



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

French politics
Strasbourg, 7th May 2002

Press Release

Congratulations to Jean-Pierre Raffarin

On behalf of all AER members, Liese Prokop, President of the Assembly of European Regions (AER)*, sent a warm congratulations letter wishing every success to Jean-Pierre Raffarin for his appointment as Prime Minister of the French Republic.

"The experience gained in regional realities on the ground, mixed with the strength of your conviction in Europe will allow you to apply the principles of new Governance, which I know you are highly committed to, and to achieve the important mission assigned to you by President Jacques Chirac" stressed President Prokop.

Jean-Pierre Raffarin, aged 53, Senator (Liberal Democrat) and President of the Region of Poitou-Charentes, is an AER Bureau member. He is also consistently active within European and national interregional organisations (CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission, President of the Association of French Regions until January 2002).

We would also like to remind you that the 4th AER European Cup of Regional Flavours is due to be held in the Portuguese Region of Alentejo in March 2003. This Cup was originally launched by the Region of Poitou-Charentes, under the Presidency of Mr Raffarin.

* L. Prokop is Vice-Minister President of the Land of Niederösterreich (Austria).

For further information on the AER: www.are-regions-europe.org

Assembly of European Regions Contacts:

Klaus Klipp, Secretary General (Tel. +33 3 88 22 07 07), Barbara Skoczylas-Thauront or Francine Huhardeaux, Press and Communications service (Tel. +33 3 88 22 74 46 ou 49) – Fax. +33 3 88 75 67 19 - Email. infopresse@are-regions-europe.org

Immeuble Europe, 20 place des Halles, F — 67054 STRASBOURG Cedex (France)

T 1 phone (+33) 3 88 22 07 07 — T 1 fax (+33) 3 88 75 67 19

E-mail°: secretariat@are-regions-europe.org ou infopresse@are-regions-europe.org