

Committee 1 "Economy and Regional development" Key priorities and work plan 2010

1. Key Priorities for 2010

The 2010 key priorities for Committee 1, Economy and Regional development, are as follows:

Cohesion policy: to follow-up on the work done by the Task Force since 2007 to propose, and lobby for, a revamped EU cohesion policy for 2013+, regarding both its political and technical aspects.

Environment and Energy policy: To encourage regions to mainstream environmental concerns in their policy-making processes and to take measures for safe-guarding their natural resources.

- *Climate change:* to draw Regions' attention on the challenges linked to climate change, to provide them with tools and inspiring best practices to face these challenges.
- *Water policies:* Improving regional approach through strategies and actions in view of delivering quality water to EU citizens, sharing best practices and innovations and addressing the issue of governance.
- *Energy policy:* to promote the development of renewable energies and to support the Regions in the definition of energy efficiency measures.

Economic development: To develop a position on the future of the Lisbon Strategy and lobby for involving regions in all matters that affect them, including the development of concepts, the implementation of policies and management of funds. To exchange good practice concerning the regional implementation of the Lisbon Strategy.

SMEs and entrepreneurship: Highlighting the importance of regions in SMEs policy and the fight against the economic crisis and supporting regions in the development of SME support policy.

Innovation: to increase expertise and know-how within the regions, with adapted trainings and experts advices and the launch of the 5th AER Innovation Award. To foster links with other innovation networks and explore the possibilities of AER cluster activities, e.g. in the field of nanotechnology. To further showcase the benefits of regional airports as an asset for competitive regions.

Sustainable tourism: to foster eco-tourism and social tourism, in line with the objectives of sustainable development as well as economic, social and territorial cohesion

Rural development: to contribute to the definition of EU rural development policies, in particular in the context of the CAP reform and of the future of cohesion policy, to ensure a regionalised approach to this policy and to disseminate best practices with regards to sustainable governance of rural areas.

2. Description of Activities for 2010

Cohesion policy:

- Lobbying for the AER position on cohesion policy 2013+ adopted by the 2009 General Assembly via participation in multilateral or bilateral meetings with EU and national stakeholders – DG Regio, EP, COR.
- Formulate proposals to the European Commission regarding future EU regional policy programming and management

Environment and Energy:

- Organising in the frame of the AER-GE Energy cooperation the first “European Regions Energy Day”, which will take stock of all AER activities on energy of 2009 and provide regional authorities with further expertise and advise about how to develop efficient energy strategies.
- Implementing the MORE4NRG project – especially through peer reviews and dissemination seminars - which aims to set up a monitoring system to evaluate the progress made by the Regions towards their energy targets.
- Re-launching the AER-FEDARENE “Declaration of the Regions in favour of RES and energy efficiency”

Economic development

- Organising in spring 2010 a conference in cooperation with EUROCHAMBERS, presenting a political position to the spring European Council concerning the future of the Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs and looking at regional good. Organising in autumn 2010 a seminar looking on practical implications for regions and exchanging experience in the promotion of SMEs, entrepreneurship and innovation.

SMEs and entrepreneurship:

- Development of a Training Academy concept on women entrepreneurship. Organising a conference and Training Academy on women entrepreneurship in Istanbul to present good practise concerning the support of female business starters and women entrepreneurs and to provide an in-depth view of the particularities of women entrepreneurship and related support schemes.
- Launching together with Committee 3 the first edition of the “Youth Entrepreneurs’ Prize” (YEP) with the aim of stimulating, supporting and fostering youth entrepreneurship in European regions.
- Organising a conference in Moscow bringing together representatives of Russian regions and other European regions, stimulating further cooperation especially in the field of economic development, SME support and entrepreneurship.
- Organising a Training Academy on EU pre-accession funds and other financial opportunities for regions from outside EU that can be used to stimulate economic development, SME and entrepreneurship and regeneration in regions outside the EU.

Innovation

- Launching the 5th edition of the AER Innovation Award, which will give an opportunity to all regions to promote their innovation projects, to get detailed feedback by recognized experts and to find out other projects and strategies developed in other regions.
- Developing a concept for a Training Academies on Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) with the aim of supporting regions in developing RIS and presenting good practice cases innovation. Organising at least one training academy on RIS.
- Pursuing the exchange of experience on the development of regional airports, through ad hoc meetings of the working group

Sustainable tourism:

- Coordinating the activities planned in the frame of the PRESERVE INTERREGIVC project (peer reviews on tourism, dissemination events), which aims at contributing to an improved effectiveness of regional policies that specifically consider cultural heritage as an endogenous factor of economic development.
- Organising a conference in Alba (RO), informing about the findings of the PRESERVE project.

Rural development:

- Organising together with RUR@ACT a seminar on rural development, which will introduce AER's position towards the EC 2010 mid-term review of the rural development policy
- Influencing the definition of future EU rural development policy by taking regularly part in EC advisory groups meetings and in the European Rural Development Network
- Strengthening cooperation with the RUR@CT network and to enlarge the RUR@ACT database with new good practices concerning energy and climate change

3. Meetings

Committee 1 members meet twice a year in plenary meetings. These meetings are coupled with the meetings of the six working groups: task force on cohesion, working groups on climate change and energy, water, sustainable and social tourism, rural development, regional airports. Ad hoc working group meetings can also be organised apart from these plenary meetings. In addition, seminars and conferences can be planned according to the demand of the members and the issues at stake.

4. Timeline

Month	Activity	Location
3 rd week of February	Conference on women entrepreneurship	Istanbul (TR)
February 2010	Seminar on future Lisbon strategy	Brussels (B)
February 2010	Training Academy on Regional Innovation Strategies and launch of the 5 th AER Innovation Award	Brussels (B)
February 2010	Seminar on Rural Development	tbc

March / April 2010	Committee 1 Spring Plenary Meeting and PRESERVE conference on sustainable tourism	Alba (RO)
15 - 16 April 2010	Conference on economic development and interregional cooperation	Moscow (RU)
29 April 2010	European Regions Energy Day	Brussels (B)
1 st week of May 2010	Training Academy on Women Entrepreneurship	Istanbul (TR)
June / July 2010	Training Academy on EU pre-accession funds and other financial opportunities for regions from outside EU for economic development	Istria (HR) - tbc
September 2010	Committee 1 Autumn Plenary Meeting and conference on conference on the future Lisbon strategy and sustainable development	tbc

Please note that the activities of the working groups (meetings, participation in external events), possible peer reviews or meetings linked to funded projects (MORE4NRG, PRESERVE) are not mentioned in this table.

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