



MINUTES OF THE 3RD MEETING OF CALRE 2012 STANDING COMMITTEE

Cardiff, 13th July 2012

In the city of Cardiff, at 9.30 hours on 13th July 2012, the CALRE Standing Committee, met at the venue of the National Assembly for Wales, 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 PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE CALRE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN INNSBRUCK ON 31ST MAY 2012
4. PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITY REPORT
5. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT ON THE EXCHANGE OF INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF MUTUAL KNOWLEDGE AMONG THE CALRE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES
6. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF ABRUZZO ON THE COORDINATION OF THE PRESIDENTS OF REGIONAL PARLIAMENT'S COMMISSIONS COMPETENT FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN CALRE'S LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES
7. DRAFT OF COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN CALRE AND AEBR
8. REPORT ON THE DOCUMENT "THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP) FOR 2014-2020: REMARKS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE NEW REGULATORY FRAMEWORK" OF THE WORKING GROUP ON RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

9. ACTIVITY REPORT OF CALRE 2012 WORKING GROUPS
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 WORK ON EUROPEAN YEARS
12. PRESENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS ON "THE RENEWED SUBSIDIARITY MONITORING STRATEGY OF THE CoR"
13. OTHER SUBJECTS

PARTICIPANTS

As members of the Standing Committee:

- **Mr. Fernando Manzano Pedrera**, President of the Parliament of Extremadura and CALRE President
- For Belgium, **Mr. Ferdel Schröder**, President of the Parliament of the German-speaking Community of Belgium
- For Finland, **Mrs. Britt Lundberg**, President of the Parliament of the Åland Islands.
- For the United Kingdom, **Mrs. Rosemary Butler**, President of the National Assembly for Wales
- 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 Equality and Equal Gender Opportunities, **Mrs. Rosa Zelger Thaler**, President of the Regional Council of Trentino (Italy)

As guests:

- **Mrs. Encarnación Fernández de Simón Bermejo**, Secretary-General of the Assembly of Murcia.
- **Mr. Thomas Wobben**, 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 #2. GREETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES

The President of the National Assembly for Wales, Mrs. Butler greets and welcomes all the attendants, and then provides them with some information and technical guidelines on the development of the meeting. She informs them that during the break there will be a guided tour to visit the Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM #1. GREETING OF THE CALRE PRESIDENT

CALRE President opens the session at 9.35 hours and welcomes all the attendants and thanks them for their attendance. He particularly thanks President Butler for hosting this Committee.

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

AGENDA ITEM #3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE CALRE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN INNSBRUCK ON 31ST MAY 2012

In accordance with Article 10 of CALRE's Rules, the President presents the minutes of the previous Standing Committee meeting held in Innsbruck on 31st May 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

President Manzano informs about the activities carried out as CALRE President since the last Standing Committee, and among those he emphasizes the results of the meetings held in Innsbruck, such as the one with Mr. Radojicic, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska of Bosnia-Herzegovina, who later in that day attended the Standing Committee.

In this context, he announces his intention to propose to the Committee that President Radojicic or other presidents of regional assemblies that are not members of the European Union can participate as observers in the meetings of CALRE entities. This issue will be discussed at a later agenda item.

He also informs about his meeting with Mr. Lambertz —President of AEBR and of the Committee of the Governance of the Congress— with whom he agreed to write a draft of a collaboration agreement between both associations that will be submitted to the Committee members' consideration once reached the agenda item #7, and about the meeting with Mr. Van Staa —President of the Chamber of the Regions of the Congress— who undertook to also work for achieving a greater strengthening in the relations between CALRE and the organization he represents, to assume the leadership of a working group that took on the Twin a Region project that has been coordinated until now by the Parliament of Galicia.

Furthermore, the President had the opportunity to meet Mr. Van den Brande — President of the CIVEX Commission of the CoR— in order to try to deepen on the cooperation already established between both entities. The President takes the opportunity to greet Mr. Wobben —director for Horizontal Policies and Networks of the CoR— who participates as observer at this committee.

