



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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*Press Release*

**The Romanian people, free at long last...  
... not if they go to Greece, says the AER**

The decision considering the suppression of Romanian visas was unanimously interpreted as the fall of one of the last obstacles to the freedom of movement. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002, Romanian citizens may enter the Schengen area without visas.

The AER considers itself as one of the European actors having contributed to this decision, especially in view of its resolution produced last year (enclosed).

Recently, 70 Romanian citizens which fulfilled all requirements for entry into the country were stopped at Greek customs. Border police claimed that the tourists could not provide proof of having paid for accommodation for their stay in Greece. The AER expresses its concern regarding the unnecessary limits applicable to entry Greece. The situation seems to be unclear between the border police and the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Hopefully, the Ministry will quickly publish the list of requirements for Romanians wishing to enter the country.

The decision concerning the suppression of visas must not remain symbolic, but have a 100% real impact.

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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 12 interregional organisations. The AER headquarters are in Strasbourg (F).*

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