



## **AER Committee 1 – Working group for regional airports Draft mandate**

### **1. Introduction**

On 28 April 2008 AER Committee 1 adopted at its Spring Plenary in Lillehammer, Oppland (SE) a mandate for a new working group for regional airports. The working group was established for a period of two years, so until 1 January 2010. During this time, the working group met three times and organised one public conference on “ EU guidelines for state aid for regional airports”. (<http://www.aer.eu/events/regional-development/2009/regional-airports-conference.html>)

On 16 March 2010 the AER Committee 1 Plenary in Alba, Per Inge Bjerkness, County Councillor in Ostfold suggested to continue the work and invited for a working group meeting to discuss the future mandate of the working group. He also offered to chair the working group.

### **2. Aim of the working group**

The aim of the working group is to establish a good professional and political basis for the efforts of AER and the regions related to regional airports, so that these can contribute to sustainable regional development.

Overall goals:

#### Alliances and knowledge:

- To increase knowledge about the importance of regional airports to the regions, and the framework needs of the regions.
- To build alliances to put weight behind demands to national and EU authorities.

#### Regional planning:

- To exchange experiences on the role of the regions for the development of airports and activities related to airports.
- To develop tools to include airports and airport related activities in regional planning.

#### Long term development:

- To clarify the role of regional airports in the future transport system, seen in the light of possible market changes. Matters of importance may be the

demand for reduced greenhouse emissions, express trains efforts, changes in economic and political pivot in the world, and so on.

Work plan 2010:

- Seminar and working group meeting on 11 June in Brussels, Belgium: Regional Airports – Rising from the ashes.”  
Main aims: To have professional introductions about development trends, framework conditions and regional planning, to agree on working methods and aims for the working group, to discuss the draft mandate.
- Meeting of the working group prior to Committee 1 meeting in Abruzzo, Italy October 7-8:  
Main aims: to discuss the mandate and working plan, to discuss possibilities for the financing of a scenario study in connection with the future role of regional airports in the transport system (see above), to discuss the draft programme for the first meeting in 2011.
- Presentation of mandate and working plan to be approved by Committee 1 in Abruzzo.  
Main aim: Adoption on the mandate by Committee 1 members.