

MINUTES OF THE XVI MEETING OF THE CALRE 2012 PLENARY ASSEMBLY

Mérida, 29th and 30th November 2012

FIRST MEETING

In the city of Mérida, the CALRE Plenary Assembly, met at the venue of the Parliament of Extremadura, 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

THURSDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER 2012

09:30

1. GREETING OF THE CALRE PRESIDENT
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE CALRE PLENARY ASSEMBLY HELD IN L'AQUILA ON 25TH AND 26TH NOVEMBER 2011
3. SPEECH BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUEBEC
4. SPEECH BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONGRESS
5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON CALRE 2012 PROJECTS
6. ACTIVITY REPORT OF CALRE 2012 WORKING GROUPS
7. PRESENTATION OF THE CALRE 2012 DECLARATION
8. DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS OF THE CALRE 2012 DECLARATION
9. DISCUSSION AND VOTING OF THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED TO THE CALRE'S RULES



PRESIDENCY 2012

10. PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES ON CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES AND THEIR SUPPORT STAFF

11. PROPOSAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES RELATED TO THE CALRE PARTICIPATION ON EUROPEAN YEARS

30TH NOVEMBER 2012

10:30

1. SPEECH BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS
2. PRESENTATION OF CALRE 2013 WORKING GROUPS
3. SPEECHES OF THE CANDIDATES TO THE CALRE 2013 PRESIDENCY
4. ELECTION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT OF CALRE 2013
5. APPROVAL OF THE CALRE 2012 DECLARATION
6. OTHER BUSINESS

PARTICIPANTS

As members of CALRE:

GERMANY

- **Mr. Matthias Röbner**, President of the Parliament of Saxony
- **Mrs. Hannelore Klamm**, Vice-President of the Parliament of Rhineland-Palatinate
- **Mr. Detlef Voigt**, Secretary-General of the Parliament of Brandenburg

AUSTRIA

- **Mr. Josef Lobnig**, President of the Parliament of Carinthia
- **Mr. Franz Majcen**, Vice-President of the Parliament of Styria

BELGIUM

- **Mr. Jan Peumans**, President of the Flemish Parliament
- **Mrs. Patricia Creutz-Vilvoye**, Vice-President of the Parliament of the German-speaking community of Belgium
- **Mr. Walter Vandenbossche**, First Vice-President of the Parliament of the Region of Brussels-Capital
- **Mr. Béa Diallo**, Member of the Parliament of the French Community of Belgium

SPAIN

- **Mr. Fernando Manzano Pedrera**, President of the Parliament of Extremadura and CALRE President
- **Mr. Pere Rotger i Llabrés**, President of the Parliament of the Balearic Islands and President of the Conference of Regional Spanish Parliaments
- **Mr. Antonio Ángel Castro Cordobez**, President of the Parliament of Canary Islands
- **Mr. José Ignacio Cenicerros**, President of the Parliament of La Rioja
- **Mr. Juan G. Cotino Ferrer**, President of the Parliament of the Cortes of Valencia
- **Mr. Manuel Gracia Navarro**, President of the Parliament of Andalusia
- **Mr. Pedro Sanjurjo González**, President of the General Council of the Principality of Asturias
- **Mrs. María Josefa García Cirac**, President of the Cortes of Castille and Leon
- **Mr. José Ignacio Echeverría**, President of the Assembly of Madrid
- **Mrs. Rosa Plantagenet-Whyte Pérez**, Vice-President of the Cortes of Aragón

FINLAND

- **Mrs. Britt Lundberg**, President of the Parliament of the Åland Islands

ITALY

- **Mrs. Rosa Zelger Thaler**, President of the Regional Council of Trentino
- **Mr. Clodovaldo Ruffato**, President of the Regional Council of Veneto
- **Mr. Fabrizio Cecchetti**, President of the Regional Council of Lombardy

PORTUGAL

- **Mrs. Ana Luís**, President of the Parliament of Azores

Also with the attendance of:

