



Plenary meeting of Committee 2

Pécs, Baranya-H, 29th-30th March 2007

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Original English

Document for **adoption**

Proposed Decision on the Sub-structures of the AER Social Policy & Public Health Committee (2)

Background

The AER member regions adopted a new strategic plan 2007-2012 for the AER and a new Committee structure. According to these, the old "Social Cohesion, Social Policy & Public Health" Committee (B) has been renamed "Social Policy & Public Health" Committee (2).

In terms of content, two more subject areas have been added to the Committee's work:

- Gender Equality: the AER Working Group on Equal Opportunities between Men & Women has been placed under the framework of AER Committee 2
- Emergency Planning: this is a new work area for the AER which has been allocated to Committee 2

Moreover, the focus of the Committee's work has expanded over the years and a number of new policy areas are now at the centre of our work.

Proposed Decision

In light of the new AER Committee structure and the diversity of issues that the new Committee 2 must deal with, it is proposed that a new Committee sub-structure is established:

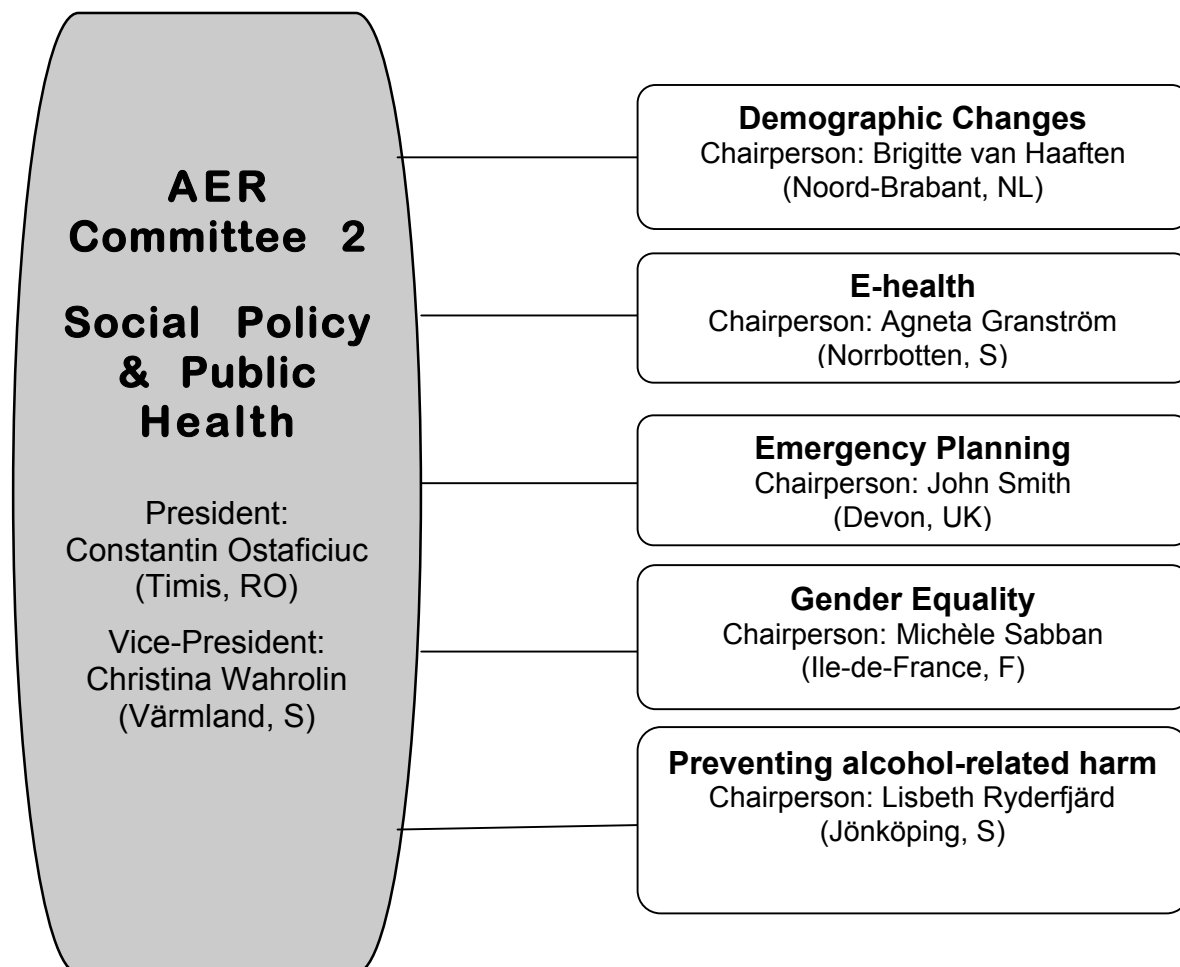
- 1) The sub-committees on health and social affairs respectively will cease to exist.
- 2) Committee 2 will consist of a number of thematic networks.
- 3) Each network will be chaired by a politician from a member region, who will be responsible for leading the group's work and for reporting on the group's progress to the Committee plenary.
- 4) Thematic networks are created on an *ad hoc* basis, following the initiative of a group of regions and subject to a minimum amount of participating regions.
- 5) The aim of thematic networks is to allow regions to explore in depth a specific policy area which is of interest to the regions, to monitor and evaluate developments in this field, formulate policy positions and provide a platform for the creation of interregional partnerships and cooperation projects.
- 6) The thematic networks report to the Committee 2 plenary session and their decisions are subject to approval by the Committee plenary.
- 7) The networks will meet at the occasion of Committee meetings and events.
- 8) Networks can hold independent meetings and organise thematic seminars, subject to the approval of the Committee Presidium and the Committee budget.

Proposed New Structure

The following thematic networks exist within Committee 2:

- Demographic changes (ALIVE partners network)
- E-health
- Emergency planning (to be launched in May 2007)
- Gender Equality – former independent working group reporting directly to the AER Bureau
- Preventing alcohol-related harm

The new Committee 2 substructure is illustrated in the organigramme below:



Other themes for possible networks

The following themes have been dealt with in Committee 2 in the past or have been raised by member regions. If sufficient regions are interested and subject to the Committee resources, they could form the subject of a network:

- Obesity & healthy nutrition
- Future of health and social services in Europe
- Equal opportunities for all (disabilities, minorities, migration etc)

OG, March 2007