

"CELEP: COALITION FOR EUROPEAN LOBBIES ON EASTERN AFRICAN PASTORALISM "

Mission statement:

The Members of the Coalition will work together to lobby their national governments, EU bodies (Council, Parliament and Commission) as well as other policy formulating bodies/agencies in Europe (f.e. the European Headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva and the FAO in Rome) to explicitly recognise and support pastoralism (and the people that practise pastoralism: pastoralists) in the dry lands of Eastern Africa.

Actors cooperating under the Coalition and their roles:

Being part of the Coalition is on a voluntary basis and based on a shared commitment to and belief in the guiding mission statement of the Coalition. The Coalition's mission is focused on Europe and as such involves European organisations foremost with a legitimate right to lobby their governments and the EU. However the Coalition is not able to do this work without closely cooperating with pastoralist networks, experts, partners and organisations working in Eastern Africa. Since these actors are able to provide grassroots information and able to formulate the problems/needs of pastoralism/ists (crucial as inputs for CELEP lobby cases). The Eastern African organisations have the legitimate right to lobby their own governments, the AU and other regional African bodies. Therefore, the Coalition will be based on close cooperation and information sharing between European organisations and Eastern African organisations. As such both European and Eastern African organisations can be part of CELEP.

Functioning of the Coalition:

In June 2009 the first meeting of the Coalition was held at the Cordaid office in The Hague. The participants of the June meeting (list of participants as an annex) decided to work out a 'light' and informal structure for their cooperation. The networking/cooperation will be guided by a 'mission statement', not so much about the 'final' objectives (blueprint), but rather about 'going the same road', especially in their joint efforts to lobby the European Union.

The June meeting decided that the following basics of "networking/cooperating" will be organised:

- A "rotating" focal point, supported in the first year by Cordaid (July 2009 – June 2010).
- The formation of a "core group". Consisting of Cordaid (the Chair during the first year), IWGIA, REGLAP/Oxfam GB, Kimmage Development Studies Centre, WISP, PACAPS, FARM Africa UK and IKV Pax Christi from Nairobi. Membership of the Core group will be for one year and will be decided upon again during the annual plenary meeting.
- An annual 'plenary' meeting (in 2010 in Dublin, Ireland at the Kimmage Development Studies Centre).
- Further, communication between Coalition members mostly will be done via electronic means and phone.

There are no special funding provisions foreseen for the networking/cooperation under the Coalition.

Priority lobby issues:

During the June meeting four priorities for lobby work to support in the EU on Pastoralism/ists (both at the Brussels' and at the member states level) were chosen:

1. *Recognition of the role of pastoralism and pastoralists.* This includes respect for and implementation of their rights and recognition of a.o. their economic contributions. Pastoralism is recognized as a sustainable viable livelihood system that positively contributes to among others national/regional economies, food security/production, employment and sustainable management of natural resources.
2. *Mobility* as a crucial condition for sustainable pastoralism and for community security in (cross border) conflict areas.
3. *Access to and management of key natural resources*, an aspect that among others will contribute to community security in (cross border) conflict areas.
4. *Climate Change:* the effects of Climate Change on pastoralism/ists and the (positive) contributions of pastoralism/ists on Climate change.

Four short position papers (based on existing work/studies) are being worked.

Roles of the Core group:

The Core group will actively:

- Determine the agenda and action plan of the next annual CELEP meeting, when/where it will be, who will organise this meeting and inform all the members accordingly.
- Monitor the progress of the 20 pledges made during the first annual meeting in June 2009 and to keep all members informed on this. This will be done on a 3 monthly basis.
- Prepare and formulate the mandate, roles, lobby strategies and agenda of the Coalition and submit these for discussion with the members for appropriate actions.
- Contribute as a Coalition to already ongoing lobby efforts on pastoralism/ists issues to build strong joint cases. This requires inputs from (regional) partners working on the ground with pastoralists.
- Identify and approach other key organisations not represented at the June meeting to join the Coalition.
- If applicable, helps to fundraise for implementation of specific (lobby) activities both in Europe as in Eastern Africa.

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List of Participants

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