

**EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION OF INTERMEDIARY LOCAL AUTHORITIES
CHARTER**

The Assembly of French Départements (ADF; Assemblée des Départements de France), Association of German Kreise, Union of Italian Provinces (UPI), Association of Walloon Provinces (APW; Association des Provinces Wallonnes), Association of Flemish Provinces (VVP), National Association of Bulgarian Municipalities (ANMRB), Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP), Union of Prefectoral Authorities of Greece (ENAE), National Federation of Local and Regional Authorities of Hungary (MOOSZ), National Union of Judet Councils of Romania (UNCJR), Union of Powiats of Poland (UPP), Association of Slovak Regions (SK-8), and associated members, the Arc Latin and Partenalia networks.

We, national associations representing intermediary local authorities, declare:

On the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome and with the expansion of the European Union to 27 members, it is time to reassert that a Europe of the states can only be built and developed by drawing on the diversity of its territories and through their local authorities.

The Treaty of Lisbon opened a new phase in the process of European construction. Recognition of the subsidiarity principle, local autonomy, diversity and regional cohesion as the principles of the European Union, will contribute toward reasserting the role and place of local authorities in defining and implementing European policies.

In the context of globalisation, we need to build a much stronger political, social, economic and cultural Europe.

In this development, the place of local authorities, and more particularly that of intermediary local authorities, will be a determining factor.

Our collective responsibility is also to now support the evolution of the people's Europe.

Since its creation, the cohesion policy has given the territories decisive access to Europe by enabling local authorities to participate in the European Union area integration project beyond national frameworks.

Our intermediary local authorities play a key role in this process in each member state. On this basis, they have been able to bring their interventions within the various strategic frameworks of the European Union.

As such, their contribution must be highlighted and recognised by the European Union.

Located across the European Union area, they hold a specific position and have common characteristics that, over the course of time, have proved particularly suited to achieving objectives for European social, economic and regional cohesion.

Our collective responsibility is also to now support the evolution of the people's Europe.

The territories and their local authorities are now capable of providing access to Europe for its citizens.

Intermediary local authorities¹ are anchoring institutions in the field, of sufficient size to *give rise to a certain number of projects while remaining territory scale, which define and implement strategies and territorial development public policies.*

Consequently, we would like to take a step further and become involved in all fields of European policy within our remit.

We, the presidents of national associations representing intermediary local authorities, legitimate and recognised representatives of the states and Europe, have decided to join forces to:

- increase our involvement and participation in the European decision-making process;
- reinforce the consistency and visibility of our activities in the European area;
- facilitate cooperation between our intermediary local authorities;
- and establish the continuous exchange of information and good practices between our regional authorities.

To this end, we have decided, with the related networks, to create the European confederation of intermediary local authorities (Confédération Européenne des Pouvoirs Locaux Intermédiaires; CEPLI).

The CEPLI is the first European institution grouping national associations of intermediary authorities and related networks, created at European level and on the free decision of its members alone.

It intends being a model of cooperation and exchange, to benefit its members and Europe. It aims to eventually become a recognised representative of national and European institutions.

The European confederation of intermediary local authorities (Confédération Européenne des Pouvoirs Locaux Intermédiaires) will

¹ Départements, Kreise, Provinces, Megye, Judets, Powiats, Prefectural Authorities, Diputaciones, Island Councils, Local Authorities, Groups of Municipalities.

take the form of a European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGCT) or any form that will:

- with European legal status, have the capacity to directly represent its members and their interests at European level;
- being grouped within a single body, facilitate the delivery of common European projects;
- create the conditions for direct European-level dialogue with institutions in charge of programmes and major regional policies;
- create the conditions for direct dialogue with other European associations and NGOs grouping local and regional authorities;
- and create better provisions for receiving future national organisations of intermediary authorities subsequently joining us.

These objectives may be modified or added to on creation of its legal status.

The French version of this text, along with its fifteen copies, is the authentic version.

Written in VILLENEUVE LES AVIGNONS

On 15 July 2008

For the DLT
DEUTSCHER LANDKREISTAG
For the President,
Mr Helmut Jahn, Presiding Officer of the DLT and responsible for Europe

For the VVP
VERENIGING VAN DE VLAAMSE PROVINCIES (ASSOCIATION OF FLEMISH PROVINCES)
President,
Mr Jos Geuens

For the APW
ASSOCIATION DES PROVINCES WALLONNES (ASSOCIATION OF WALLOON PROVINCES)
President,
Mr Paul Emile Mottard

For the ANMRB
ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES MUNICIPALITES DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE BULGARIE
(NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BULGARIAN MUNICIPALITIES)
President,
Mrs Dora Yankova

For the FEMP
FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DES MUNICIPIOS Y PROVINCIAS
(SPANISH FEDERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES AND PROVINCES)
For the President,
Mr Juan Andrés Tovar Mena, President of the Diputación de Cáceres

For the ADF
ASSEMBLEE DES DEPARTEMENTS DE FRANCE (ASSEMBLY OF FRENCH DEPARTEMENTS)
President,
Mr Claudy Lebreton

For the ENAE,
UNION OF PREFECTORAL ADMINISTRATIONS OF GREECE
For the President,
Mr Konstantinos Tatsis, Vice President

For the MOOSZ,
ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES MEGYE
(NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF HUNGARY)
For the President,
Mr Lajos Szucs, President of the Department of Pest

For the UPI
UNION DES PROVINCES ITALIENNES (UNION OF ITALIAN PROVINCES)
For the President,
Mr Andrea Pieroni, President of the Province of Pisa

For the UPP
UNION DES POWIATS POLONAIS (UNION OF POLISH POWIATS)
President,
Mr Kazimierz Kotowski

For the UNCJR
UNION NATIONALE DES CONSEILS DE JUDETS DE ROUMANIE
(NATIONAL UNION OF JUDET COUNCILS OF ROMANIA)
For the President,
Mrs Ludmila Sfirloaga, Adviser

For ARC LATIN,
For the President,
Mr Jean Bombin, Vice-President of Arc Latin

For PARTENALIA
For the President,
Mr Jordi Laboria, Deputy, Head of the Technical Secretariat of Partenalia