

# Luxembourg welcomes the first CEPI European Real Estate Convention: a great success!

CEPI, as it is more commonly known, is the umbrella organisation for Property Agents and Property Managers in the EU. The IAVI is a member of EPAG (European Property Agents Group), one of the branch organisations of CEPI. The members of CEPI are the most important professional organisations or institutes for Property Managers and Property Agents in the EU Member States and it represents 42 professional associations, which collectively have 200,000 individual members.

The IAVI is a founder member of ICREA (The International Consortium of Real Estate Associations) an alliance whose members are leading national real estate organisations in the world's major markets.

The following is a report of the recent CEPI Convention:

On the occasion of the European Real Estate Convention 2009, which took place between 19 and 21 November, CEPI and the CIGDL (Chambre Immobilière du Grand Duché de Luxembourg) had invited all professionals from Luxembourg and neighbouring countries, as well as all CEPI members, to participate in an international seminar on the theme: «The residential real estate market in the «Grande Région» and in Europe : trends and opportunities ». The event was organised in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce of Luxembourg, under the patronage of the Ministry of Economy and External Trade of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The speakers included, amongst others, Mr. Claude Turmes, MEP, and Mrs Hélène Abel, of the French Ministry of Ecology, Energy and Sustainable Development. The speakers answered important

questions on the cost of energy and energy efficiency today, European decision makers' positions on real estate, and also prices and trends in real estate markets in Europe and the Grande Région and ways to help deal with the crisis... They also described the legal situation and the markets in the different countries of the Grande Region. We would like to thank them again for their very interesting and valuable contributions. All presentations are available at [www.cigdl.lu/fr/seminaire/conferences](http://www.cigdl.lu/fr/seminaire/conferences).

## **A full programme ahead in 2010 for the CEPI, CEAB and EPAG Presidents**

Meeting in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on the occasion of the Convention, the CEPI General Assembly, consisting of the national members of CEAB (European

Confederation of Property Managers) and of EPAG (European Property Agents Group), from the majority of European countries, renewed the mandate of the three boards of directors (Jukka Malila - KVVKL Finland is co-opted for EPAG, and Luc Debeunne - FNAIM, France - replaces Gilles Ricour de Bourgies for CEAB). They also voted to renew the mandate of the three Presidents, Mr. Timo Multanen (FREM, Finland) for CEPI, Mrs Claudine Speltz (CIGDL, Luxembourg) for CEAB and Mr. Jan Boruvka (ARK CR, Czech Republic) for EPAG. Their second mandate will officially begin on January 1st 2010, with as top priority work on policies on the hot issues on the EU agenda which are of particular interest to real estate professionals across Europe: the energy performance of buildings, the action plan on energy efficiency, the recognition of professional qualifications throughout



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the EU, and also the importance of research and analysis of property markets at a Pan European level....

We are also pleased to announce that two new members have joined the CEPI family : VGM (the Netherlands), as observers in CEAB, and IPI/BIV (Belgium), as full CEAB and EPAG member, bringing to 42 members the number of members represented in the European movement.

Finally, on the same day, ICREA (the

International Consortium of Real Estate Associations, a consortium of the world's leading real estate associations) and CEPI signed a collaboration agreement to develop the first European property website managed by real estate professionals, little sister of the existing global website *worldproperties.com*.

This website (to be launched in April or May next year) on which real-estate agents of all the Union can place and promote properties to be sold, has the

objective to encourage and facilitate the exchange of listings between professionals from the various European countries, open to the general public.

Worldproperties.eu will offer a quality service to facilitate cross-border transactions in a complex context where taking a step such as buying a house in another country – without seeking professional advice is more and more risky and should be well supported. ♦



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