



Conseil des Communes et Régions d'Europe Council of European Municipalities and Regions

TWINNING SEMINAR

★ OSWIECIM, 30 OCTOBER 2009 ★

Oswiecim Cultural Centre, ul. Sniadeckiego 24, Oświęcim

*70 years after World War II broke out,
20 years after of the fall of the Iron Curtain:*

« TWINNING AND RECONCILIATION »

DRAFT PROGRAMME



9 h *Departure by Bus of the participants from Krakow to Oświęcim*

10 h **Opening of the seminar**

Janusz Marszałek, Mayor of Oświęcim, Chair of CEMR's twinning group

10 h 15 **Roundtable 1: 1939-2009 – 70 years later: war, peace and reconciliation: the role of twinning**

Introduction: Janusz Marszałek, Mayor of Oświęcim, Chair of CEMR's twinning group

Questions for the debate:

- *What have twinning exchanges brought to the construction process of the European Community after the war?*
- *50 years after World War II, Europe was shaken by the war in the former Yugoslavia: what is the role of twinning links in the reconciliation process in the Balkan region?*
- *How do the lessons from the past influence Europe's action in the world today? What support do twinning links bring in this regard?*

Contributions:

- A representative of a municipality involved in one of the first French-German twinning partnerships
 - Ljubo Bešlić, Mayor of Mostar *
 - A representative of a municipality involved in a twinning link for peace with a non-European town
 - A representative of a German-Polish twinning link with an Israeli town
- ➔ Exchanges with the participants

11 h 30 *Break*

11 h 45 Roundtable 2: 1989-2009 – 20 years after the victory of Solidarność and the fall of the Wall: the contribution of twinning links in bringing Europeans together

Chair and introduction: Andrzej Porawski, Executive Director, Association of Polish Cities

Questions for the debate:

- *What role have twinning links played in bringing together the countries of central and eastern Europe with those of western Europe after the political upheavals of 1989 and in the EU enlargement process?*
- *20 years after the events, have twinning links helped European citizens to share a feeling of belonging to the same community?*
- *Upon which (common?) values can twinning rest to reinforce the citizens' feeling of belonging to the European Union?*

Contributions:

- A representative of an English municipality involved in a twinning link with Poland
 - A representative (elected) from Bulgaria or Romania
 - A representative (elected) from the Baltic states
 - A representative (elected) from Italy, Spain or Greece
- ➔ Exchanges with the participants

13 h 00 *Lunch upon the invitation of the city of Oświęcim*

14 h 30 Roundtable 3: Reconciliation in Europe today: twinning, inclusion and intercultural dialogue

Chair and introduction: Jeremy Smith, Secretary General of CEMR

Questions for the debate:

- *How do twinning links contribute to the dialogue between citizens in a Europe of 27 member states and beyond?*
- *How do twinning links today facilitate living together in diversity?*
- *How do twinning links contribute to social cohesion in a society that is increasingly fragmented?*
- *How do twinning links help citizens to live and benefit from each others' differences?*

Contributions:

- Jan Olbrycht, Member of the European Parliament, former Vice-President of CEMR *
- Pierre Mairesse, Director and acting Head of Unit, Directorate General Education and Culture; Citizenship policy; "Europe for citizens" *
- Anders Knape, First Vice-President of CEMR, former Chair of CEMR's twinning group, President of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions *
- A representative of the City of Stuttgart
- An example of twinning
- ➔ Exchanges between the participants and ideas for the future of twinning in Europe

16 h 15 Conclusions

Chairs: Janusz Marszałek, Mayor of Oświęcim, Chair of CEMR's twinning group and Jeremy Smith, Secretary General of CEMR

16 h 45 End of the seminar

Transfer of the participants by bus from Oswiecim to Krakow

A visit to the Memorial and Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau is foreseen for those who wish on Saturday 31 October from 10h to 12h30

** To be confirmed*