



ASSEMBLÉE DES RÉGIONS D'EUROPE  
ASSEMBLY OF EUROPEAN REGIONS  
VERSAMMLUNG DER REGIONEN EUROPAS  
ASAMBLEA DE LAS REGIONES DE EUROPA  
ASSEMBLEA DELLE REGIONI D'EUROPA

original in French  
(File ref. 611)

**AER Conference “The Regions’ contribution  
to the European Union Enlargement Process”**

(Wroclaw, 21st October 1999)

*Main building of Wroclaw Polytechnika (Politechnika Wroclawska)  
ul. Wybrzeze Wyspianskiego, 27*

The General Assembly of Linz decided that a conference should be organised within the framework of the AER policies in favour of European Union enlargement, as set out in the “Strategy 2000 for the Regions of Europe”.

At the invitation of the new Polish Region of Lower Silesia, this conference will be held on 21st October 1999 in Wroclaw (PL) and will specifically target the Regions of central and eastern European countries (CEEC) which are candidates for EU accession. One of the goals of this conference is to encourage the CEEC Regions to become more involved in the enlargement process. Through open dialogue with the competent authorities of the EU, and exchanges of experience with the EU member Regions, the representatives of the regional authorities concerned could obtain information on the progress of negotiations, evaluate their preparations in view of their Community “acquis” and identify the means for reinforcing their contribution to this process.

**Revised Conference Programme**

**First session: 09:30 - 12:30**

Welcome speeches delivered by *Mr Jan Waszkiewicz*, President of the Region of Lower Silesia and *Mr Luc Van den Brande*, President of the AER

**“The Regions and European Union enlargement”**

President of the session: *Mr Luc Van den Brande*, President of the AER

1. Opening report: *Mr John O'Rourke*, Deputy Head of the European Commission Delegation in Warsaw
2. Debate: the point of view of the Regions from Central and Eastern Europe

11:00 - 11:15: coffee break

Immeuble Europe, 20 place des Halles, F – 67054 STRASBOURG Cedex (France)  
Téléphone (+33) 3 88 22 07 07 – Téléfax (+33) 3 88 75 67 19  
E-mail : [secretariat@are-regions-europe.org](mailto:secretariat@are-regions-europe.org) ou [infopresse@are-regions-europe.org](mailto:infopresse@are-regions-europe.org)



ARE-AER-VRE

3. Positions of the Committee of the Regions and of the other interregional organisations  
*Mr Wim Van Gelder*, Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions

*Dr Heinrich A. Hoffschulte*, First Vice-President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)

*Mr Stig Ostdahl*, Vice-President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR)

*Mr Joan Vallvé*, President of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

4. Conclusions  
*Mr Hans De Belder*, Secretary General in office

12:30 - 14:00: lunch

**Second session: 14:00 - 18:30**

**“Regional policy and East/West interregional cooperation in the perspective of EU enlargement”**

President of the session: *Mr Luc Van den Brande*, President of the AER

Introductory reports:

*Mr Eneko Landaburu*, Director General of the European Commission’s DG XVI - (Regional policies) and *Dr Franz Schausberger*, Minister-President of the Land of Salzburg

1. Debate: the point of view of the Regions from Central and Eastern Europe

16:00 - 16:15: coffee break

2. Contributions of the Presidents of the AER Committees

*Mr Willi Stächele* and *Mr Ivan Jakovcic*, Presidents of Committee A

*Mr Ragnar Kristoffersen*, President of Committee B

*Mr Brian Greenslade*, Vice-President of Committee C

*Mrs Liese Prokop*, President of Committee D

*Mr Jean-Paul Heider*, Responsible for programmes of interregional cooperation

3. Conclusions

*Mr Hans De Belder*, Secretary General in office

**General conclusions**

*Mr Jan Olbrycht*, President of the Region of Silesia

*Mr Luc Van den Brande*, President of the AER

Strasbourg, 21st-IX-99  
HDB/EM:FS/BT/SLP-EM