

EU

SCHNEIDER Michael (DE/EPP)
State Secretary, Delegate of the State of Saxony-Anhalt for the German Federation (Germany)

SÉRTŐ-RADICS István (HU/ALDE)
Mayor of Uszka (Hungary)

STAVARACHE Romeo (RO/ALDE)
Mayor of Bacău municipality (Romania)

ŚWIĘTAŁSKI Leszek (PL/PES)
Mayor of Stare Bogaczowice (Poland)

VALCÁRCEL SISO Ramón Luis (ES/EPP)
President of the EU Committee of the Regions
President of the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia (Spain)

VAN DEN BRANDE Luc (BE/EPP)
Chairman of the Flemish-European Affairs Liaison Agency (Belgium)

WOŹNIAK Marek (PL/EPP)
Marshal of the Wielkopolska region (Poland)

ŽAGUNIS Povilas (LT/EA)
Mayor of Panevėžys District
Municipal Council (Latvia)

Partner countries

KUISH Mikhail
Deputy of the Brest Province
Council of Deputies (Belarus)

MNATSAKANYAN Mnatsakan
Mayor of Talin
Member of Parliament of the
Republic of Armenia (Armenia)

OLUYKO Vitaliy
Councillor, Khmelnytska Regional
Council (Ukraine)

PODOLYAK Elena
Deputy Chairperson of the Vitebsk
Province Council of Deputies (Belarus)

SALAMOVA Gulnaz
Chair, Sheki city municipality (Azerbaijan)

SANTROSYAN Armen
Mayor of Dilijan (Armenia)

SIUKAEVA Sophie
Member of the Terjola municipal
council (Georgia)

YERITSYAN Emin
Councillor, Community of Parakar,
President of the Union of Communities
of Armenia (Armenia)

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Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP)

What is the EU's Eastern Partnership?

Political developments within the countries of Eastern Europe and the Southern Caucasus, and the evolution of the European Union's Neighbourhood Policy, led the European Commission to launch the "Eastern Partnership" in December 2008, by putting forward concrete ideas for enhancing the EU's relationship with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The partnership proposes new EU association agreements, including deep and comprehensive free trade agreements, with those countries willing and able to enter into a deeper engagement with, as well as gradual integration into, the EU economy. The initiative also included proposals for easier travel to the EU through gradual visa liberalisation, accompanied by measures to tackle illegal immigration. The partnership aims at promoting democracy and good governance, strengthening energy security and environmental protection, encouraging people-to-people contacts and supporting economic and social development.

The annual conference of regional and local authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP)

Aiming at bringing a regional and local dimension into the Eastern Partnership, CORLEAP is a platform for regular dialogue between local and regional authorities from the EU and its EaP partner countries. Involving the local and regional levels of government in the implementation of the Eastern Partnership should help to strengthen local and regional self-government in the partner countries and bring the Eastern Partnership closer to its citizens. The first CORLEAP meeting took place in Poznań, Poland, on 8 September 2011, where it was decided that the conference would continue as a yearly event.

The Eastern Partnership Roadmap published on 15 May 2012¹ acknowledged the important role of CORLEAP in the achievement of the Eastern Partnership objectives. In particular, CORLEAP has been called upon to strengthen the capacities of partner countries at local and regional level with regard to public administration reform and to support the monitoring of the implementation of the Roadmap in cooperation with other relevant

¹ JOIN(2012) 13.

The latest information on CORLEAP activities can be found at www.cor.europa.eu/en/activities/Pages/corleap.aspx.

For any request or further information please contact corleap@cor.europa.eu.

More information on the Eastern Partnership is available at the website of the European External Action Service.

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actors, such as the Civil Society Forum and the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly.