- **Mr. Clemmens Lammerskitten**, Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- **Mr. Thomas Wobben** and **Mr. Peter Verlinden** from the Committee of the Regions
- **Mr. Igor Radojicic**, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- **Mr. Branislav Borenovic**, President of the Committee for the integration in the UE and regional cooperation at the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- **Mrs. Carole Poirier**, First Vice-President of the National Assembly of Quebec (Canada)
- **Mrs. Costanza Gaeta**, on behalf of the Italian Conference of the Presidents of Parliaments (Italy)
- **Mrs. Manuela Göbbel**, on behalf of the Parliament of Baden-Württemberg (Germany)
- **Mr. Gregor Raible**, on behalf of the Parliament of Bavaria (Germany)
- **Mr. Gerald Grabensteiner**, on behalf of the Parliament of Upper Austria (Austria)

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

FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER 2012

09:30

AGENDA ITEM #1. GREETING OF THE CALRE PRESIDENT

CALRE President opens the session at 9.30 on 29th November 2012 and greets all the attendants. He also thanks them for their attendance and welcomes them to Extremadura and its Parliament.

Furthermore, he excuses the absence of those members of the Conference who have not been able to attend the meeting and he explains some organisational aspects of the meeting.

Then he gives the floor to all the attendants in order to allow them to deliver a brief presentation.

AGENDA ITEM #2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE CALRE PLENARY ASSEMBLY HELD IN L'AQUILA ON 25TH AND 26TH NOVEMBER 2011

In accordance with Article 10 of CALRE's Rules, the President presents the minutes of the previous meeting of the CALRE Plenary Assembly held in L'Aquila, on 25th and 26th November 2011.

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

AGENDA ITEM #3. SPEECH BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUEBEC

Mrs. Poirier –First Vice-President of the National Assembly of Quebec– speaks.

AGENDA ITEM #4. SPEECH BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONGRESS

Mr. Lammerskitten –Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe– delivers his speech.

AGENDA ITEM #5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON CALRE 2012 PROJECTS

CALRE President summarized the **activities** carried out as CALRE President since the beginning of his Presidency, and among those he emphasizes the institutional agenda carried out in Brussels and Innsbruck, his attendance to the 5th Summit of Cities and Regions organised by the Committee of the Regions in the city of Copenhagen and the application of the actions related with the inter-parliamentary cooperation during this year.

Among the institutional meetings he highlights those held with the President of the European Parliament, the President of the European Commission –both with the outgoing President and the incoming President of the Committee of the Regions– as well as other meetings with representatives of European regional associations such as AEBR and the Congress.

As the result of these meetings, a cooperation agreement with the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) was drafted. It was approved by the Plenary of AEBR last 8th November. A Declaration of Intent with the Committee of the Regions was also drafted in order to reinforce the exchange of institutional information between both entities and it is currently being submitted for the approval of the CoR, met at this moment.

Thus, the President submits the referred drafts of agreements for the consideration of the Conference and they are unanimously approved by those present.

Then he explains the **CALRE projects** that have been implemented during his Presidency:

- Project on the exchange of institutional information for the improvement of mutual knowledge among the CALRE Legislative Assemblies. The President provides details on the numbers of informative sheets received and their uploading to the CALRE web site and takes the opportunity to request the parliaments that have not sent them yet, to do it as soon as possible, in order to complete the contents available on the Conference web site.
- Project of the Regional Council of Abruzzo on the coordination of the Presidents of bodies competent for European affairs in the Conference. President Pagano, faced with the impossibility of attending this meeting, has sent the Presidency a letter that is read out by President Zelger from the Regional Council of Trentino.

The President suggests that, in the light of the fact that the CALRE Vice-President Mr. Pagano will coordinate the Working Group on Subsidiarity, this project could be integrated in its working plan. This issue will be discussed at the corresponding agenda item of this session.

