



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, 29th November 2002

*European Notebook*

**Election results for the Assembly of European Regions**

**Liese Prokop**, Vice-Minister President of Niederösterreich (Austria), was re-elected President of the Assembly of European Regions for a two year mandate. During President Prokop's first mandate she remained particularly committed to the development of cooperation between the European interregional organisations, particularly in the context of the activities of the Convention on the Future of Europe and enlargement. The Summit of interregional organisations in Linz in March 2002 was held at her initiative. Liese Prokop has also supported initiatives encouraging dialogue between European Regions and on crucial issues such as the future of European cohesion policy post-enlargement, the liberalisation of public services in culture and education under GATS negotiations, aging in European populations and the quality of elderly care or the involvement of young people in politics and public affairs.

**Adrien Zeller**, President of the Regional Council of Alsace (France) and **Ivan Jakovcic**, President of the Region of Istria (Croatia) were elected as AER Vice-Presidents. **Wilhelm Schnyder**, State Councillor for the Canton of Valais (Switzerland) was elected Vice-President Treasurer. **Peter Straub**, President of the Landtag of Baden-Württemberg (Germany) and **Stig-Erik Westmark**, President of the International Commission for Västmanland (Sweden) were elected as Presidents for the Institutional Affairs Committee and the Social cohesion, Social affairs and Public health Committee respectively.

**Brian Greenslade**, Leader of Devon County Council (United Kingdom) and **Bruno Hosp**, Assessore for Culture for Bozen-Südtirol (Italy) were respectively re-elected Presidents of the AER Committees on Regional policy, Spatial planning, Infrastructure, Environment & Tourism and on Culture, Education & Training, Youth, Media & Information technology, Sport.

**Jean-Claude Van Cauwenberghe**, Minister-President of Wallonie (Belgium), replaced Jean-François Humbert, President of Franche-Comté (France) as President of the AER Eurodissey programme, which allows young Europeans to gain professional experience abroad.

**Luigi Anzalone**, Assessore for Finance and Mediterranean regional policy of the region of Campania (I), Presidium member, was entrusted with the development of North-South cooperation and **Mihai Mugerel Arbagic**, President of the County of Calarasi (RO) was entrusted with relations with Eastern Europe.

The new AER Presidium will be responsible for enhancing the political role and the place of the Regions in the future structure of Europe, closer to the citizens, and as of January 2003. They will also aim to set up new mechanisms for interregional cooperation leading to assistance in the process of enlargement and to harmonise relations between the east, west, north and south of Europe.

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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 is to bring the Regions of Europe together to allow them to be actors in the construction of Europe and European integration. The AER has 250 member Regions from 28 European Countries and 12 interregional organisations. Past AER Presidents, in chronological order, are Edgar Faure (Franche-Comté/France), Carlo Bernini (Veneto/Italy), Jordi Pujol i Solel (Catalunya/Spain) and LucVan den Brande (Vlaanderen/Belgium).*



- **Liese Prokop, 61, ÖVP, Vice-Minister President of Niederösterreich (A): re-elected President**  
50 times Austrian National Track and Field Athletics Champion, Silver medallist for the women's pentathlon in the Olympic Games in Mexico (1968), European champion and Pentathlon World Record Holder (1969), Liese Prokop has been Deputy for the Parliament of Niederösterreich since 1969. She was elected as a member of the Landregierung in 1981 and has been Vice-Minister President of the Land since 1992, and is essentially responsible for sport, promotion of the employed, youth, the family and senior citizens. Active within the AER since 1996, she has climbed from being President of the Committee on Culture, Education and Training, Youth, Media and Sport (1996-2000), to First Vice-President (1999-2000) and President in December 2000. Liese Prokop has other public functions such as President of the Austrian Sport's Union, the "Ring der Österr. Bildungswerk" and the "Verband der Österr. Bildungswerke" (adult education institutions) and Vice-President of the Niederösterreichische Volkspartei (ÖVP) and of the regional office in Niederösterreich of ÖAAB Landesleitung NÖ (Austrian workers and employees association).
- **Adrien Zeller, 62, UDF, President of the Regional Council of Alsace (F): elected Vice-President**  
Agricultural scientist and economist, Adrien Zeller began his professional career as the principal administrator (agricultural and regional policies) for the European Commission (1967-1973). He was elected as Deputy of the Bas-Rhin (1973-1998), before becoming General Councillor (1973-1988), Mayor of Saverne (1977-2001), European EPP Deputy (1989-1992), and being nominated as State Secretary in the Social affairs and Employment Ministry (1986-1998). He has chaired the Regional Council of Alsace since 1996. Adrien Zeller has other political responsibilities such as President of the French decentralisation institute and Member of the National Conference of Spatial Planning (CNADT) and the Association of the Regions of France (ARF) and is responsible for decentralisation on the Council of the UDF Presidency. He has written several books including "Pour ma Région" (1998) and "La France enfin forte de ses régions – Glossaire engagé de la décentralisation" (2002) in which he calls for the development of regional democracy in France. The Region of Alsace is host to the AER, whose headquarters are in Strasbourg, and has actively supported the organisation since its creation in 1985. President Zeller has long been responsible, in collaboration with Vice-President J-P. Heider, for the development of interregional cooperation.
- **Ivan Jakovcic, 45, IDS/DDI, President of the Region of Istria (HR): elected Vice-President**  
Graduate in international commerce, Ivan Jakovcic has been President of the Regional Democratic Party of Istria (IDS/DDI) depuis 1991. Elected as Deputy in 1992, he was a member of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Croatian Government (1992-1995), and then Minister for European Integration (2000-2001). Elected President of the Regional Assembly of Istria in 1993, he was re-elected in 1997 and in May 2001. He has been active in the AER since 1994 and was Vice-President of the Institutional Affairs Committee between 1997 and 1999.
- **Wilhelm Schnyder, 59, PDC, State Councillor for the Canton of Valais (CH): elected Vice-President Treasurer**  
Graduate in law, a lawyer and solicitor, Wilhelm Schnyder has been State Councillor of the Canton of Valais since 1993 and successively responsible for Finances and Energy, Finances and Economy and finally Finances, Agriculture and Foreign affairs. He has previously occupied the positions of President of the PDC and President of the Parliament and Government of Valais. Wilhelm Schnydeer is a member of the "Financial harmonisation" Committee at federal level and Vice-President of the Commission on intercantonal agreements on specialised *hautes écoles*.
- **Peter Straub, 63, CDU, President of the Landtag of Baden-Württemberg (D): elected President of the Institutional Affairs Committee**  
Graduate in law and a practicing lawyer, Peter Straub has been a member of the CDU since 1968. He was successively elected as member of the municipal Council of Waldshut-Tiengen (1968-1989), on the Waldshut District Bureau (since 1969) and on the Waldshut District Council (1984-1999). Member of the Landtag of Baden-Württemberg since 1984. He was associate to the President (1992 - 1996), and President of the Landtag. Peter Straub is an alternate member of the Presidium of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union and is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Finnish Institute in Germany for culture, science, economy and enterprise as well as of the Foundation Council for cooperation in development of Baden-Württemberg.



