



**Committee 3 Plenary Meeting
Ustron, 16th May 2008**

Draft Minutes

Chair : Committee President Johanna MIKL-LEITNER

The following regions were represented:

Açores (P), Baranya (H), Bekes (H), Devon (GB), Dolnoslaskie (PL), Essex (GB), Gävleborg (S), Hampshire (GB), Heves (H), Jämtland (S), Niederösterreich (A), Norrbotten (S), Pest (H), Sarajevo (BIH), Sicilia (I), Slaskie (PL), Västerbotten (S), Västernorrland (S), Wielkopolska (PL)

The following organisations were represented

ARGE Alpen Adria
ARGE Donauländer

1.	Adam HAJDUGA, Vice-Director of Promotion and International Cooperation (Slaskie), welcomed the participants.	
2.	<p>Opening by Committee President Johanna MIKL-LEITNER</p> <p>Johanna MIKL-LEITNER thanked Mr HAJDUGA on behalf of the Committee for the Region's hospitality. In her opening remarks, she summarized the achievements since the last meeting and gave an outlook on upcoming issues on the political agenda.</p> <p>Johanna MIKL-LEITNER informed the participants that, after the departure of former Senior Policy coordinator Martin MÜHLECK in December 2007, his successor, Mr Jascha SCHEELE had been recruited, who starts his job with the meetings in Ustron. She took the opportunity to congratulate and thank Junior Policy coordinator Doris MATERNE for the work she had accomplished during the interim period.</p>	
3.	<p>Adoption of the Draft Agenda</p> <p>The draft agenda was unanimously adopted.</p>	
4.	<p>Adoption of the Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>The minutes were unanimously adopted.</p>	
5.	<p>Report on recent developments and activities within AER by Secretary General Klaus KLIPP</p> <p>Important recent developments:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- After having lost elections in his region, Riccardo Illy stepped down as AER President. Vice-President Michelle SAUBAN has become interim acting president until the general elections in November.- AER has received a grant from the EU Commission to run the Secretariat in 2008 and 2009. With the help of this grant, AER notably employs a funding coordinator who looks into funding possibilities under the different EU programmes for projects with member regions.- A number of citizen forums have been organized in 2007 and 2008 that allowed citizens to exchange ideas concerning Europe with members of the EU parliament and representatives of the Committee of the Regions. The next citizen Forum will take place in the framework of the next Bureau meeting in Wroclaw.- The AER website has become more interactive: Amongst others, members have now the possibility to upload their Region's information (press releases, visiting cards).	<p>AER members are invited to upload regional information to the AER website and to establish a link on their own homepage showing that they are a member of AER</p>
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<p>6.</p>	<p>Reports from the Sub-Committees</p> <p><u>Sub-Committee Youth</u></p> <p>Sub-Committee chair David NORDSTRÖM presented the report on the meeting (see separate minutes).</p> <p><u>Sub-Committee Culture</u></p> <p>Sub-Committee chair Sten-Erik NILSSON presented the report on the meeting (see separate minutes).</p> <p><u>Sub-Committee Interregional and International Cooperation</u></p> <p>Doris MATERNE presented the report on the meeting that had taken place on 5 May in Dijon (see minutes of the Dijon meeting). She asked to excuse the fact that, due to an urgent agenda and commitments of Sub-Committee President Marie-Françoise MULLER it had not been possible to organise the meeting at the same time as the other meetings in Ustron and that the Dijon meeting had been called at such a short notice.</p> <p>In this context, Klaus KLIPP gave additional information on the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- AER is currently talking with UNDP at different levels about the possibility for decentralized development cooperation and to create a network to find partners for projects on this topic. With a new person in place at UNDP's Hub for Innovative Partnerships, cooperation in this field is promising.- UN Habitat attended the meeting in Ustron and will look into the possibility to send project proposals to the AER for further dissemination to its member regions inviting them to get involved.- FOGAR conference in Tangier, 12-14 May 2008: The AER is looking into the possibility to join the network.- Contacts have been made with the Federation of Australian Regions. <p>Doris MATERNE informed the participants of an open EU consultation regarding the preparation of a Commission communication on "EU approach to democratic local governance, decentralisation and territorial development" (deadline 16th of June). The secretariat will send out a position paper on this topic and will ask the members for comments and contributions.</p>	<p>Members are invited to provide input to the consultation and the announced AER position paper</p>
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	<p><u>Sub-Committee Education & Training</u></p> <p>Stuart DORWARD (Hampshire) presented the report on the meeting (see separate minutes).</p> <p>Concerning the Rainbow Paper II consultation, participants agreed that the secretariat should contribute to the consultation procedure by asking for the extension of integration measures also to the pre-school stage and by including the parents of immigrated children.</p>	<p>The Committee Secretariat to introduce online the Committee's contribution to the consultation procedure</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>2008 “European Year of intercultural dialogue” and the importance of world heritage</p> <p>Alluding to UNESCO's lists of Intangible Heritage of Humanity and of Intangible Cultural Heritage, Bela BOKOR (Baranya) explained the need for action at local and regional level and asked the Committee to include the topic on the agenda of the next meeting. The debate should be organised with contributions from professionals and UNESCO representatives. In order to prepare the meeting, a list of endangered cultural heritage should be drawn up.</p> <p>Johanna MIKL-LEITNER asked Bela BOKOR to contact Peter</p>	<p>Intangible Heritage of Humanity and Intangible Cultural Heritage to be put on next Committee's agenda.</p> <p>List of endangered cultural heritage to be drawn up in cooperation</p>

