



**Draft Minutes
Committee 3 – Plenary meeting
Durrës, 3 April 2009**

Chair : Committee President Johanna MIKL-LEITNER

The following regions were represented:

Açores (P), Arad (RO), Baranya (H), Békés (H), Buskerud (N), Corse (F), Devon (GB), Durrës (AL), Essex (GB), Friuli Venezia Giulia (I), Gävleborg (S), Hampshire (GB), Hedmark (N), Jämtland (S), Niederösterreich (A), Nordland (N), Norrbotten (S), Østfold (N), Pest (H), Slaskie (PL), Tatarstan (RUS), Västerbotten (S), Västernorrland (S), Wallonie (B), Wielkopolska (PL)

The following organisations were represented

Congress of LRA of the Council of Europe - Committee on Culture and Education
Les Rencontres
Working Community of the Adriatic Alps

1. Seid KERTUSHA, President of Durrës welcomed the participants. He presented the history of his region and explained the particular importance tourism and cultural tourism have for the region and its economy.
2. Committee President Johanna MIKL-LEITNER thanked him for the welcome the Committee had been offered. In her opening speech, she in particular addressed the economic crisis. She hoped that culture and education will not be sacrificed and underlined the need for joint action. She also mentioned new AER initiatives such as ARLEM and FOGAR but, notwithstanding their interest, questioned whether AER/Committee 3 should engage on so many topics. Giving the floor to Farid MUKHAMETSHIN, Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education of the Chamber of Regions of CLRACE, she welcomed the prospects of future cooperation.
3. **Address by Farid MUKHAMETSHIN, Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education (Chamber of Regions, CLRACE)**

Farid MUKHAMETSHIN conveyed the greetings of the Congress. Speaking also as a representative of Tatarstan, he launched an appeal for ethnic tolerance in European territories and intercultural dialogue as well as for the protection of cultural diversity, heritage, customs and values. Alluding to the history of the Congress' work in these fields, he underlined the crucial role of regional and local authorities in application of the principle of subsidiarity and the importance of regional democracy.

4. Adoption of the draft agenda

The draft agenda was unanimously adopted.

5. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (St. Pölten, 11 September 2008)

The minutes of the meeting were unanimously adopted.

6. Report on recent developments and activities within the AER

Secretary General Klaus KLIPP informed the participants

- that the AER General Assembly will take place on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 November in Belfort. The topic is currently under definition and will deal with innovation, energy and environment.
- on an easy possibility to upload regional press releases on AER's website, thereby creating a multiplying effect.
- on a cooperation with Eurodisney which will lead to hosting a meeting of the AER youth regional network in September or October in Paris.
- on AER's involvement in the Alliance of civilisations, a forum between the UN and national governments that is open to civil society and aiming at establishing dialogue between world civilisations and dialogue for peace. The next meeting would take place the following week.

and invited the Regions to participate in the AER innovation award. The corresponding information is available on the AER website.

He then informed the participants on the work of the working group concerning a possible membership in FOGAR, on which the forthcoming General Assembly will have to decide. A first working group meeting had shown the same division as in the AER Bureau. Personally, he thought that AER cannot afford standing away from the initiative given that AER is working and developing in an international context and the global dimension for European regions of issues like climate change is obvious.

Seeing a tendency with the General Secretariat to advocate membership, Jean BEELEN (Wallonie) stated his fear for members' concerns to be ignored. He insisted for the working groups' results to be fully acknowledged and respected. He also questioned whether FOGAR meant not repeating existing initiatives at local and regional level at global level and casted doubts on its effectiveness.

Cllr Paul KIRKMAN (Essex) felt that past discussions had not really addressed the problems in relation to FOGAR and hoped that more concrete results would be reached soon in the working group. According to him, AER should use FOGAR meetings in the meantime to shape and influence it, and withdraw later, if that should be the final decision.

Dr Eugen SCHERER (Niederösterreich) supported these views and asked whether it suited an umbrella organisation like the AER with a very broad agenda to become a

member of an organisation with a very focused topic. On the other hand, own resources (staff etc.) should be taken account of in making a choice.

It was decided that Committee 3 asks for another meeting of the working group to be organised in order to clarify the AER position.

7. Reporting back from the Sub-Committee meetings

- Culture

Sub-Committee chair Sten-Erik NILSSON (Gävleborg) presented the report on the meeting (see separate minutes).

He highlighted in particular the cultural tourism seminar that had taken place before the meetings and had shown the importance of entrepreneurship and the potential of cluster building in this field.

Concerning the planned Culture for Health conference, Kenneth BACKGAARD (Norrbotten) drew the attention to the paper work that an application for EU funding would involve and wished that the AER secretariat would start immediately to work on that. Committee President MIKL-LEITNER said that further decisions on this should not be made before the availability of such funding is checked.

Cllr Saxon SPENCE (Devon) felt that different target groups (theatres, museums) had been mixed in relation to the cultural managers network. She wished for a clear briefing note to be established which reflects the fact that AER addresses the initiative to cultural managers in general.

- Education & Training

Ian BEACHAM (Hampshire; representing Sub-Committee chair David KIRK) presented the report on the meeting (see separate minutes).

Concerning the education of migrant children, he stated the large disparities that exist among the regions in dealing with this issue and invited regions to continue to send in their contributions to the survey.

- Youth

Sub-Committee chair David NORDSTRÖM (Norrbotten) presented the report on the meeting (see separate minutes).

He submitted the resolution drafted by the Youth Sub-Committee to establish the Youth regional network (YRN) as successor to the AER Youth Team and to transfer the corresponding budget to it. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Concerning the Strategic document of the YRN, he outlined two modifications that had been introduced:

- delete: "in order to shape their mentalities" when referring to the education of young people.
 - p. 18: "reverse brain drain in the European regions" (instead of "stop ...")
- Interregional and international cooperation

CIr Paul KIRKMAN (Essex; representing Sub-Committee chair Marie-Françoise MULLER) presented the report on the meeting (see separate minutes).

8. Summer School 2009

Jascha SCHEELE presented the key facts concerning the forthcoming Summer School on water as well as the programme. All related information will also be available through the AER website.

9. Meeting calendar 2009

- Eurodissey steering committee, 28 & 29 April, Valencia. The meeting will seek to increase the synergies between the programme and Committee 3. Interested members are invited to contact the secretariat.
- AER Bureau meeting, 15 & 16 May, Fribourg
- YRN meeting, 22 May, Wroclaw
- Summer School organising Committee, 8 & 9 June, Arbon
- European development cooperation platform, 29 May, Marseille. Experts are invited to volunteer for participation.
- AER Summer School, 24-29 August, Valencia
- Eurodissey Forum, 10 & 11 September, Amiens
- AER Bureau, 17 & 18 September, Göteborg
- Committee 3 Plenary, 23 & 24 September, Sarajevo (dates will probably change)

10. Any other business

AER Most Youth friendly Region award

Jascha SCHEELE said that, further to the English version, the French and German versions of the questionnaire will also be available soon. All information will be released on the AER website and the deadline for applications will be end of June 2009.

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

Strasbourg, 22 September 2009
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