

Report
on the activities of the
Union of Socialist Local and Regional Representatives in Europe
2007 - 2009

Founded in 1979 the Union of Socialist Local and Regional Representatives in Europe (USLRRE) is one of the oldest socialist organisations on the European level and an observer member of the PES. The USLRRE constitutes an efficient network which is committed to the reinforcement of local self-government and promotes the exchange of ideas, information and experiences amongst socialist local and regional representatives in Europe. Membership of the USLRRE is open to all member parties of the PES or their organisations for local government. The USLRRE is directed by a Bureau which is composed of two members representing each party or organisation of local and regional representatives, with a two year mandate. In October 2009 the Executive Bureau of the USLRRE was elected in Paris (see annex). **Claudy LEBRETON** was unanimously elected as **President of the USLRRE**.

1. Bureau meetings, events and resolutions of the USLRRE

The USLRRE has continued with its tried and tested working method of combining bureau meetings with and conferences in the past three years. Joint positions are drafted, which are published in the form of resolutions, based on the discussions in the meetings. Three conferences have been held since July 2007. The main focus for the work of the USLRRE for the year 2008 was the drafting of the USLRRE's Manifesto as well as its contribution to the PES Manifesto for the 2009 European elections. In October 2009 the USLRRE organised a conference on **“Shaping the Future: The Contribution of Local and Regional Authorities to a Democratic, Social and Sustainable Europe”** and elected its President and Executive Bureau.

A **Bureau meeting and a conference of the USLRRE** took place on 7 July 2007 in Vienna at the invitation of the Local Government Committee of the SPÖ. At this meeting the **Executive Bureau of the USLRRE was elected. In a resolution on the outcome of the European Council of June 2008** the USLRRE welcomed the fact that the necessary EU reform process had been brought out of the impasse it was in and that the respect for local and regional self-government was explicitly maintained in the mandate for the Intergovernmental conference agreed by the European Council. In the afternoon a **conference** took place on the topic of **«Solidarity between generations - Ageing as a challenge for the future of the local authorities»**. The Bureau adopted a resolution on this subject. The event was attended by around 60 socialist local and regional representatives from 11 European countries.

In a meeting with the **Executive Bureau on 9 October 2007** the **Secretary General of the PES Philip CORDERY** thanked the USLRRE for its work and offered to further strengthen cooperation between the USLRRE and the PES.

The **USLRRE's contribution to the PES Manifesto for the 2009 European elections**, was **adopted** at the **Bureau meeting on 18 April 2008** **Philip CORDERY**, PES Secretary General, reported on the PES consultation process for the Manifesto in this meeting.

A **Bureau meeting** took place on **23 January 2009** in Budapest at the invitation of BÖK and the MSZP. In this meeting the USLRRE adopted its Manifesto for the 2009 European elections, which includes the common positions of socialist local and regional representatives in key areas of local government. The **Manifesto of the USLRRE** entitled **“Socialist Local and Regional Representatives for a Social and Democratic Europe. With the People - For the People”** underlines the importance of the 2009 European elections for the future direction of Europe and lays particular emphasis on the fundamental role of the European Parliament in the European legislative process. Throughout its Manifesto, the USLRRE calls for a strong PES group in the European Parliament so that Europe can become more social and better serve local authorities. Socialist local and regional representatives from a total of 15 European countries participated in the different conferences of the USLRRE leading to these common positions, in a process which was initiated in 2004. The Manifesto was presented by the President of the USLRRE, **Herbert SCHMALSTIEG**, and USLRRE Vice-Presidents **Monika LAMPERTH** and **Claudy LEBRETON** at a press conference in Budapest. Furthermore a **conference** took place in Budapest on the topic of an **“Inclusive society – Local authorities and equal opportunities”**. The event was attended by more than 80 socialist local and regional representatives. At its meeting the Bureau of the USLRRE adopted a resolution on the subject of the conference.