- The mentioned cooperation agreements with AEBR and CoR, approved by the Conference.
- With regards the projects proposed by the National Assembly of Wales on continuous professional development of the members of the legislative regional assemblies and their support staff and regarding the proposal related to the CALRE participation in the commemorative activities of the European Years, the President, in the absence of President Butler –promoter of both projects– and taking into account the embryonic stage of both projects, proposes to pass them to the following CALRE Presidency, what is accepted by all those present.
- And the elaboration of a document on Common Agricultural Policy sent to the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament by Mr. Brega –coordinator of the Working Group on Rural and Urban Areas and President of the Regional Council of Umbria– on which a series of allegations have been presented by other parliaments of the Conference and that it will be submitted for the consideration of the Plenary.

At this point, President Zelger, from the Regional Council of Trentino, takes the floor to announce that, regarding the amendments made by the Åland Islands, presented yesterday at the Standing Committee meeting, and despite of being made after the deadline, have been accepted by Mr. Brega as attachment in the mentioned document.

President Lundberg thanks the acceptance of these allegations and she briefly explains them.

The President submits for the consideration of the Plenary the approval of the mentioned document with the incorporation, as attachment, of the amendments made by the different parliaments and their submission to the different European institutions and associations, what is unanimously accepted by those present.

AGENDA ITEM #6. ACTIVITY REPORT OF CALRE 2012 WORKING GROUPS

The President excuses the coordinators of the Working Groups who have not attended the meeting. He also informs the members of the Plenary on the proposal of the President of the Parliament of Galicia, Mrs. Rojo Noguera, of continuing coordinating the Working Group on Regional Democracy.

Then Mr. Castro Cordobez, President of the Parliament of Canarias, who coordinates the Working Group on Subsidiarity, speaks to inform on its objectives, activities and conclusions. He ends by informing on his decision of not continuing with the coordination of that Working Group.

President Zelger asks the floor to announce the availability of President Pagano to coordinate this Group. Thus, he will send today a document to CALRE Presidency in order to formalize the request when reached the corresponding agenda item.

Then Mr. Rotger –President of the Parliament of the Balearic Islands who coordinates the Working Group on E-democracy– takes the floor to summarize the work carried out by his group this year and puts at the disposal of the Conference his position as coordinator, since during next year he will chair the Spanish Conference of the Presidents of Regional Parliaments and thus, he will be an ex-officio member of the Standing Committee.

The last coordinator who speaks is Mrs. Zelger –President of the Regional Council of Trentino and coordinator of the Working Group on Equality and Equal Gender Opportunities– who reviews all the activities of this Group and provides its conclusions.

The President congratulates all the coordinators of the working groups for the work carried out during this year and explains that the reports of the coordinators who have not attended the Plenary Assembly are included in the documentation provided to all those present.

The President summarizes the status of the vacancies at the coordination of the working groups and the proposal he will raise tomorrow at the Plenary Assembly: President Ruffato has expressed his wish of continuing with the coordination of the Working Group on Financial Federalism, what he will personally ratify when he will arrive at the meeting. President Rojo also wishes to continue with the coordination of the Working Group on Regional Democracy.

President Zelger has offered herself to coordinate Working Group on Rural and Urban Areas that President Brega passes. Therefore, there will be vacancies at the coordination of the following groups: Equality, since President Zelger will be the new coordinator of the above-mentioned group; E-democracy and

Subsidiarity, after the resignation from continuing with the coordination of President Rotger and Brega, respectively, given his designation as representatives of the delegations of their countries.

The President informs all those present that President Lundberg from the Parliament of the Åland Islands has asked for the coordination of the Working Group on Equality and Equal Gender Opportunities, and the Parliament of Andalusia, has offered itself to coordinate Working Group on E-Democracy.

Finally, the President proposes that President Pagano could coordinate the Working Group on Subsidiarity.

President Lundberg –from the Parliament of the Åland Islands– and President Castro –from the Parliament of the Canaries– speak.

AGENDA ITEM #7. PRESENTATION OF THE CALRE 2012 DECLARATION

The President presents the CALRE 2012 Declaration, the Declaration of Mérida.

