

Council of European Municipalities and Regions
Conseil des Communes et Régions d'Europe
Συμβούλιο των Ευρωπαϊκών Δήμων και Περιφερειών
Consejo de municipios y regiones de Europa
Consiglio dei comuni e delle regioni d'Europa
Raad der Europese gemeenten en regio's
Conselho dos municípios e regiões da Europa

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Rat der Gemeinden und Regionen Europas | Deutsche Sektion

Ettlingen, 05-06 October 2015

Resolution

of the German Section of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)

on the occasion of its Meeting of Delegates

on 05-06 October 2015 in Ettlingen

For a Europe of Local and Regional Authorities and their Citizens

I. ... where local and regional authorities are partners of the European Union

The German Section of the CEMR:

offers this partnership in terms of multi-level governance to European Commission and European Parliament as a tool for a citizen-oriented European Union.

welcomes the initiative adopted by the European Commission within the context of an EU urban agenda to address the local and regional dimension of the EU, to increasingly include local and regional authorities and to harmonize EU measures with the situations prevailing in municipalities.

indicates, however, that an EU urban agenda that is to do justice to local and regional conditions within the European Union has to include all forms of local and regional government existing in the European Union.

sees an irresolvable contradiction between the efforts of the EU to focus on local and regional authorities and their issues and the treatment of those authorities set out in the European transparency register.

finds moreover that the distinction between regions, which are not expected to register, and local authorities, which are expected to register, as provided for in the transparency register by the European Union, is absolutely unacceptable and insupportable.

calls therefore on the European Parliament and the European Commission to recognise local and regional government within the European legislative process in its special role, which is basically characterised by the fact that municipalities and their federations stand up for the common good, that its representatives are democratically elected and that they are involved in the implementation of European legislation as the third level of public administration.

calls furthermore for an immediate termination of the „two-class society“ introduced by the European Union to differentiate the registration expectancy of local and regional authorities.

II. ...where core elements of European governance are applied

The German Section of the CEMR:

recalls that local autonomy is embedded in the European Treaty and that the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality form an essential part of a European policy that is oriented towards the needs of its citizens.

considers the promise of the new President of the European Commission, Jean Claude Juncker, to show greatness and ambition when great questions are concerned and to concen-

trate on issues that obviously have to be addressed on European level as a welcome approach to pay more heed to such principles.

welcomes the European Commission project of opening the policymaking process in order to make European legislation more transparent and comprehensible and to intensify consultations and justify legislation projects in the process, as has been announced in the communication “Better Legislation for Better Results – An EU Agenda” (dated 19 May 2015).

calls on the European Parliament and the Member States to get involved in the implementation of the Agenda of the European Commission for a better legislation and demands that such an approach be irrevocably adopted.

III....where people and their needs are focused

The German Section of the CEMR:

recalls the obligation of the European Treaty to create an internal market with a highly competitive social market economy and to support social cohesion (article 3 of the TEU).

points out that services of general interest provided by local and regional authorities contribute essentially to fulfil this obligation.

calls on the Commission to guarantee local and regional authorities freedom of organisation in providing services of general interest within the negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

welcomes the proposal of the European Commission to reorganise the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism so as to orientate this system towards fundamental principles of the rule of law and make it more transparent.

welcomes the resolution of the European Parliament dated 8 July 2015 concerning TTIP, by which the Parliament supports the general local and regional positions concerning services of general interest, the safeguarding of the EU provisions relating to procurement contracts and concessions, and environmental and consumer protection.

IV. ...where local and regional authorities and their citizens actively participate

The German Section of the CEMR:

refers to the contribution of local and regional authorities’ as well as citizens’ meetings to European integration through twinning.

considers this contribution still appropriate and necessary in the context of the crisis of the European Union in order to counter-balance omnipresent threats to the unity of Europe.

considers thus all efforts useful that aim at learning the language of the neighbouring country as it helps to intensify cooperation.

is therefore greatly concerned that the French Government is planning to remove German language studies from the bilingual education curriculum for middle schools (collèges) in the course of a reform of the educational system and consequently asks to reconsider the reform in this regard.