	DE MARTIN (Niederösterreich; Arge Donauländer) and to cooperate in view of preparing the list.	between Bela BOKOR and Peter DE MARTIN.
8.	<p>2009 "European Year of Creativity and Innovation"</p> <p>Doris MATERNE informed the participants that the aim of the European Year of creativity and innovation is the better use of knowledge by all people and providing them with a broad basis of creative capacities in order to address the challenges brought about by rapid innovation, preparing them thus for change.</p> <p>The European Year, which continues the European Year of intercultural dialogue 2008, does not only concern culture and education but will also involve media, enterprises, research, social affairs, regional policy and rural development. The Commission has already declared that there will be no specific budget line and that allocations have to be found under the existing programmes and in the framework of the general budget.</p> <p>The decision on the European Year is to be expected in the course of this year. The Commission has invited the member states to designate national coordinators who shall cooperate in form of a small steering committee at EU level.</p> <p>President MIKL-LEITNER invited the participants to come up until the next meeting with proposals for regional implementation. Bela BOKOR will coordinate together with the Committee secretariat the proposals.</p>	Regions are invited to send to the AER their proposal concerning the European Year of Creativity and Innovation
9.	<p>AER General Assembly, Tampere, 12 - 15 November 2008</p> <p>Secretary General Klaus KLIPP presented the general outline and practical conditions for the General Assembly that will take place on 13 & 14 November 2008 in Tampere.</p> <p>The topic decided on the occasion of the AER Presidium meeting on 10 February will be "From migration to integration: Regional solutions to a European challenge" regional best practices on migration. Together with Johanna MIKL-LEITNER he quoted examples for best practices that could be used as input (medical care for illegal immigrants; integration competition for private enterprises; language training for migrant children in the kindergarten through intercultural collaborators). In this respect, Cllr Saxon SPENCE suggested for the Youth Team to make videoclips (to be checked concerning feasibility) that could be shown in the "open space".</p> <p>Klaus KLIPP took the opportunity to inform the participants that the AER is planning to set up its own YouTube channel in</p>	Members are invited to send their proposals for speakers, workshop moderators, topics and best practices at their earliest convenience

	<p>which these footages could be incorporated.</p> <p>Johanna MIKL-LEITNER proposed to base the topic for the next Most Youth-friendly European Region competition on the GA topic.</p>	
10.	<p>Next meetings</p> <p>The Secretariat is still looking for a region that would like to host the Autumn meeting. Niederösterreich is checking on its possibilities.</p> <p>Regions that would like to host the next or another Committee 3 meeting are kindly invited to contact Committee 3 secretariat.</p>	<p>Invitations from Regions to host future Committee 3 meetings are welcome.</p>
11.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Guisepppe ANZALDI (Sicilia) drew the participants attention to a position paper the region is currently preparing on the proposed Mediterranean Union and in view of the related Summit meeting in July. He will make the document, which should be sent to all member Regions for comments, available to the AER.</p>	<p>AER to disseminate position on Mediterranean Union. Comments and input from Regions are requested.</p>

Committee D thanked the Slaskie Region as well as its collaborators for their hospitality, warm welcome and the excellent working conditions they had offered.

Strasbourg, 21st of May 2008
JS/DM