Furthermore, he informs on the organisation of the debate of the amendments to the Declaration of Mérida, approved yesterday by the Standing Committee and what is the following:

- Joined defence of the amendments by the Parliament proposing the amendment for a period of 3 minutes
- Negotiation of positions by the Parliaments not presenting the amendments for a period of one minute
- Closure of the debate by the Parliament proposing the amendments for a period of one minute
- Voting of the amendments

President of the Assembly of Madrid, Mr. Echevarría asks the floor to ask several questions on the amendments to the Declaration, which are clarified by the CALRE President.

Finally, Mr. Cecchetti –President of the Regional Council of Lombardy– speaks.

Then the President announces there will be a break at the session.

(BREAK)

The meeting is resumed with the agenda item #8.

AGENDA ITEM #8. DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS OF THE CALRE 2012 DECLARATION

The President apologises for the delay in resuming the meeting.

Then the President explains the methodology to follow for the debate and voting of the amendments of the CALRE 2012 Declaration.

Amendments made by the Parliament of the Region of Brussels-Capital

The President gives the floor to Mr. Vandebossche –First Vice-President of the Parliament of the Region of Brussels-Capital– who announces the withdrawal of n. 1, 2 and 4 and defends the amendment n. 3.

During the time of establishing the positions, Mr. Cecchetti –President of the Regional Council of Lombardy– takes the floor to express his position –and President Zelger’s position– against amendment n. 3.

Furthermore, the President of the Assembly of Madrid, Mr. Echevarría speaks to express his position in favour of the debated amendment.

President Castro from the Parliament of the Canaries announces that he will abstain from this voting.

Being the **amendment n. 3** from the Parliament of the Region of Brussels-Capital voted, it is rejected by 6 votes in favour, 10 votes against and 4 abstentions.

Upon specific request by those interested, the vote in favour of the debated and voted amendment by the Assembly of Madrid and the Cortes of Castille and Leon is recorded in the minutes.

Amendments made by the Parliament of the Canaries

Mr. Castro, President of the Parliament of the Canaries, speaks to jointly defend the five amendments made by its Parliament.

Being the **amendment n. 1** of the Parliament of the Canaries voted, this is approved by 16 votes in favour, 2 votes against by the Assembly of Madrid and

the Cortes of Castille and Leon –that have requested their votes against should be recorded in minutes– and 2 abstentions.

Being the **amendment n. 2** from the Parliament of the Canaries voted, this is approved by 20 votes in favour, none vote against and no abstention.

Being the **amendment n. 3** from the Parliament of the Canaries voted, this is approved by 20 votes in favour, none vote against and no abstention.

Being the **amendment n. 4** from the Parliament of the Canaries voted, this is approved by 20 votes in favour, none vote against and no abstention.

Being the **amendment n. 5** from the Parliament of the Canaries voted, this is approved by 20 votes in favour, none vote against and no abstention.

Amendments made by the National Assembly for Wales

In the absence of representatives from the National Assembly for Wales, the amendments are considered defended and are submitted to voting.

The groups not presenting amendments do not speak.

Being the **amendment n. 1** from the National Assembly for Wales voted, this is approved by 10 votes in favour, 7 votes against and 2 abstentions.

Being the **amendment n. 2** from the National Assembly for Wales voted, this is approved by 16 votes in favour, none vote against and 4 abstentions.

Amendments made by the Parliament of Andalusia

In the absence of the President of the Parliament of Andalusia, the President proceeds to read out the justification of the **amendment n. 1**.

During the time of establishing the positions, Mr. Matthias Röbler –President of the Parliament of Saxony, Mr. Echevarría, President of the Assembly of Madrid, Mr. Vandenbossche –First Vice-President of the Parliament of the Region of Brussels-Capital, Mrs. García –President of the Cortes of Castille and Leon– and Mrs. Plantagenet-Whyte –Vice-President of the Cortes of Aragón, speak and announce their vote against this amendment.