He adds that CALRE Secretary-General Mr. Ciriero had a meeting with Mr. Kiefer —Secretary-General of the Congress— with the purpose of discussing some issues related to the collaboration agreement signed between both organizations.

The President informs all the attendants that the Declaration signed in Innsbruck can be seen on the web site and mentions the Summer Course that has taken place at the venue of the Parliament of Extremadura, jointly organized with the University of Extremadura, where the subject of the foreign relations of the regional parliaments in the European Union has been discussed. The conclusions of the course will be sent to all the members of the Conference.

Mrs. Lundberg —President of the Parliament of the Åland Islands— asks the floor to ask the President about an eventual negotiation with the European Parliament in order to achieve that CALRE will be represented in that institution.

The President informs the attendants that the progress on this issue has been limited since it has not been possible to have another meeting with the President of the European Parliament. However he agrees with President Lundberg on the importance of establishing this means of collaboration. Thus CALRE will continue to work on that.

Then, Mr. Wobben, from the Committee of the Regions, takes the floor, and thanks for the invitation to attend the meeting and clarifies some issues related to the belonging to the institution he represents and the relations with CALRE.

President Butler expresses her opinion on the discussed issues, supporting the effort at strengthening the contacts with the European Parliament.

Finally, the President clarifies some of the items on the proposed way of collaboration with the institutions and referred entities.

AGENDA ITEM #5. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT ON THE EXCHANGE OF INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF MUTUAL KNOWLEDGE AMONG THE CALRE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES

The President informs on the execution status of the project on the exchange of institutional information, giving details on the number of the brochures received and their uploading to the CALRE web site.

AGENDA ITEM #6. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF ABRUZZO ON THE COORDINATION OF THE PRESIDENTS OF REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS' COMMISSIONS COMPETENT FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN CALRE'S LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES

The President informs on the status of the implementation of the project on the coordination of the Presidents of the regional parliaments' commissions competent for European affairs in CALRE's legislative assemblies. Regarding this issue, the fulfilled questionnaires that were approved by the Standing Committee at the last meeting are still being received. Their results will be sent to the members of the Conference.

Furthermore, given the fact that CALRE Vice-President Mr. Pagano — coordinator of the project— is not present at the meeting, his report remains pending until the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #7. DRAFT OF COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN CALRE AND AEBR

The President informs the members of the Committee that there are still on-going negotiations between the secretariats of CALRE and AEBR to definitely finalize the draft agreement.

Nevertheless, he presents the referred draft for the consideration of the members of the Standing Committee and it is unanimously approved by consent by all those present.

AGENDA ITEM #8. REPORT ON THE DOCUMENT “THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP) FOR 2014-2020: REMARKS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE NEW REGULATORY FRAMEWORK” OF THE WORKING GROUP ON RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

The President relates the incidents related to the document “The Common Agricultural Policy (PAC) for 2014-2020: remarks and amendments to the new regulatory framework” created by President Mr. Brega, coordinator of the working group on rural and urban areas, to which some CALRE Parliament made contributions that were finally not taken into account, and that was sent to the European institutions in its original drafting. Likewise, he says that some members of the mentioned Group have expressed him their unease for some issues occurred during the related processing procedure.

President Ruffato —President of the Regional Council of Veneto— asks the floor to state that it is necessary to immediately make the eventual contributions from CALRE in that area, since the negotiations within the European Parliament are currently being finalized.

Mrs. Zelger —President of the Regional Council of Trentino— as a member of the Working Group on Rural-Urban Areas, explains the communication problems arisen in the creation process of the document that is currently being discussed. She expresses her support to make contributions in that area by means of the delegations of the regions in Brussels, and thinks a global contribution from CALRE is not necessary.

President Ruffato disagrees with the opinion expressed by President Zelger since he thinks it is very useful to have a unique document from CALRE containing the contributions of the Conference in this area.

CALRE President agrees with President Ruffato in the interest of having a new document where CALRE's position on PAC should be expressed, although he is aware of the lack of agility in reaching agreements by the Conference, taking into account the difficulties in the coordination of the agendas of the members of the Conference.

