



PRESS RELEASE

**AER Tribute to David Kirk**

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Strasbourg (F), 17 August 2010.

The Assembly of European Regions (AER) today pays tribute to **David Kirk** who passed away suddenly this weekend.

Considered “*a tower of strength*”, David Kirk was a staunch defender of the role of regional authorities in managing schools and maintaining high educational standards. Throughout his professional career, he understood that strengthening the political role of regions in Europe was essential for their development, especially that of his dear Hampshire.

Mr. Kirk was a respected member of the AER Bureau, where he served as Vice President and Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Education & Training. He was a determined advocate for education for all, including migrant and traveling children.

David Kirk was a candidate the next presidency of the AER Committee on Culture, Education and Youth. AER is grateful for David’s contribution to our work over the years, which was valued by many.

His death leaves a large hole in the hearts of both Hampshire and AER, where he will be remembered as a man of commitment and compassion who devoted his considerable energy into working for the wellbeing of children and young people.

In light of this tragic loss, the Assembly of European Regions offers its most sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Kirk and especially to his wife Tracey.

*The **Assembly of European Regions (AER – aer.eu)** is the largest independent network of regions in wider Europe. Bringing together more than 270 regions from 33 countries and 16 interregional organisations, AER is the political voice of its members and a forum for interregional co-operation.*

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