Mrs. Luís –President of the Parliament of Azores– announces her abstention and finally, President Castro from the Parliament of the Canary Islands expresses his position against the amendment.

Being the amendment n. 1 of the Parliament of Andalusia voted, this is rejected by 1 vote in favour, 17 votes against and 2 abstentions.

The President reads out the justification of the **amendment n. 2** from the Parliament of Andalusia.

During the time of establishing the positions, Mr. Echevarría –President of the Assembly of Madrid– and Mr. Matthias Röbler –President of the Parliament of Saxony– speaks to announce their vote against.

Being the amendment n. 2 from the Parliament of Andalusia voted, this is approved by 9 votes in favour, 7 votes against and 4 abstentions.

President Röbler, from the Parliament of Saxony, requests a new counting for the voting of the amendment n. 2 from the Parliament of Andalusia. This amendment is approved by 9 votes in favour, 7 votes against and 4 abstentions. In the present minutes the votes against of the Assembly of Madrid, the Cortes of Castille and Leon and the Parliament of Saxony are reflected.

The President reads out the justification of the **amendment n. 3** from the Parliament of Andalusia.

The groups not proposing amendments do not speak.

Being the amendment n. 3 from the Parliament of Andalusia voted, this is approved by 15 votes in favour, none vote against and 4 abstentions.

The President reads out the justification of the **amendment n. 4** from the Parliament of Andalusia.

The groups not presenting amendments do not speak.

Being the amendment n. 4 from the Parliament of Andalusia voted, this is approved by 16 votes in favour, none vote against and 4 abstentions.

The President reads out the justification of the **amendment n. 5** from the Parliament of Andalusia.

The groups not presenting amendments do not speak.

Being the amendment n. 5 from the Parliament of Andalusia voted, this is approved by 19 votes in favour, none vote against and 1 abstention.

The President reads out the justification of **amendment n. 6** from the Parliament of Andalusia.

President Castro proposes a transactional amendment in order to modify the term "*gap*" in the text of the amendment by "*distance*", what is accepted by the Parliament of Andalusia, author of the amendment.

President Echevarría from the Assembly of Madrid announces his vote against.

Being the amendment n. 6 from the Parliament of Andalusia voted, the vote is tied with 8 votes in favour, 8 votes against and 4 abstentions.

The President puts again the amendment to vote, which is again tied with 8 votes in favour, 8 votes against and 4 abstentions. Thus, the amendment will not be applied to the CALRE Declaration.

Amendments made by the Parliament of Galicia

In the absence of representatives from the Parliament of Galicia, its only amendment is considered defended and it is voted.

The groups not presenting amendments do not speak.

Being the **amendment n. 1** of the Parliament of Galicia voted, this is approved with 18 votes in favour, none vote against and 2 abstentions.

Amendments made by the Walloon Parliament

In the absence of representatives from the Walloon Parliament, they are considered defended. Amendments #1 to 6 and 9 and 10 are accepted since they are translation technical issues, and the rest of the amendments are voted.

The groups not presenting amendments do not speak.

Being the **amendment n. 7** of the Walloon Parliament voted, this is approved with 16 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 1 abstention.

Being the **amendment n. 8** of the Walloon Parliament voted, this is approved with 18 votes in favour, none vote against and none abstention.

Finally, the President proposes a technical improvement of the text, modifying some of the paragraphs of the conclusions of the Declaration, by replacing the word "endow" by "reinforce" and the word "sufficient" by "largest", in order to be consistent with the resulting text of the Declaration after added the approved amendments.

Therefore, the approved amendments will be incorporated to the text of the Declaration for it to be submitted for the consideration of the Plenary Assembly tomorrow.

AGENDA ITEM #9. DISCUSSION AND VOTING OF THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED TO THE CALRE'S RULES

The President informs on the presentation of amendments to the CALRE's Rules by the Parliament of the Canaries and the Parliament of Extremadura. Thus, he informs that the organisation of the debate for these amendments approved yesterday at the meeting of the Standing Committee will be the same for the amendments to the Declaration.