On 30 May 2012 at the first Bureau meeting, CORLEAP adopted a two year Action Plan with political and operational proposals leading up to the Summit in autumn 2013:

1. Political dimension:

a. Representation of the local and regional level at the Summit of Heads of State and Government:

- Establishment of a needs assessment of the partner countries' local and regional level;
- Promoting inclusion of cross-border and regional level cooperation into the Association Agreements between the EU and partner countries;

• Involvement of representatives of local and regional authorities associations of partner countries in the negotiations between the EU and their respective governments;

• Cross-fertilisation between CORLEAP and the consultative work of the Committee of the Regions;

• Organisation of a series of targeted political events;

• Developing a useful instrument for drawing up policy guidelines on the Eastern Partnership and provide a forum for permanent dialogue among the regional and local authorities of the EU and the partner countries;

• Use of synergies between CORLEAP and the activities of its permanent observer organisations.

b. CORLEAP as "Network of Networks":

- Involve other associations of local and regional authorities from the partner countries and the European Union that are willing and able to contribute to CORLEAP activities.

c. Contribution to the multilateral track:

- Participation through the CoR in the EaP thematic platforms (Platform 1 – democracy, good governance and stability; Platform 2 – economic integration and convergence with EU policies; Platform 3 – energy security; Platform 4 – contacts between people.)

2. Operational dimension:

a. Information support with regard to the financing of local and regional development programmes in the EaP countries and donor lobbying;

b. Committee of the Regions "open door policy" for CORLEAP events (within the existing guidelines).

| Who are the members of CORLEAP?

CORLEAP brings together 36 regional and local politicians (mayors, or members of local and regional assemblies or parliaments), 18 from the six Eastern partner countries and 18 from the EU Committee of the Regions. CORLEAP aims at a balanced political and, as far as possible, geographical distribution of its members.

Each Eastern partner country has three seats. The EU seats are distributed according to the political composition of the Committee of the Regions, divided between its four political groups: European People's Party (EPP), Party of European Socialists (PES) Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) and the European Alliance (EA).

List of CORLEAP members

EU

ALDEGREN Uno (SE/PES)
Member of Skåne Regional Council (Sweden)

BØDKER ANDERSEN Per (DK/PES)
Deputy Mayor of Kolding and Councillor of the Town Council (Denmark)

BRESSO Mercedes (IT/PES)
First Vice-President of the EU Committee of the Regions
Member of the Piedmont Regional Council (Italy)

BRONS Jan (PL/EA)
Mayor of Oleśnica (Poland)

COSMA Mircea (RO/PES)
President of Prahova County Council (Romania)

JAUNSLĒINIS Andris (LV/ALDE)
Chairman of Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (Latvia)

KOVÁCS Sándor (HU/EPP)
President of the General Assembly of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County (Hungary)

LÍNEK Roman (CZ/EPP)
Deputy President of Pardubice Region (Czech Republic)

PAVIRŽIS Gediminas (LT/PES)
Member of the Council of Vilnius district municipality (Lithuania)

SCHAUSBERGER Franz (AT/EPP)
Delegate of the Region of Salzburg for the Committee of the Regions (Austria)

Partner countries

ABULADZE Mamuka
Member of the Rustavi city assembly (Georgia)

AKHVLEDIANI Mamuka
Deputy Head of the Tbilisi city assembly (Georgia)

AMBROS Alexandru
Mayor of Ungheni municipality (Republic of Moldova)

BABAYEV Abulfaz
Chair, Sumgait Municipality, Chair of the Association of City-Municipalities of Azerbaijan (Azerbaijan)

BADAN Tatiana
Mayor of Selement, Cimişlia Raion, President of the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova - CALM (Republic of Moldova)

BOGATYRCHUK-KRYVKO Svitlana
Member of Rivne City Council (Ukraine)

CHERNOV Sergey
Chairman of Kharkiv regional council, President of the Ukrainian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (Ukraine)

CHIRTOACĂ Dorin
General Mayor of Chişinău Municipality (Republic of Moldova)

GERASIMOVICH Svetlana
Chairperson of the Minsk Province Council of Deputies (Belarus)

IBRAHIMOV Anar
Chairman of the Committee of Human Rights, International and Inter-Parliamentary Relation of the Ali majlis (Parliament) of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (Azerbaijan)