

European And External Affairs Committee

Date: 22 January 2004
Time: 09:00
Venue: Committee Rooms 3 & 4, National Assembly Building, Cardiff Bay
Title: Conference (of Presidents) of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE)

Conference (of Presidents) Of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE)

Background

1. CALRE is the inter-parliamentary association for Speakers, Presidents, Presiding Officers and Chairs of European regions with legislative power. It meets in conference for an annual plenary session and, occasionally throughout the year for one-off events and Standing Committee meetings. The Presiding Officer attended the Brussels Conference in October 2002 and reported back to the EA Committee at its January 2003 meeting. During 2003 the Presiding Officer attended a number of CALRE events, including meetings of its Standing Committee in place of the UK representative Lord Allderdice, Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

CALRE Activity

2. During the year, under the Chairmanship of the President of the Tuscan Parliament, Riccardo Nencini, one of the principal objectives of CALRE was to provide input on behalf of European regional legislative bodies into the constitutional role of regions within the draft European Constitution. In many instances this was undertaken through dialogue and partnership with other key European regional bodies including CoR, REGLEG and COSSAC.

3. CALRE invites its Members to sign up to a declaration at the end of each annual conference. The Presiding Officer, along with the other UK representatives present does not have the Executive powers to sign declarations. Two documents emanating from CALRE are therefore submitted to the European Committee for feedback /approval:

- The 'Charta (sic) of European Regions' (Appendix 1)
- The Reggio Calabria Declaration (Appendix 2)

Reggio Calabria

4. A report on the Reggio Calabria Conference, to which the Presiding Officer sent an observer in his own absence is included at Appendix 3.

2005 Presidency

5. The Committee is to be advised that the Presiding Officer has declared his interest in the National Assembly for Wales taking on the 2005 Annual Conference and Presidency, the implications of which are being submitted separately to the House Committee for their consideration.

Contact Point

PJP Kellam

Overseas and External Relations Unit