



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

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AER Press Release

**Presentation of the AER position on the European Convention
to Valéry Giscard d'Estaing**

The AER intends to observe the Convention's activities and to participate as the representative umbrella organisation of the Regions, both within the European Union and in accession countries. The AER also hopes to play an important role – along with other political organisations such as the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) - in the Forum set up by the Convention.

"The AER insists that the Convention must take into full account the legal status of the European Regions", Liese Prokop, AER President*, explained in her statement to Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, President of the Convention. For the AER, the European institutional framework must establish a Europe of the Regions as a third level of Government.

On the occasion of a debate organised by the CEMR with representatives of regional and local organisations and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing (March 7, 2002 in Valencia, Spain), Liese Prokop asked for a distinction between legislative and executive competences – a question closely linked to that of a catalogue of competences.

Other topics were:

- Distribution of competences according to the principle of subsidiarity,
- Right to referral before the European Court of Justice concerning the principle of subsidiarity,
- Enlargement and a Constitutional treaty: a proper representation for the Regions and their citizens in the decision-making process is necessary,
- Regions as direct partners in cohesion policy: a new scenario, for future cohesion policy based on the principles of increased decentralisation, competitiveness and subsidiarity.

* *Liese Prokop is Vice-Minister President for the Land of Niederösterreich (A)*

Full document available from the AER Secretariat.

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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