

Bureau and Standing Committee on Institutional Affairs

Belfort, 25 November 2009

Agenda ref.

Original in French

FOR ADOPTION

Draft minutes

I) Opening of the Bureau meeting

Michèle Sabban, President of the Assembly of European Regions, apologised for the late opening of the session, welcomed the participants and thanked the General Secretariat for having organised the annual general assembly, and Franche-Comté and General Electric for their hospitality.

VI) Agreement between the AER and LOJIQ

Michèle Sabban asked for the go-ahead to amend the agenda so as to address item VI, and recalled the agreement in favour of young people signed in Quebec between the Quebec government, LOJIQ and the AER.

Alfred Pilon thanked Michèle Sabban and greeted Klaus Klipp and Rui Bettencourt, from Eurodissey. He explained that the Quebec Youth Ministry, whose minister is also the prime Minister of Quebec, had created a structure to support professional mobility among young people across the various regions of Europe, known as LOJIQ. He briefly summarised the operating principle of the latter.

II) Adoption of the draft agenda – adopted unanimously

III) Adoption of the report on the last Bureau in Gothenburg, 18 September 2009 – adopted unanimously

IV) Status of accessions – adopted

Klaus Klipp reported on the status of accessions. **Michèle Sabban** recalled the objective of reaching 300 member regions. Contacts were being regularised, notably with the new Russian regions.

V) Reports by the committees

1. Committee 1 Economy and Regional Development

Hakan Sandgren (Jönköping, SE), President of Committee 1, returned to the reaction of the AER vis-à-vis the draft communications from Europe on the reform of the budget. He explained the initiatives taken to register the AER's opposition, and indicated that they had been successful.

The following documents were proposed for adoption:

- ♦ The report on the key priorities and the 2010 plan (adopted);
- ♦ The AER recommendations on the future of the post-2013 cohesion policy (adopted).

2. Committee 2 Social Policy and Public Health

Constantin Ostaficiuc (Timis, RO), President of Committee 2, gave his activity report. With regard to swine flu H1N1, the favoured European regions were invited to show solidarity with the poorer regions in Europe. The following documents were proposed for adoption:

- ♦ The political priorities 2010 - 2011 (adopted);
- ♦ The work program 2010 (adopted);
- ♦ The AER roadmap for demographic change (adopted);
- ♦ The impacts of climate change on health (adopted).

3. Standing Committee on Equal Opportunities

Monica Carlsson, President of the standing committee, gave her report. The following documents were put to the vote and adopted unanimously:

- ♦ Report;
- ♦ Proposal to the 2009 General Assembly to transform the working group on equal opportunities into a standing committee on equal opportunities;
- ♦ Work program 2010;
- ♦ AER declaration on violence against women.

4. Committee 3 Culture, Education & Youth

David Kirk (Hampshire, UK) put the following documents directly to the vote and they were adopted by the Bureau:

- ♦ Work program 2010;
- ♦ Youth Sub-committee, 2 April 2009, Durrës;
- ♦ Strategic program for the Regional Youth Network 2009-2010;
- ♦ AER Regional Youth Network – resolution;
- ♦ Cooperation agreement between the AER and LOJIQ.

5. Standing Committee on Institutional Affairs

Lars-Gerhard Westberg (Västra Götaland, SE), Vice-president of the standing committee, reported on the committee's activities in 2009. He mentioned some events in the autumn in the committees of Hungarian regions and informed the members of the assembly that the organisation was not satisfied. The Standing Committee on Institutional Affairs submitted the following documents to the vote:

- ♦ Activity report 2009 (adopted);
- ♦ Working priorities for the 2010 program (adopted);
- ♦ Work program with European funding (adopted);
- ♦ Proposal for a stance by the AER on governance at multi-levels (postponed).

VII) General Assembly

1. Conduct of the General Assembly

Klaus Klipp set out the conduct of events on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 November 2009.

2. Draft final declaration

Michèle Sabban announced that the final declaration proposed would be presented on Friday 27 November 2009 with the two modifications made (the addition of 'sustainable' in the eighth paragraph and the replacement of 'know' by 'stress' in the fifteenth paragraph).

VIII) Extraordinary General Assembly

Revision of AER statutes

Pierre Meyer explained the modifications and clarifications made to the statutes.

Urs Wüthrich-Pelloli (Basel-Landschaft, CH), Vice-president Treasurer, approved the statements made and proposed clarifying in the statutes that only applications filed within the deadline would qualify.

Anna Enguidanos Weyler (Comunidad Valenciana, E) raised the issue of the working languages.

Michèle Sabban explained why she would be proposing, on 26 November 2009, that Spanish and Italian be reconsidered as working languages. A longer discussion followed on the language issue with a number of speakers.

Delonslaskie said that languages would be a matter of cost and proposes to everyone to communicate in English.

Constantin Ostaficiuc said that there are also 30 regions in Romania, so why not Romanian as a language

Istanbul asked for some rules on languages ad then we would have to stick to them

Värmland mentioned that language also matters for the statutes. Difficult to understand in a foreign language and with a different legal system on top.

Västerbotten was wondering if all documents or only key documents should be in several languages.

Finally, by proposal of President Michèle Sabban, it was decided to take the matter of the languages out of the changes of the statutes. This topic shall be treated by the Standing Committee "Monitoring & Evaluation" in more detail, also regarding the financial implications of ther language matter.

IX) Regional governments in North-East Asia (NEAR)

Klaus Klipp had met the secretary general of the association NEAR a few months ago. This is an association created some ten years ago, whose members come from China, Russia, Mongolia, South Korea and Japan. Their objective is to create cooperation along AER lines in their area, and they are anxious to have the same power over their respective national governments. They are likewise planning in cooperation with the AER to stage a global forum in South Korea next year.

After thanking the participants, Michèle Sabban closed the session.