



## **WORLD FORUM OF REGIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES**

*“Regional and local representation for a true global democracy”*

**(Milan, 23 - 24 October 2015)**

The Forum is an international meeting of regional and sub-national legislative Assemblies sponsored by CALRE (the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies) for the purpose of offering our colleagues from other continents a space where they can share ideas and jointly assess the issues of sovereignty and representation, not with a view to analysing academic theory on institutional principles, but in order to investigate how the legislative Assemblies reinterpret those principles today in the service of their communities.

The Forum will provide a setting for discussion and debate among sub-national legislators from Europe and around the world on possible ways and means of satisfactorily promoting and fostering regional dynamics, interests and identities, in terms of institutional structures and concrete policies.

The guests invited to the Forum comprise not only Associations of European and extra-European legislative Assemblies from around the world, but also individual regional MPs as well as representatives from national, European and international Institutions.

The proceedings will close with the approval of a concluding document (“Manifesto of Regional, Sub-national and National Legislative Assemblies in the Federal States for a True Democracy”), to be drawn up jointly by the international participants.



## **Theme and objectives of the Forum**

The federalist approach lay for many years at the heart of every formula for political and institutional reform and for social and economic modernisation. It has been seen as a universal response to a raft of problems: the complexities of modern government; the distance between decision-making centres and the social and economic grass-roots; and the difficult relationships within institutions between represented and representatives.

The dramatic and widespread social consequences of the economic and financial crisis have, in little more than five years, cast doubt on those old certainties, particularly in Europe, at the same time disrupting the system of horizontal and vertical relationships that had up to then been the accepted norm.

Local and Regional Authorities do still exist and continue to work for the benefit of their citizens and their areas of jurisdiction; however, in their inter-institutional networks and communication lines, those Authorities now seem to lack representative and representational powers, particularly when it comes to determining supranational policies.

Now that states increasingly concede sovereignty to supranational forms of government, is there any sense in continuing to talk of grass-roots democracy, the representation and defence of regional and local interests, and social control over political decisions?

The apparent weakness of regional and sub-national systems of representation is manifested differently in different national contexts, including in relation to how deeply-rooted or otherwise federal traditions are. It seems, however, that the regionalist and federalist drive which had flourished to varying degrees particularly in Europe is now waning, undermined by a vision that is no longer rooted in the concept of regional and local representation.

Can a renewed relationship between local areas and politics, between society, institutions, and representation, counter today's supranational forms of governance, which seem remote and over-centralized, with a tendency to level out differences rather than foster and support them?

Are the dynamics of the worlds of finance and communication compatible with those that drive the lives of individuals in their local context, now that policies tend increasingly to be dictated from an economic and financial point of view rather than with any regard for their local or regional impact?

At the same time, however, the phenomena of globalisation and devolution of sovereignty to supranational and international institutions are today widely challenged, at least in Europe. It is arguably appropriate, therefore, to explore ways and means through which regional dynamics, interests and identities may be revitalized in the short to medium term, with concrete proposals and actions for institutions and policies.

These are the questions and key ideas that have prompted the European regional legislators of the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE) to propose to their colleagues from other continents a moment of reflection and an opportunity to explore together the meaning of representation and possible forms of relationship between citizens, their regions, and intermediate levels of government. To hear the experiences of the distinguished attendees and to learn about the evolution of their political and institutional systems in the past, present and future will undoubtedly help to make that reflection as comprehensive as possible.



## Programme

### **Forum of the World Regional and Sub-National Legislative Assemblies: “Regional and Local Representation for a True Global Democracy”**

**Friday 23 October 2015**

**Conference Room Marco Biagi – Palazzo Lombardia – Nucleo 4  
(Via Melchiorre Gioia, 37 – Milan)**

**3.00 p.m.      Opening Session**

**Roberto Maroni** - President of Lombardy Region

*“Regions, Representation, Subsidiarity – What prospect for Regional Governments?”*

**Raffaele Cattaneo**, President of the Lombardy Regional Council and President of CALRE

**3.30 p.m.      Local Representations for a True Global Democracy**  
“Speeches and institutional contributions to the debate”

*Markku Markkula*, President CoR – Committee of the Regions (Europe)

*Franco Iacop*, President of the Conference of the Presidents of the Legislative Assemblies of Regions and Autonomous Provinces

*Curt Bramble*, President NCSL - National Conference of State Legislatures (U.S.A.)