Thus, firstly, President Castro takes the floor to jointly defend the amendments to the Rules that his Parliament has made.

During the time of establishing the positions, President Rößler –from the Parliament of Saxony, President Lobnig –from the Parliament of Carinthia, Vice-President Majcen –from the Parliament of Styria, Vice-President Klamm –from the Parliament of Rhineland-Palatinate, President Rotger –from the Parliament of the Balearic Islands, Vice-President Creutz-Vilvoye –from the Parliament of the German-speaking community of Belgium, and Vice-President Vandebossche –from the Parliament of the Region of Brussels-Capital, take the floor.

CALRE President speak to propose that, bearing in mind the positions expressed by the different Parliaments, the debate –of both the amendments made by the Parliament of the Canaries and by the Parliament of Extremadura– should be postponed, in order to have the opportunity of discussing this issue within the different Conferences of the parliaments.

President Castro agrees with the Presidency's proposal, being this agenda item postponed for the next CALRE Plenary Session.

Finally, President Zelger from the Regional Council of Trentino, again President Rößler from the Parliament of Saxony, President Peumans from the Flemish Parliament and President Castro from the Parliament of the Canaries, speak.

AGENDA ITEM #10. PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES ON CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES AND THEIR SUPPORT STAFF

The President, in the absence of President Butler from the National Assembly for Wales –promoter of both projects– proposes to pass these issues to the next CALRE Presidency.

The President makes some final reflections and proposes the President of the Republic of Srpska –whose speech was planned for today– to make it tomorrow, what is accepted by him.

Since there are no more issues to discuss, the CALRE President closes the session when it is 14.30 on 29th November.

SECOND MEETING

30TH NOVEMBER 2012

10:30

CALRE President opens the session at 10.30 on 30th November 2012 and greets all the attendants.

Furthermore, he informs there is a candidature for CALRE 2013 Presidency, made by the Parliament of the Region of Brussels-Capital, and gives the floor to Vice-President Vandenbossche.

Then he makes a series of observations regarding the documentation at the disposal of the attendants and the Declaration of Mérida, with the approved amendments incorporated which have also been given to the CALRE members.

AGENDA ITEM #1. SPEECH BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Mr. Wobben –Director of Horizontal Policies and Networks– speak.

AGENDA ITEM #2. SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA, MR. IGOR RADOJICIC

Mr. Radojicic –President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska and guest of CALRE 2012 Presidency– speaks.

AGENDA ITEM #3. PRESENTATION OF CALRE 2013 WORKING GROUPS

The President proposes the Plenary Assembly to keep in 2013 the six working groups that were defined in 2012, with the following coordinators:

- **WORKING GROUP ON REGIONAL DEMOCRACY**, whose coordinator will be Mrs. Rojo Noguera, President of the Parliament of Galicia.
- **WORKING GROUP ON SUBSIDIARITY**, whose coordinator will be Mr. Nazario Pagano, President of the Regional Council of Abruzzo.
- **WORKING GROUP ON EQUALITY AND EQUAL GENDER OPPORTUNITIES**, whose coordinator will be Mrs. Lundberg, President of the Parliament of Åland Islands
- **WORKING GROUP ON E-DEMOCRACY**, whose coordinator will be the President of the Parliament of Andalusia, Mr. Gracia Navarro.
- **WORKING GROUP ON RURAL AND URBAN AREAS**, whose coordinator will be the President of the Regional Council of Trentino, Rosa Zelger Thaler.
- **WORKING GROUP ON FINANCIAL FEDERALISM**, whose coordinator will be the President of the Regional Council of Veneto, Mr. Clodovaldo Ruffato.

The President submits the proposal of the CALRE 2013 Working Groups for Plenary's approval and it is unanimously accepted by consent by those present.

On behalf of President Rojo, he also thanks the Plenary's approval for her to continue with the coordination of the Working Group on Regional Democracy.

