



Standing Committee on Equal Opportunities (SCEO)

Valencia, September 21, 2010

Agenda ref:

Original in English

Document **unanimously adopted**

AER Standing Committee on Equal Opportunities (SCEO)

Mandate

Background

The AER Standing Committee on Equal Opportunities (SCEO) was established by the AER General Assembly in Belfort, FR, on November 27, 2009, and is open to all AER members interested in this issue.

SCEO is the heir of the former AER Observatory on Gender Issues – a working group within the AER Committee on Social Policy & Public Health –, which had been debating over the past few years on Equal Opportunities between Women and Men at regional level.

Status

The new Standing Committee enjoys the following status within the hierarchy of AER bodies:

- SCEO President is a full member of the AER Presidium,
- SCEO is open to all AER member regions interested in working in its field of activities
- SCEO budget is 12,500 €, to be spent on organizing SCEO activities
- SCEO is on par with the other AER Committees and Standing Committees, and subject to processes set out in Article 7 of the AER rules of procedure.

Mandate

The General Assembly also extended the Standing Committee's scope to all equality issues.

In order not to duplicate work nor increase demands on members, SCEO will cooperate with the other AER Committees to ensure that equal opportunity issues are taken into account in all the policy areas AER works in, by organizing joint events or contributing the equal opportunities perspective to Committee events.

AER Brussels Office - Bureau de Bruxelles Head Office – Siège central
Place Saintelette 2 B-1080 BRUXELLES 6 rue Oberlin - F-67000 STRASBOURG
Tel : + 32 (0)2 421 85 12 Tel: +33 (0)3 88 22 07 07
Fax : +32 (0)2 421 83 69 Fax: +33 (0)3 88 75 67 19
E-mail - Courriel : s.cools@aer.eu E-mail: secretariat@aer.eu

Website: www.aer.eu

SCEO will continue to organize its own events on gender equality, as it is the only AER body active in this area. This approach is in line with the AER members' wishes, as expressed in a survey conducted among AER members in January 2010.

The AER SCEO will therefore fulfill the following tasks:

- Ensure that gender and other equality issues are mainstreamed in AER by monitoring the work of all AER bodies and making sure that the positions or actions of the organization do not infringe the principle of equal opportunities;
- Develop collaborations with all the other AER bodies on issues that are relevant to all parties through, for instance, joint conferences or seminars (e.g. *Fostering women entrepreneurship*, an issue shared with the AER Committee on Economy and Regional Policy (1));
- Remain a place where politicians and civil servants actively involved in the improvement of equal opportunities for all can meet and exchange experience and best practices;
- Help members to set up European partnerships and projects in our field of expertise (gender equality, gay rights,...), as well as explore the possibilities of funding at EU level for such partnerships and projects;
- Issue political declarations which aim either to express the Regions' opinion on a specific issue or to guide fellow European Regions on the path to a more equal and better society.

SC,15.VIII.10