



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS

EUROPEAN SECTION OF UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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POLICY COMMITTEE

★ INNSBRUCK, 10 MAY 2006 ★

✓ for decision
for information

APPLICATION FOR CEMR MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ROMANIAN COMMUNES

1. Further to the expression of interest at the meeting of the Policy Committee in Vienna, President Häupl received a formal application for CEMR membership from the President of the Association of Romanian Communes, Mr. Emil DRAGHICI.

Draft decision

The members of the Policy Committee are invited to:

- ☞ Approve the request for membership to CEMR, as a full member, of the Association of Romanian Communes.

2. The Association of Romanian Communes was founded in 1997.

Members

3. The Association is open only to communes, that is – under Romanian law – to local rural bodies. The Association gathers 1412 communes, 50% of Romanian communes, and represents 26% of the total population. Communes are organised into 41 sections, one in each Romanian county.
4. The association has provided CEMR with information confirming their respect for democratic principles:
 - All members are democratically elected.
 - The association is open to all communes, regardless of religious, ethnic or political differences.
 - The composition of the organisation's statutory bodies reflects a broad pluralism.

Goals and Activities

5. The Association of Romanian Communes undertakes to participate in the improvement of existing legislation, to support the position of Romanian local authorities within the central institutions and European bodies, to improve the competences of the personnel of local authorities through training sessions, to promote various forms of cooperation between its members and to centralise information and databases on local public administrations.

Specific committees and bodies facilitate these activities.

The association's annual budget is of 45 000 euros.

The Association is recognised as a partner by the Romanian government and consulted on questions of national policy that concern communes. However, its impact remains limited when it comes to European policy issues.

The Association of Romanian Communes is represented within the Romanian delegation to CLRAE.

Statutory Bodies

6. Each of the 41 sections elects a Policy Committee composed of 5 individuals (1 President, 1 First Vice President, 2 Vice Presidents and 1 Secretary) for a mandate of 4 years. The 41 Presidents become members of the National Policy Committee and elect the bureau (1 President, 1 First Vice President and 7 Vice Presidents) for the same duration.

The current President is Mr. Emil DRAGHICI. The current Secretary General is Mr. Sergio TARA.

7. On the basis of this information, at their meeting in Saariselkä in March 2006, the Secretaries General and Directors recommended full membership to CEMR for this association.