*Clemens Lammerskitten*, Vice President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

*Lin Chin-Chang*, President TCF - Taiwan Local Councils Representatives (Taiwan)

*Karl Heinz Lambertz*, President AEER – Association of European Border Regions

*Yoshiaki Matsuda*, Presidente JLC - Japanese Local Councilors Alliance (Japan)

*Francois Ouimet*, Vice President of the National Assembly of Quebec

*Magnus Berntsson*, Vice President Treasurer of the Assembly of European Regions (AER)

*Sandro Locutor*, UNALE, President of the National Union of Legislators and States with Legislative Powers (South America)

*Maria Leobeth Deslate-Delicana*, councilor - Philippine Councilors League PCL (Filippine)

**4.30 p.m.      Coffee Break (Sala Elicoidale)**

## Keynote speeches

### 5.00 p.m. **The future of sovereignty**

*Piero Bassetti, President of Globus et Locus and President of Giannino Bassetti Foundation*

Power of nation states, regional authorities and supranational governance. Where is sovereignty headed, who really wields it and with what legitimacy?

### 5.45 p.m. **A quiet devolution: multilevel governance since 1950**

*Gary Marks, Professor of Political Science at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Vrije Universiteit VU di Amsterdam*

Does regional power still make sense? Globalisation and bottom up representation. Regions and regional areas in the age of financial, economic and information networks.

**Pilar Rojo Noguera** - Vice President of CALRE

Presentation of Panel Sessions: topics, objectives and working methods

### 6.30 p.m. **Conclusions**

*Following Photo opportunity*

---

## **Saturday 24 October 2015 – Pirelli Building** **(Via Fabio Filzi, 22, Milano)**

### 9.00 - 11.00 a.m. Panel Sessions

#### *Issues and policies*

#### **1. Competitiveness and new paradigms of growth**

From growth economy to sharing economy. Regions embracing the new services and new competitive infrastructures as factors of attraction.

Technical support to the panel: **Michael Kitson** – Judge Business School - Cambridge

#### **2. Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life**

Food, energy, equity. Milan's charter speaks to the world: sustainable agriculture and balanced distribution without waste. Cities and regions between modern locally regulated consumption and post-colonial globalisation.

Zero food-miles as a new opportunity for local development.

Technical support to the panel: **Nunzia Borelli** – Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca - Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli – Laboratorio Expo

- 3. Regional Welfare: Immigration, social rights and institutional opportunities**  
Education, work, health from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Demographics, new needs, sustainability. Local communities, regions and areas called upon to offer new responses.

Technical support to the panel: **Paolo Graziano** – Università Bocconi

- 3. Sustainable development and regions**  
New policies integrating environment and region, from respect for the needs of the present to the obligation not to jeopardise the future.

Technical support to the panel: **Roberto Zoboli** – Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

*Life and dynamics of parliamentary institutions: experiences and benchmarks*

- 4. Multilevel Government and Need for Partnership**  
Shared authority, competition and interdependence: issue-shaping, decision-making, implementing. Comparing EU policy and law-making experience with actual and experimental practices of sub-state extra-European parliaments.

Technical support to the panel: **Sarah Ayres** – Bristol University – School for Policy Studies

- 6. Fiscal and financial policies**  
No taxation without representation: models and rationales of local government systems. An open debate between centre and periphery.

Technical support to the panel: **José María Durán Cabré**, Department of Public Economy – University of Barcelona

- 7. Policy making and policy assessment**  
How to set up a virtuous circle of policy-making and of public policy assessment, in terms of impact, effectiveness and learning.

Technical support to the panel: **Giliberto Capano** – Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences – Scuola Normale Superiore

- 8. Value of the norm: subsidiarity and rights**  
The relationships between citizen and State, between civil and political society are changing. Traditional forms of political representation and direct action by citizens on problems of general interest. The political challenge of the relationship between legal principles and concrete solutions.

Technical support to the panel: **Nicola Pasini** – Università degli Studi di Milano

**11.00 - 11.30 a.m. Coffee Break (26° and 31° floor)**

Transfer of the delegations from the Pirelli Building to Palazzo Lombardia (by shuttle)

**12.00 -12.30 a.m. Palazzo Lombardia – Conference Room Biagi**

Introduction to the visit to Expo (video)

**Fabrizio Sala** (Councillor for Social Housing, Expo 2015 and Internationalisation)

**12.30 - 1.30 p.m. Closing session**

Presentation of the results of the Panel Sessions

Moderator **Pilar Rojo Noguera**

Reading and endorsement

**“Manifesto of Regional, Sub-national and National Legislative Assemblies in the Federal States for a True Democracy”**



**Regione Lombardia**  
IL CONSIGLIO