

AER Presidium meeting

Pula, Istria, March 16th 2009

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For Information

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DRAFT REPORT
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Standing Committee for Institutional Affairs:
Events and Projects 2009-update

European Parliament Elections – European elections will take place in June 2009. The Standing Committee is organising a debate with the heads of the European political parties in order to cross-examine them about their views on the future of Europe, the role of the regions and any other topic of regional relevance. The debate will take place on 4th of May at the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

AER Communication Atelier - "Talk to me, Europe! Debating European Communication" - will be the second AER conference dealing with European communication taking place on the 18-19th of March in Brussels. Keynote speakers include AER's President Michèle Sabban, Jo Leinen, MEP and chairman of the Constitutional Affairs Committee of the EP, the European Ombudsman and other representatives of European Institutions. During this event we will showcase the winning entries for the second AER Communicating Europe Award and organise workshops dealing with different aspects of European Communication. (Please see agenda attached.)

Launch of the AER Communicating Europe Award 2009 - The 3rd edition of the AER Communicating Europe Award will be launched during the AER Communication Atelier. This year's categories will focus on following categories: 1) Communicating European Parliament Elections 2) Engaging regional media in European affairs 3) Educating young people about Europe. Regions can send in their proposal until the end of June 2009.

European Citizens Forums

In 2009, the AER will organise 4 European Citizens Forums, in AER member regions. The first Forum will take place in Olomouc (CZ) on a form of workshop organised for Youth Council of Olomouc. The aim of the AER European Citizens' Forums is to engage citizens and regional politicians in a debate with representatives of the European Union on the future of Europe.

'Do You Speak European?' Competition

The second edition of the competition will start on September 2009 on regional level, and will be followed by national level competition from December to March 2010. The European final will take place in Brussels during Spring 2010. This event is a Europe-wide debating competition for young people on Europe. The aim of the competition will be to increase the awareness of young people of the European context in which they live.

AER Scholarship 2009

The AER is offering one annual scholarship for a student from an AER member region to undertake a course of study at Masters degree level in a topic related to regional democracy. The scholarship will cover tuition fees and living costs for a one-year course at a university in another AER member region in a foreign country. Deadline to send application is 30th March 2009.

Spring Plenary of the Standing Committee - will take place in Fribourg (CH) on the 14th and 15th of May. During this session we will debate advantages of economic decentralisation and explore regional responses to the economic crisis.

AER Training Academy - The first advanced course of the AER Training Academy took place in Brussels on the 14th of January 09. It dealt with EU Climate and Energy Policy. An introductory course in French is taking place on the 11/12th of March in Brussels. The second advanced course will focus on Structural Funds and their use for the regions. It will take place in Brussels on the 11/12th of June 209.

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