

Activities of the secretariat

PLATFORMA – Two years of European action events – 28 & 29 March 2011

PLATFORMA organises two events to celebrate its first two years of existence.

A reception will take place on 28 March 2011 in Brussels, during which the publication “Decentralised Development Cooperation – European perspectives” will be launched.

The day after, the conference “PLATFORMA – two years of European action” will precede the Assises of Decentralised cooperation **with the attendance of Commissioner Piebalgs**. This conference will be hosted by the Committee of the Regions.

In addition, the programme of the **Assises of Decentralised cooperation** is now available, and registration is open.

- ➔ Please find the draft programme and the registration forms via the following link:
<http://www.platforma-dev.eu/fr/deuxansdaction.htm>
- ➔ Website and registration for the Assises: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu//atlas/en-US/Pages/Assisesondecentralisedcooperation.aspx>

The European Commission's call for proposals

The commission wishes to present improved technical documents for its calls for proposals dedicated to local and regional authorities as early as May. In view of this, they wish to collect proposals on the following documents:

- The PADOR procedure
- The request procedure, based on the last call for proposal for NSA/ LA
- The annexes of the procedure: logical framework and budget

The deadline for contributions is now over, however it is still possible to share your comments with the Secretariat.

Structured Dialogue and PLATFORMA

The last regional seminar took place in Baku on 9th and 11th February.

→ https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/SD:_Seminar_4

The next working groups will take place on 30th and 31st March in Brussels.

PLATFORMA will be present as the representative for local and regional authorities.

→ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/who/partners/civil-society/structured-dialogue_fr.htm

Member's news

Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2011

CLGF have organised the Commonwealth Local Governments conference in Cardiff from 15th to 18th March. The theme of this meeting will be: “Energising local economies: partnership for prosperous communities”, Cardiff, 15–18 March 2011

→ For more information: <http://www.clgc2011.org/>

II Forum of Euro-Arab towns – Malaga

The II Forum of Euro-Arab towns, co-organised by CEMR, COPPEM and the Congress of local and Regional authorities took place on 25–26 February in Malaga, Spain, with the focus on “Experiences of cooperation and prospects for cooperation to face common challenges”.

→ Read the final declaration: http://www.ccre.org/news_detail_en.htm?ID=2035

Paris and the fight against AIDS

The fight against AIDS in Africa is the main priority of its international cooperation policy of Paris. Its activities in this field are presented in its website:

→ http://www.paris.fr/politiques/paris-a-l-international/solidarite-cooperation/la-lutte-contre-le-sida/rub_6589_stand_16479_port_14980

EU News

Development Policy and the Mediterranean

A couple of meetings of the EU Council of Ministers have focused on the issue of relationship between the EU and its Southern Neighborhood. The agenda of the informal meeting of the Ministers for Development on 22nd February 2011 was modified to focus on events currently underway close to the southern borders of the European Union. The council condemned the action of the Libyan regime and agreed that the EU should play a greater role in the development of Arab countries. Commissioner Piebalgs underlined, in his view, the priorities for Tunisia as for Egypt concerning employment and the unemployment rate among young people.

The Mediterranean was also on the agenda of the EU informal foreign affairs meeting on 12 March (Gymnich). The European Commission presented to the ministers a new communication on the future of the EU-Mediterranean partnership

- [Meeting of the EU development ministries](#)
- [Communication of the Commission](#)

Consultations

Responses to the green paper "EU development policy in support of inclusive growth and sustainable development – Maximising the impact of the European Union's development policy" have been published by the Commission.

- http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/public-consultations/5241_en.htm

Budget support consultation – responses

- http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/public-consultations/5221_en.htm

European Commission and budget support

Commissioner for Development A. Piebalgs issued a speech last 11 February in the Bundestag where he mentioned the future of Budget support. Based on the consultation results we will issue a communication by the summer. The Commissioner underlined the importance to move to a form of contract-based budget support under which future payments are dependent on agreed targets being met. These targets would be well-defined and measurable, with issues such as governance and human development at their core.

→ <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH%2F11%2F97&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Publications of the European Court of Auditors

[Special report “The Commission's management of General Budget Support in ACP, Latin American and Asian Countries”](#)

[Report “EU Development Assistance for Basic Education in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia”](#)

The European Court of Auditors will also publish reports on the decentralisation of exterior aid provisions granted by intermediaries of the United Nations to countries affected by conflict.

Hungarian Presidency

The Oriental Partnership summit scheduled for the 27th of May 2011 in Budapest is postponed until the second semester of 2011 owing to incompatibilities. It will be held during the Polish Presidency but organized and co-chaired by both the Polish and Hungarian presidencies.

Committee of the Regions – ARLEM

The Minutes and reports from the plenary session of the Euro-Mediterranean Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities will shortly be published.

→ <http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/CoRAtWorkTemplate.aspx?view=detail&id=e3aa173a-17ba-4672-8610-864be0df71b7>

Extension of the Covenant of Mayors

At the initiative of CEMR, the Commission launched a call for offers for the opening of a “bureau of the Covenant of Eastern Mayors”.

→ http://www.ccre.org/champs_activites_detail_news_en.htm?ID=1881&idca=3130

A bureau for the “Covenant of Balkan Mayors” should be formed given that the four NALAS member associations will have signed the Covenant in early March during the Nexpo 2011 in Sarajevo. This bureau should become a support structure for the Covenant of Mayors in the region

→ http://www.ccre.org/news_detail_en.htm?ID=2007

A report by the DG DEVCO on the extension of the Covenant of Mayors in countries surrounding the Mediterranean should be published in early 2011.

Agenda

- PLATFORMA Conference “PLATFORMA – two years of European action” the morning of 29th March 2011, Brussels, Committee of the Regions
- Assises of decentralised cooperation, Brussels 29–30 March 2011
- Structured dialogue working groups, Brussels, 30–31 March
- Structured dialogue final conference, Budapest, 17–19 May.