- **Stig-Erik Westmark, 58, President of the Institutional Commission for Västmanland: elected President of the Social cohesion, Social services and Public health Committee**  
An engineer by training, Stig-Erik Westmark was elected on the County Council of Västmanland in 1977 and has proved particularly committed to the development of health policies at local, regional and international level. Member of the County Council Executive Committee since 1989, he was elected Commissioner of Health in 1992. He is also involved in the dossiers on public transport and regional development. He was elected President of the Institutional affairs Commission of Västmanland in 2002. Active within the AER since 1996, he was elected Vice-President of the Social Cohesion, Social services and Public health Committee in 2000 and represents the AER on the European Health Forum (EU).
- **Brian Greenslade, 53, Liberal Democrats, Leader of Devon (UK): re-elected President of the Regional policy, Spatial planning, Infrastructure, Environment & Tourism Committee**  
Independent consultant for companies, Brian Greenslade has been a member of Devon County Council since 1985 and Leader of the Council since 1998. He is also Vice-President of Exeter & Devon Airport Ltd and non-executive Director of North Devon Healthcare Trust. A highly active member of the AER Regional Policy Committee when chaired by Robert Savy (Limousin – France), he replaced his predecessor in 2000.
- **Bruno Hosp, 64, Popular party of Bozen-Südtirol, Assessore for Culture of Bozen-Südtirol (I): re-elected President of the Culture, Education & Training, Youth, Media & Information technology, Sport Committee**  
Graduate in political sciences, teacher, author and radio disk-jockey, co-founder and President of the summer theatre performances in Ritten (1979-1989), provincial commandant of the South Tyrolean Union of the Schützen, Bruno Hosp was elected Mayor of Ritten in 1974 (1974-1983), and later became Minister for German and Ladin Culture as well as for the Preservation of Historic monuments of the Autonomous province of Südtirol. Bruno Hosp is also fellow founder and first President of the Valley Community of Salten-Schlern and Vice-President of the Federalist Union of European Ethnic Groups (FUEV). He has been President of the Culture, Education & Training, Youth, Media & Information technology, Sport Committee since 2000.
- **Jean-Claude Cauwenberghe, 58, Socialist Party, President of the Wallon Government (B) and Vice-President of the Territorial cohesion Commission of the Committee of the Regions: elected President of the AER Eurodyssey programme.**
- **Luigi Anzalone, 60, Philosophy teacher, Popular Party, former President of the Province of Avellino, Assessore for Finance and Mediterranean regional policy of the region of Campania (I): entrusted with the development of North-South cooperation within the AER Presidium.**
- **Mihai Mugerel Arbagic, Engineer by training, Social-Democrat, President of the County of Calarasi (RO): entrusted with relations with Eastern Europe.**  
Mihai Mugerel Arbagic is also Head of the Romanian delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe (Council of Europe), President of the Bulgaro-Romanian EuroRegion and member of the Bureau of the Union of Departmental Councils of Romania.
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