



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

## **AER supports the Italian initiative for mountain regions**

"We encourage the initiative which aims at obtaining the recognition of the specific status for mountain regions in the EU Treaty, as presented by Enrico La Loggia, Italian Minister for Regional Policy, yesterday (13<sup>th</sup> March) to the President of the European Commission" declared Liese Prokop\*, President of the Assembly of European Regions. "Mountain regions suffer from demanding conditions for development and must therefore benefit, in this new phase of European integration, from the same status and European support as accorded to outermost maritime and peripheral regions since the Treaty of Amsterdam" she underlined.

"The AER requests that both the EU and member states support regional authorities in mountain areas in their action in favour of sustainable economic development, de-isolation, nature conservation, the improvement of the standard of living of local populations, particularly by the maintaining of public services and in their struggle against desertification" stressed Brian Greenslade\*\*, President of the AER Regional policies Committee.

At the occasion of the International year of Mountains 2002, the Assembly of European Regions calls for the rapid ratification of the Convention for the protection of the Alps in order to ensure its entry into force, and for the adoption of the European Convention on mountain Regions by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

At the Conference of Presidents of European interregional organisations, to be held in Linz on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2002, the AER will propose to the interregional organisations working in this field\*\*\* the creation of an *ad hoc* structure aiming at providing political support for all mountain regions and at developing co-operation between mountain regions from the East and West 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: 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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\*\*\* Working Community of the Adriatic Alps (ALPEN ADRIA), Working Community of the Alpine Countries (ARGE Alps), Working Community of the Danube Countries (ARGE DONAULÄNDER), Working Community of the Western Alps (COTRAO), Working Community of the Jura (CTJ), Working Community of the Pyrenees (CTP)

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