The Bureau of the USLRRE met upon the invitation of the FNESR on 16 October 2009 in Paris. At this meeting the executive Bureau of the USLRRE was elected. **Claudy LEBRETON** (F) was unanimously **elected as President of the USLRRE**. **Claudy LEBRETON** is President of the Conseil Général of the Département Côtes d'Armor, President of the Assembly of French Départements and President of the Fédération nationale des élus socialistes et républicains (FNESR). **Marc TARABELLA** (B), Member of the European Parliament and Mayor of Anthisnes is the USLRRE's new Secretary General. The former Presidents of the USLRRE **Martine BURON** and **Herbert SCHMALSTIEG** were appointed Honorary Presidents of the USLRRE. The same day a conference took place on the subject of “**Shaping the Future: The Contribution of Local and Regional Authorities to a Democratic, Social and Sustainable Europe**”, on which the Bureau adopted a resolution. Speakers and participants included **Philip CORDERY**, Secretary General of the Party of European Socialists (PES), **Harlem DESIR**, Member of the European Parliament, National Secretary of the Parti Socialiste in charge of coordination, **Pierre SCHAPIRA**, Deputy Mayor of Paris, and **Jeremy SMITH**, Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) as well as ECOSY President **Petroula NTELEDIMOU**. Delegations and socialist local and regional representatives from eleven European countries took part in the meeting of the Bureau and the conference of the USLRRE.

2. Cooperation with the PES

Cooperation with the Party of European Socialists (PES) has further been strengthened in the past few years. As observer member of the PES, the USLRRE is represented in the PES Congress by two delegates (without voting right) and by one delegate (without voting right) in the PES Councils. In addition, the USLRRE is regularly invited to the PES Coordination Team meetings and automatically receives all information concerning PES activities. **PES Secretary General Philip CORDERY** took part in Bureau meetings in 2007 and 2008 in Brussels in the PES headquarters as well as in the conference in October 2009 in Paris, where he underlined the importance of the local and regional representatives for European Social Democracy and offered that cooperation be intensified between the PES and the USLRRE. He also reiterated his offer to the USLRRE to organise its meetings in the PES headquarters.

At the **PES Council in Sofia on 22-23 November 2007** the President of the USLRRE **Herbert SCHMALSTIEG** was a speaker in two of the working sessions (“Green Energy and Sustainable Urban Transport” and “Save the planet”). In addition, for the first time at a major PES event, the USLRRE had a stand at the PES Council in Sofia. The main focus of the **PES Council on 1st/2nd December 2008 in Madrid** was to adopt the PES Manifesto for the 2009 European elections. The USLRRE actively contributed to the consultation process for the PES Manifesto.

Information on the USLRRE is available from our website: www.uslrre.eu which also contains all resolutions and papers adopted by the USLRRE. For more information please contact **Peter HAMON**, Deputy Secretary General of the USLRRE (Tel.: +49 30 25992 965; email: p.hamon@bundes-sgk.de).

ANNEX

Executive Bureau of the USLRRE 2009

President der USLRRE	Claudy LEBRETON (France), President of the Conseil Général of the Département Côtes d'Armor, President of the FNESR, President of the Assembly of French Departements
Vice Presidents of the USLRRE	Roland SCHÄFER (Germany), Mayor of Bergkamen, Member of the Bureau of the Bundes-SGK, First Vice President of the Association of German Towns and Municipalities Paz FERNANDEZ FELGUEROSO (Spain), Mayor of Gijon, Alternate Member of the CoR Monika LAMPERTH (Hungary), Member of Parliament, Vice President of the Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP) Lukas NACZAS (Poland), Councillor (Gniezno), Vice President of the SLD Council in the Gniezno powiat Fabio PELLEGRINI (Italy), Vice President of the CEMR Italian Section, Councillor (Rapolano Terme), Vice-President of the Chamber of Local Authorities of the CLRAE, President of the PES group in the CLRAE, Rome
Secretary General of the USLRRE	Marc TARABELLA (Belgium) Member of the European Parliament, Mayor of Anthisnes
Deputy Secretary General of the USLRRE	Peter HAMON (Germany), Secretary for European and International Affairs of the Bundes-SGK, Head of the Secretariat of the USLRRE
Treasurer of the USLRRE	Kurt GASSNER (Austria), Member of the Austrian Parliament and Deputy Chairman of the SPÖ group, Chairman of the Committee on Local Authorities of the SPÖ
Deputy Treasurer of the USLRRE	Tom JUNGEN (Luxembourg), Mayor of the Municipality of Roeser

The former Presidents of the USLRRE Martine BURON and Herbert SCHMALSTIEG were appointed Honorary Presidents of the USLRRE..