among these works he talks about the completion of a questionnaire, the results of which will be discussed in Cardiff and that will be presented in the CALRE Plenary Assembly.

The President informs the attendants on the absence of the President of the Parliament of the Balearic Islands —and the coordinator of the Working Group on E-Democracy.

AGENDA ITEM #6. PROJECT ON THE EXCHANGE OF INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF MUTUAL KNOWLEDGE AMONG THE CALRE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES

The President informs the attendants that he holds the template of the informative sheet for the exchange of information on the Parliaments that are part of CALRE and that has been jointly created by the secretariats of both CALRE and the Flemish Parliament —initiator of the project.

The document will be published on the CALRE web page and will be sent to all the members of the Conference.

President Schröder asks the floor to show his support to this project and he raises the doubt whether this will be the final version of the document.

The CALRE President clarifies this will be the final version and submits it for the consideration of the body. The template is then unanimously approved by those present.

AGENDA ITEM #7. PROJECT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF ABRUZZO ON THE COORDINATION OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE REGIONAL PARLIAMENT'S COMMISSIONS COMPETENT FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN CALRE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES

The President informs that, regardless the elaboration and eventual approval by this Committee of a questionnaire on the bodies which are competent for European affairs in the Parliaments of the Conference —and that has been included in the documentation for this meeting— he has reached an agreement with the initiator of the project, CALRE Vice-President, Mr. Pagano, to launch this project with a first meeting where all the Presidents of the regional Parliaments will be invited and whose results will be assessed by the Plenary Assembly to be held in Mérida.

Then he gives the floor to Mr. Pagano, who clarifies several issues of this project and highlights the importance of the fact that, with this project, the relations with the European Parliament could be strengthened.

The President presents the mentioned questionnaire for the consideration of the body, and it is unanimously approved by those present. Thus, he informs that it will be published on the CALRE web page.

AGENDA ITEM #8. AMMENDMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INNSBRUCK DECLARATION

The President explains that there was a total of 17 amendments to the Declaration of Innsbruck (12 from the Parliament of Bavaria, 1 from the Parliament of Galicia and 4 from the CALRE Presidency), most of them referred to some paragraphs of the draft Declaration that were finally removed.

Mr. Van Staa, as the coordinator of the Declaration of Innsbruck, thanks for the contributions presented and points out that if CALRE wishes to add an amendment to the last update of the Declaration, it is possible. He also explains that amendments from the Parliament of Baden-Wurtemberg were also received.

The CALRE President clarifies that the amendments from the Parliament of Baden-Wurtemberg were not sent via CALRE and that is the reason why he has not mentioned them.

Finally, he presents the proposed Declaration of Innsbuck —that will be signed by the representatives of CoR, REGLEG, the Congress and CALRE— for the body's consideration. The document is unanimously approved by those present.

AGENDA ITEM #9. OTHER SUBJECTS

Mr. Brega —President of the Regional Council of Umbria— clarifies that they intend to send the document on CAP to the AGRI Commission of the European Parliament on 5th July.

The CALRE President suggests sending the document to all the members of the Conference for them to be able to make their contributions and send them by email. He also suggests the results should be discussed at the next Standing Committee to be held in Cardiff. This suggestion is accepted by all those present.

President Mr. Brega agrees with the CALRE President's suggestion for the members of the Conference to be able to participate in the elaboration of a document on CAP, although he expresses his doubts whether that should be discussed in Cardiff.

The President of the Conference clarifies that at the 3rd Standing Committee the results will only be discussed for the members to get informed on them, although it would be desirable that the document would be sent to all the CALRE members and would be published on the web, giving a deadline for making contributions.

President Mr. Brega informs that the deadline will be 20th June.

Mr. Penz —President of the Parliament of Lower Austria— asks the floor to remind that at the Standing Committee meeting held in Brussels the presentation of the REGPEX platform of the Committee of the Regions was included in the meeting agenda and he points out that the provided web site does not work properly. He also asks about the existence of the results on one of the unfavourable analysis regarding the compliance of the principle of subsidiarity of one of the documents from the Commission that is currently on-going.

The CALRE President informs there is a permanent contact with the Committee of the Regions and that there is an observer from the Committee of the Regions present at the current meeting. However, he hopes to have more details about these issues raised by Mr. Penz in the next Standing Committee.

President Wolf speaks to ask about the situation of the contacts already made between the European Parliament and CALRE and the possibility of creating a permanent contact group between both entities.

The President of the Conference explained what was discussed at the meeting he had with the President of the European Parliament in Brussels last March.

President Van Staa asks the floor to explain his experience on this issue both as the President of a Regional Parliament and also as a member of the CoR. He ends suggesting that it is possible to try to establish a permanent cooperation through the Regional Committee of the European Parliament and encourages the CALRE President to continue establishing contacts with President Mr. Schulz.

The CALRE President says he agrees with the approach made by President Mr. Van Staa.

President Mr. Wolf thanks Mr. Van Staa for his proposal and says he is hopeful with the results that could be achieved using this method.

Mrs. Quiroga Cía —President of the Basque Country— asks the floor to express her support to the proposal that has been made.

The CALRE President thanks all the attendants for their presence, wishing them a happy return journey.

Finally, Ms. Rojo Noguera —President of the Parliament of Galicia— speaks to invite all those present who wish, to attend the meeting on the project Twin a Region that will take place later on.

Since there are no more issues to discuss, CALRE President adjourns the meeting when it is 18.30 on 31st May.

CALRE President

Fernando Jesús Manzano Pedrera



PRESIDENCY 2012

