



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

Strasbourg, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2002

Press Release

AER Presidium

**A working programme for 2002,  
capable of meeting the stakes in a Europe for the Regions**

The members of the Presidium of the Assembly of European Regions (AER), at their meeting in Strasbourg on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2002, welcomed the outcome of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union which led to further involvement for the Regions in European decision-making. They regretted the absence of regional policy on the priority list of the new Spanish Presidency. According to the AER, Regional policy and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) are heavy players in current accession negotiations, and will create impetus for new governance in an enlarged Europe, therefore reform seems indispensable. The AER now asks the future Danish Presidency (2<sup>nd</sup> half 2002) to include these two priority items in its programme.

At this meeting, the AER Presidium adopted the AER working programme for 2002. *"We have already produced common proposals of the Regions of Europe concerning the European constitution, new governance, enlargement, cohesion in an enlarged Europe and the setting up of environmentally friendly European transport networks. In 2002, we will compare these positions with those of other interregional organisations in order to act in collaboration with the latter at European level. The 2<sup>nd</sup> summit between the Presidents of the Interregional organisations\* in Europe, organised by the AER, will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2002 in Linz (Austria). I hope that this event will lead to a major contribution in strengthening the role of the Regions in Europe and making their expectations heard in the Convention on the future of Europe"* said Liese Prokop, AER President, at the press conference.

The President also gave the kick off for the activity programmes of the four Committees: Institutional affairs, Health, Regional policy and Culture, and its three programmes - Centurio, Eurodissey and the Summer School. She entrusted the Committees with organising three Conferences on important issues for the Regions and for the development of interregional cooperation in Europe:

- the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Regional political leaders in the field of Culture,
- the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Health,
- the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference on Spatial planning.

The AER President congratulated Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), for his nomination as President of the Convention on the future of Europe, and Mr Erwin Teufel, Minister-President of the Land of Baden-Württemberg, represented on the AER Presidium, for his nomination as member of this Convention. Mr Teufel has been a distinguished member of the AER since its creation.

Liese Prokop is Vice-Minister President of Niederösterreich (Austria).

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\* AER member interregional organisations:

Assembly of European Wine-growing Regions (AREV), Assembly of European Fruit and Vegetable Growing and Horticultural Regions (AREFLH), European Association of Regions with Industrial Technology (RETI), Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), Working Community of the Adriatic Alps (ALPE ADRIA), Working Community of the Alpine Countries (ARGE ALP), Working Community of the Western Alps (COTRAO), Working Community of the Lower and Middle Adriatic, Working Community of Galicia-North Portugal, Working Community of the Jura (CTJ), Working Community of the Danube Countries (ARGE DONAULÄNDER), Working Community of the Pyrenees (CTP) and the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR).

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Created in 1985, the AER is a political organisation of the Regions in Europe and the speaker for their interests at European and International level. Its mission: bring together the regions of Europe and allow them to be, together, actors in the construction of Europe and European integration. The AER currently has 250 member regions from 25 European countries and 13 interregional organisations.

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