



AER Bureau Meeting

Fribourg, 14-15 May 2009

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For Information

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LIMOGES DECLARATION

Assembly of European Regions (AER) - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) “Regional Responses to Climate Change” Conference Limoges, Limousin, March 2009

WE, representatives of the United Nations and the Assembly of European Regions (AER), on the occasion of the “Regional responses to climate change” conference in Limoges,

Accept the mounting evidence for the severity of global warming and recognize that an increase in greenhouse gases emissions associated with human activity is significantly contributing to that change;

Recognize that climate change is one of the most significant social, economic and environmental threats regions face worldwide;

Acknowledge that to avoid the adverse effects of climate change, action must not only be taken at international and state levels but more so at local and regional levels;

Note that regions are able to play a key role in the development and implementation of sustainable development policies – especially mitigation and adaptation measures to diminish the risks of climate change - as laid down in the joint AER-FEDARENE declaration signed in December 2006;

Affirm that global warming is a trans-border issue. Thus, regions from industrialized countries must closely co-operate and share their knowledge with regions from developing and emerging countries on tackling climate variations;

Recognize that the level of economic development varies between counties and therefore any action taken in the fight against climate change should acknowledge the evident differences between regions;

Admit that addressing the issue of global warming is not merely an environmental imperative. It also has profound consequences on human health and economic activities. It is therefore crucial to adopt a holistic approach to climate change in order to illustrate more accurately its political and social dynamics. Regions should also strengthen their co-operation with a variety of stakeholders - namely NGOs, the private sector, social movements and international bodies - to swiftly address the whole spectrum of challenges stemming from climate change;

Reaffirm to take together proper action towards climate change both now and in the future, as stated in the Letter of Intent signed on the occasion of the Saint-Malo Summit in October 2008;

Therefore, we call AER member regions to:

Continue to strengthen cooperation with other local and regional authorities in order to promote good practices on sustainable development, especially on the promotion of energy efficiency, alternative fuel sources and the use of clean technologies;

Work together in order to determine the tools and methodologies required for prevention of and adaptation to climate change, so that our regions may become leaders in these fields;

Commit themselves to creating strong partnerships with regions in developing countries in order to combat climate change more effectively;

Work closely with citizens, and especially indigenous and local communities, to help them adapt to and manage the environmental, economic and social impacts of climate change;

Put pressure on national governments so that the role of regional and local authorities is accurately taken into consideration in the post-Kyoto phase of negotiations;

Encourage the provision of relevant data from research and monitoring activities to support local and regional authorities' political decision making;

Achieve this by joining the initiative "Towards less GHGs emission and more resilient territories", launched in 2008 by UNDP, UNEP and eight associations of regions, among them AER

Mobilize resources to support regions from developing countries in creating their Territorial Climate Plans, and implementing those plans through public policies and investment projects funded by new financial mechanisms (such as carbon, finance, CDM, FEM, UN REDD and decentralized cooperation);

Sign the AER-FEDARENE declaration and commit themselves to increasing the use of renewable energy sources and to improving energy efficiency in their territories;

Adopted at AER Committee 1 plenary meeting, 1 April 2009.