

**AER Committee 1 plenary meeting  
Lillehammer, Oppland (N)**

**MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
28 February 2008, 11.30 – 12.45**

**DRAFT MINUTES (as of 5 March 2008)**

**Agenda items 1 to 2**

The meeting was opened and chaired by Matthijs van MILTENBURG, Senior Policy Officer, Noord-Brabant (NL), on behalf of Annemarie MOONS, Regional Minister, Noord-Brabant (NL), chairman of the group, excused.

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

**Agenda item 3-4 – AER Answer to Green Paper on climate change**

Mr Van MILTENBURG presented the AER Answer to the Green Paper on climate change, drafted by Noord-Brabant on behalf of the AER in November 2007. The Green Paper was sent to Commissioner Dimas on time before the end of the consultation (mid-December 2007) and discussed with representatives of DG Environment at a meeting which took place in Brussels on 18 January. The European Commission is planning to set up a group of experts in the field of climate change: the AER is currently lobbying to get a seat in this group. Ms. Moons would coordinate the input of the AER in any future meetings of this advisory group.

The full text of the AER Answer to the Green Paper on climate change is available on the AER website under:

<http://www.aer.eu/main-issues/sustainable-development.html>

(See under 'Main AER positions')

The full report of the meeting of 18 January is available on the AER intranet, under:

<http://www.aer.eu/events/regional-policies-committee/2008/spring-plenary-meeting.html>

(Working group climate change)

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**Agenda item 5 – Best practices from Regions in the field of climate change**

Ms Agnès Ciccarone, AER Senior Policy Coordinator, mentioned that, in addition to providing an answer to the EC Green Paper on climate change, the group on climate change also had among its tasks to gather examples of best regional practices. At its meeting on 18 January, the EC underlined its interest for such an input. The AER Committee 1 Secretariat therefore launched a call for best practices early January. Ms Ciccarone said that a number of valuable contributions had already been sent to the Secretariat, coming from the following Regions: Catalunya (E), Valencia (E), Hampshire (UK), Örebro (S), Thurgau (CH), Midi-Pyrénées (F), Limousin (F), Dorset (UK). She presented the details of each Region's contribution via a power point. This power point is available on the AER website under:

<http://www.aer.eu/home-en/main-issues/environment/climate-change.html>

(pdf document: First outcome of the calls for best practices presented in Lillehammer)

Ms Ciccarone mentioned that it was an on-going call and that interested Regions were welcome to send their input during the forthcoming weeks and months. The ambition is to organise in

Spring 2009 an AER Conference on Regions' contribution to mitigation and adaptation to climate change, in parallel to a Committee 1 plenary meeting.

### Agenda item 6 – Miscellaneous

Ms Ciccarone mentioned two actions on climate change currently in preparation:

- First, the AER is co-organisator with ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) of the Conference 'Climate Protection and Renewable Energy: Medium and Small Communities facing the challenge' to be held in Rovigo (IT) on 2-4 April 2008. The [European Climate Change Conference](#) will bring together advanced cities and towns who will share with committed municipalities their capacity and experiences about energy efficiency and renewable energy, district heating and co-generation, adaptation and other burning issues related to climate protection. The AER will be represented at this meeting by Bryan Boulton, Head of Environment Future and Sustainability of Hampshire county council. More information on this event is available on the web under: <http://www.iclei-europe.org/index.php?id=5449>
- Second, the AER Committee 1 Secretariat was approached by Poitou-Charentes Region (Brussels office) to organise a first seminar of exchange of best practices in Brussels. Poitou-Charentes has set up a working group with Catalunya and Tuscany on this issue and would like to cooperate with AER in organising such an event. Committee 1 Secretariat will keep the members of the group informed about the progress of this cooperation proposal.

### End of the meeting

- Next meeting: 28 October 2008 afternoon, Linz, Upper Austria (A).

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