



Strasbourg, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Invitation -AER Conference- What does alcohol do to your region? And what can you do about it?  
Regional responses to preventing alcohol-related harm – Barcelona, 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> May 2010

Dear President,  
Dear Minister,

It is our pleasure to invite you to this upcoming conference organised by the Assembly of European Regions (AER) and hosted by the Regional Ministry of Health of the Government of Catalonia (E).

For many of us alcohol is an accompaniment to social events and, when consumed in low doses, not harmful. But we cannot ignore the damage that alcohol can cause. Nowadays, many of our regions are facing the frightening reality of our young people drinking very large amounts of alcohol at a very early age.

Furthermore, alcohol has been estimated to cost Europe 125 billion Euros per year in total tangible costs. That figure emerges when we calculate the burden on our health and social services, on our police and judicial systems, in lost working hours, in accidents and in damages to property.

It is our role as regional politicians to fully appreciate the harm that alcohol can have on our citizens, our societies and our economies.

In order to learn more about the negative impact of alcohol and about the policies and actions we can take to prevent it, we would like to invite you to join us in Barcelona on 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> May 2010. You will find further information and a link to online registration on our website: [www.aer.eu](http://www.aer.eu)

Besides, the AER Social Policy and Public Health Committee (2) will hold its spring plenary meeting in connection with this conference. We invite you to present your region's latest activities and projects and to learn what other regions are doing.

We look forward to welcoming you to Barcelona.

Yours faithfully,

Constantin Ostaficiuc  
President, AER Committee 2  
President, Timis County Council (RO)

Marina Geli  
Regional Minister of Health  
Generalitat Catalunya (E)