Then President Ruffato –from the Regional Council of Veneto– takes the floor to read out the letter President Pagano has sent the Presidency to formalize the request of his candidature to coordinate the Working Group on Subsidiarity.

Then Mr. Ciriero Soleto –CALRE Secretary-General– reads out the letter that President Lundberg from the Parliament of the Åland Islands has sent to the Presidency to formalize his candidature for the Working Group on Equality and Equal Gender Opportunities.

Then Mr. Gracia Navarro –President of the Parliament of Andalusia, new coordinator of the Working Group on E-democracy– speaks.

Again, President Ruffato takes the floor to thank the Conference on behalf of President Zelger for having accepted her proposal to coordinate the Working Group on Rural and Urban Areas. He ends by making a short speech on the work on Financial Federalism that he has coordinated during this last year and that he will continue coordinating in 2013.

AGENDA ITEM #4. SPEECHES OF THE CANDIDATES TO THE CALRE 2013 PRESIDENCY

Vice-President Vandebossche from the Parliament of the Region of Brussels-Capital speaks.

AGENDA ITEM #5. ELECTION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT OF CALRE 2013

The President submits the candidature of President Dupuis from the Parliament of the Region of Brussels-Capital for the consideration of the Conference, which is unanimously approved by consent by those present.

Then the President informs on the new composition of CALRE 2013 Standing Committee:

- President: Françoise Dupuis, from the Parliament of the Region of Brussels-Capital

- Vice-President: Fernando Manzano, from the Parliament of Extremadura (Spain)
- For Germany, Mr. Guido Wolf, President of the Parliament of Baden-Württemberg
- For Austria, Mr. Hans Penz, President of the Parliament of Lower Austria.
- For Belgium, Mr. Schröder, President of the Parliament of the German-speaking community of Belgium
- For Spain, Mr. Rotger, President of the Parliament of the Balearic Islands.
- For Finland, Mrs. Britt Lundberg, President of the Parliament of the Åland Islands.
- For Italy, Mr. Eros Brega, President of the Parliament of Umbria
- For Portugal, Mrs. Ana Luís, President of the Parliament of Azores
- For United Kingdom, Mrs. Rosemary Butler, President of the National Assembly for Wales
- For the Working Group on Regional Democracy, Mrs. Pilar Rojo Noguera, President of the Parliament of Galicia.
- For the Working Group on Subsidiarity, Mr. Nazario Pagano, President of the Regional Council of Abruzzo (Italy)
- For the Working Group on Equality and Equal Gender Opportunities, Mrs. Britt Lundberg, President of the Parliament of the Åland Islands (Finland)
- For the Working Group on Rural and Urban Areas, Mrs. Rosa Zelger Thaler, President of the Regional Council of Trentino (Italy)
- For the Working Group on Financial Federalism, Mr. Ruffato, President of the Regional Council of Veneto (Italy)
- For the Working Group on E-democracy, Mr. Manuel Gracia Navarro, President of the Parliament of Andalusia.

AGENDA ITEM #6. APPROVAL OF THE CALRE 2012 DECLARATION

President submits for the consideration of the CALRE Plenary, the Declaration of Mérida –CALRE 2012 Declaration– with the approved amendments incorporated to its text. It is unanimously approved by consent by those present.

AGENDA ITEM #7. OTHER BUSINESS

The President informs those present of the existence of a project within the Committee of the Regions for the creation of a body of experts on subsidiarity, where it is required the effective presence of a CALRE representative and that it will be passed to the new CALRE 2013 Presidency.

Furthermore, he thanks all those present for their attendance and the work carried out at this Conference, and particularly the guests of the CALRE 2012 Presidency.

Finally, Mr. Echevarría –President of the Assembly of Madrid– asks for the floor.

Since there are no more issues to discuss, CALRE President adjourns the session when it is 18.45 hours on the date previously stated.

CALRE President

Fernando Jesús Manzano Pedrera