Then, Mrs. Fernández de Simón Bermejo —Secretary-General of the Regional Assembly of Murcia— asks whether the mentioned document will be discussed at the CALRE Plenary Assembly in order to ratify it or whether it will be possible to include some contributions that have not been already taken into account.

CALRE President agrees with the proposal of discussing the document at the Plenary Assembly, although he says that President Brega should also express his opinion on this issue. Furthermore, he proposes that the contributions made by the regional Governments and those that CALRE could make should be coordinated by the Committee of the Regions and later submitted to the European institutions.

President Zelger proposes the celebration of a meeting before the Plenary Assembly for discussing this.

CALRE President proposes suggesting President Brega to organize a meeting of the Working Group in order to reach a consensus on a single document. Then this document could be submitted to the Committee of the Regions which would then submit it to the European institutions.

Mr. Wobben informs the attendants that the CoR has already created a position on CAP where lots of remarks are collected and that will be reviewed in November. Bearing this in mind, new contributions from CALRE could be included.

President agrees with the proposal made by Mr. Wobben and thus, proposes the members of the Committee suggesting Mr. Brega to schedule a meeting with his Working Group and to create a document where all the contributions from other members of CALRE are included as attachment to that already sent to Brussels and to be submitted to the CoR, and therefore to the European

institutions. Thus, at the CALRE Plenary Assembly the final document, if any, would be ratified.

The proposal is approved by those present.

AGENDA ITEM #9. ACTIVITY REPORT OF CALRE 2012 WORKING GROUPS

Firstly Mr. Castro Cordobez —President of the Parliament of the Canary Islands— who coordinates the Working Group on Subsidiarity, makes a series of reflections on the future of Europe and on the role of the regional parliaments. Furthermore, he presents a working document of its Group that he requests it should be reflected on the minutes, and that will be later completed with the results of the questionnaire. The deadline for replying to the questionnaire has been extended until 30th August and informs those present about the next meeting of the Group that will take place on 1st October in Saragossa.

Mr. Wobben asks the floor to show the CoR's interest on this Group's activity that could be in line with the activity that this body develops on subsidiarity.

CALRE President suggests Presidente Castro to invite the CoR to participate at the meeting that will be held on 1st October. After asking those presents' opinion, he considers the deadline for replying this Group's questionnaire to be extended until 30th August.

Mrs. Fernández de Simón Bermejo takes the floor to announce that Mr. Valcárcel, President of CoR, will also attend the meeting at Saragossa.

Secondly, Mr. Ruffato —President of the Regional Council of Veneto, coordinator of the Working Group on Financial Federalism—informs the attendants on the results derived from the seminar that took place on 17th and 18th June in Venice. He also informs that there are still some data being collected in order to include them in the final report of the Group that will be submitted to the CALRE Plenary Assembly next November.

Finally, Mrs. Zelger —President of the Regional Council of Trentino who also coordinates the Working Group on Equality and Equal Opportunities—informs those present about a meeting of the group that is scheduled for 12th October. She also states that there are currently some data derived from a questionnaire being collected. She expects to receive more questionnaires.

The President informs that there will be a break at the meeting now.

(BREAK)

The President resumes the session and thanks President Butler for the tour of her Parliament and then the discussion on agenda item #10 —which has been added to the agenda following the proposal by the National Assembly of Wales— starts.

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

President Butler makes a brief introduction on the project on continuous professional development of the members of the regional legislative assemblies and their support staff that her Parliament is developing.

Then, she gives the floor to Mrs. Evans, responsible for the mentioned project, who explains it, the reasons of developing it and the results derived from it. The project has been very well-received among the members of her Parliament, given the fact it is practical, flexible and voluntary. Finally she informs on the interest shown by other Parliaments in the United Kingdom and on the usefulness of sharing these practises with other CALRE members.

The President agrees with the importance of the training of the members of the Parliaments and informs that at the Parliament of Extremadura that training is provided by the parliamentary groups. Finally he raises the possibility of creating a new working group for 2013 which would be in charge of collecting the good practices of every Parliament on this issue.

