

The President

To the Presidents of the National associations  
To the members of the Policy Committee

Brussels, 28 January 2026

Dear Presidents,  
Dear members,

Today marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of our organisation, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).

Seventy-five years ago in Geneva, a group of visionary European mayors formalised their shared commitment to building a new Europe. In the aftermath of the Second World War, they understood that the rebuilding of the continent began within its territories and local communities. This moment saw the creation of CEMR, establishing the world's first organisation to bring together mayors and local elected representatives.

Since then, CEMR has worked tirelessly to strengthen local democracy, promote self-government, and ensure that towns, cities, and regions remain central to the European and international agenda.

While the global context and the challenges facing the European continent have changed significantly since 1951, CEMR's mission remains constant. Today, as multi-level governance and democracy face new pressures and complex challenges, our work is not only relevant, but essential to sustaining much-needed cooperation across territories.

On this anniversary, I wish to celebrate our collective efforts and express my strong confidence in our ability to address the challenges ahead together. We remain dedicated to a Europe where the needs of local communities are placed at the heart of every decision.

## Upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities

To mark this 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are planning a series of initiatives throughout the coming months. These actions will provide an opportunity to reflect on our achievements and to look ahead to our shared priorities for the future.

In the meantime, we warmly invite you to share a message of celebration on this digital wall [[link](#)] and be part of this special milestone.

Please stay tuned for further updates, as more specific details and dates will be circulated shortly.

## 75 CEMR'S ANNIVERSARY: ACTIONS

1951 - 2026



### Local heroes episodes

Interview episodes spotlighting people who shaped CEMR's history

⌚ Online - CEMR social media platforms



### Launch of CEMR Alumni

Creation of a network of former CEMR staff members and interns

⌚ Brussels (Sep. 2026)



### High-level event / conference

Conference and event celebration of CEMR's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary

⌚ Brussels (Oct. 2026)



### Leaders' Summit: dedicated spaces and sessions

Special spaces to celebrate the anniversary among members

⌚ Rovaniemi (4-5 Jun 2026)  
TBC (Dec. 2026)

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to CEMR and for the vital work you do within your member states.

Long live CEMR. Long live a Europe where the collective needs of territories and communities come first.

Yours sincerely,



Gunn Marit Helgesen