President Lundberg shows her interest in contacting the National Assembly for Wales to contrast experiences on this type of programs.

The President reiterates his former proposal of the creation of a working group within CALRE for 2013, and proposes to discuss its completion at the Plenary Assembly in Mérida. This proposal is accepted by all those present.

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

President Butler raises the possibility of the participation of CALRE, in any way, in the commemorative activities of the European Years, such as the one

celebrated this year, the European Year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity.

CALRE President thinks the proposed initiative is interesting and proposes to discuss its completion at the next CALRE Plenary Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM #12. PRESENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS ON “THE RENEWED SUBSIDIARITY MONITORING STRATEGY OF THE CoR”

Mr. Wobben —Director of Horizontal Policies and Networks of the CoR— presents the new strategy on subsidiarity agreed by the Bureau of the Committee of the Regions at the session hold last 2nd May that pretends to promote this entity as the primary point on that area and whose main aspects are based on the pre-legislative phase together with the Commission, the creation of a group of experts that will contribute to the creation of a working plan where he invites CALRE and the web platform REGPEX to participate.

President Castro takes the floor to highlight some areas included in the working document of their Group that match the new strategy proposed by the CoR.

President Lundberg praises the work developed by the CoR and highlights the importance of the use of the subsidiarity tool in a useful way.

AGENDA ITEM #13. OTHER SUBJECTS

The President informs those presents that in the coming days, the first contacts with the Commission of the Regional Development of the European Parliament will be established in order to propose a collaboration agreement between CALRE and the mentioned entity and also with the National Assembly of Quebec, for inviting them to the Plenary Assembly at Mérida.

Furthermore, he proposes those present the participation of the Assembly of the Republic of Srpska as an observer at the meeting of the CALRE members, making this possibility also open to other non-EU parliaments. This issue will be submitted to the Plenary Assembly in November. The proposal is unanimously accepted by the Committee's members.

On another issue, and regarding a query from President Penz at the previous Committee, since he has not been able to attend the meeting, he informs it will be discussed in November.



He recalls the Committee's members the dates for the CALRE Plenary Assembly, which will be convened at the beginning of September and he describes its planning in a schematic way.

Finally, he proposes the attendants that the next CALRE Standing Committee meeting would be the one that has must be held just before the Plenary Assembly. This is accepted by those present.

President Castro takes the opportunity to make a series of reflections on the composition of the working groups and the coverage of the CALRE Presidency.

CALRE President agrees with President Castro and proposes to discuss these issues at the Plenary Assembly.

Once again, Mr. Castro specifies that his approaches should require changing the Conference's Rules. Thus he requests the opinion of the members of the Standing Committee on this issue.

President Zelger takes the floor to express her opinion on the issues raised by President Castro and on the reasons for the cancellation of a new meeting of the Committee, apart from the one that will take place before the Plenary Assembly.

In the same way, President Lundberg agrees with the cancellation of the 4th Standing Committee initially scheduled, although he disagrees with the reasons given.

The President of the Parliament of the German-speaking Community of Belgium, Mr. Schröder, agrees with the former opinions and raises a series of issues in relation to the discussion.

The President answers the issues raised.

President Lundberg intervenes again to explain some difficulties her Parliament faces for participating in the meetings of the CALRE entities.

President Castro clarifies some of his reflections and agrees with the fact that all those issues should be submitted to the Plenary Assembly.

Finally, the President summarizes the statements done at this last part of the agenda, reiterates his disposal to launch the convening of the Plenary Assembly at the beginning of September and to work on the institutional Declaration without delay; he thanks President Butler for her hospitality, gives her a present



and wishes her a great success in the organization of the Olympic Games that will be held in the United Kingdom shortly.

President Butler also gives CALRE President a present.

Since there are no more issues to discuss, CALRE President adjourns the meeting when it is 13.30 on 13th July.

CALRE President

Fernando Jesús Manzano Pedrera