



## editorial

When, at the end of 1999, our Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia proposed to host the AER General Assembly in Seinäjoki, Capital of our Region, many people hesitated "but it's so cold, and the days so short". That is right, that is how things are in Finland, but we are used to our nordic climate. Despite the difficult climatic conditions, many talented people are quite happy to live here.

I would like to welcome you to this XV AER General Assembly which will be held in Seinäjoki at the beginning of December. We are doing our best to make this event a success, especially considering that this will be the first General Assembly in a nordic country. We hope that participation will be high and invite you to come and discover our Region with its traditions and ways of life.

Since it became a member of the European Union in 1995, Finland has been regionalised. The Regions now have more power and responsibility in the running of their affairs and the EU structural funds allow them to lead regional development projects.

As other EU peripheral Regions, we consider the development of new communication technologies and the information society as being of great importance. We are convinced that it is essential to take these technological developments and the new requirements of a society born from these developments into account in the debate on European Governance, main theme of this Assembly. We invite you to come and debate with us on this subject, as a prelude to the main meeting.

Should you have time after the Assembly, come and participate in a unique demonstration entitled "Cold and Dark" which will explain how to manage a town when it is cold, snowing and dark. Not to be missed.

Kyösti Virrankoski

President of the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia  
Member of the European Parliament

## > Saving regional cultural diversity in Europe

At the First European Conference of Regional Ministers of Culture, organised by the Assembly of European Regions (AER) on 25th and 26th October 2000 in Nyon (Vaud-CH), 140 regional cultural Ministers and representatives from 75 Regions and over twenty countries adopted a declaration in favour of regional cultural diversity in Europe.

This First European Conference of Regional Ministers for Culture, organised at the initiative of the "Culture, Education & Training, Youth, Media and Sport" Committee of the AER was chaired by Liese Prokop, Vice-Minister President of Niederösterreich (A) and allowed the regional decision-makers of EU countries, applicant countries and other European countries to debate the main issues regarding culture in Europe, to exchange points of view, in particular with artists, and to adopt, with a large majority, a joint declaration that the AER will distribute to the relevant institutions.

### Continuing public financing...

Faced with the globalisation of the economy and the standardisation which accompanies it, regional decision-makers expressed the concerns of their populations regarding the weakening of their regional identities and cultures. They therefore stressed the need to coordinate the action of the Regions of Europe in order to ensure that negotiations taking place within the World Trade Organisation (WTO) do not lead to the suppression of public co-financing in the field of culture at European, national, regional and local level.

*"In order to allow Europe to keep its diversity and pluralism, the legislative and financial*

*competences of the Regions in the field of cultural policies must urgently be included in international law"* stated Mr Claude Ruey, State Councillor for the Canton of Vaud and host of this Conference.

### ...And the public audiovisual service

Mr Jean-Michel Baer, Director of Culture, Audiovisual policies and Sport within the European Commission, representing the Commissioner Viviane Reding, reported on the European institutions' commitment to the current WTO negotiations in order to maintain the freedom of the Regions and member States in the field of culture in the same manner as that of the EU in the field of audiovisual policies, for example. He also stressed the collaboration entered into with the Commissioner (competition) Mario Monti, aiming to maintain the public audiovisual service in the Regions and the relevant member States.

Mr Manuel Tarancon Fandos, Minister of Culture and Education for the Comunitat Valenciana (E) and Mr Bruno Hosp, Minister of Culture for Bozen-Südtirol (I) presented examples of cultural policies used in their respective Regions in order to preserve their cultural heritage which is at the basis of a strong regional identity. →

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## Respect for regional competences

Participants also debated another issue of great importance for the Regions, i.e. the current reform of the European institutions in view of the enlargement of the Union. Among the future perspectives appears the change to qualified majority voting in the field of culture. Without a clear delimitation of the mandate of European institutions, this change could lead the way to the globalisation of cultural policies in Europe and to the centralisation of decision-making at European level, at the expense of regional competences in particular. *"The Regions are the natural anchor of secular culture in Europe and of the rich tradition of regional culture and are the best placed for continuing, developing and encouraging this cultural history, in the present and into the future, for and with the citizens"* said Dr André F Moosbrugger (Aargau-CH) in introduction to the debate.

## Defining the mission of the European institutions

The regional representatives shared their fears of losing their autonomy in this field with the change from the current unanimous voting system to majority decisions. *"With reference to this reform, the European Regions, members of the Assembly of European Regions, must work towards obtaining a clear definition of the competences of each level of decision-making (EU, States, Regions and Communes) based on the principle of subsidiarity"* pleaded Luc Van den Brande, AER President. *"Without this definition, the change to majority voting represents the danger of centralising cultural policies in Europe, on the contrary to the principle of subsidiarity and we must fight against this"* specified Mrs Liese Prokop, Vice-Minister President of Niederösterreich, President of the AER "Culture, Education & Training, Youth, Media and Sport" Committee and instigator of this Conference.

## The denationalisation and decentralisation of culture

Regions in federal countries, for example, have large competences in the field of culture. Mr Thomas Oppermann, Minister for Science and Culture in Niedersachsen (D) reminded those present that in

Germany local authorities finance 95% of the total budget for cultural policies *"The Länder are very attached to the federalistic vision which has allowed culture to be denationalised without being privatised, therefore maintaining the freedom of expression of the citizens"* he added.

## Culture, a tool for peace in Europe

The regional decision-makers, just like the representatives of the European Commission and the Council of Europe, also insisted on the importance of interregional intercultural dialogue and cross-border cooperation, in particular in this field, as an instrument of peace and stability in Europe. *"In Europe, no culture must dominate another and those responsible for this field in the Regions must pay particular attention to this aspect in order to encourage integration"* - stated Dr Paul Huber of the State Chancellery of the Canton of Luzern (CH). Mr Raymond Weber, Director for Culture and Cultural heritage in the Council of Europe, stressed the role cultural policies and cooperation can and must play in the prevention of conflict, the reduction of ostracism and a better integration of minorities and immigrants.

## The importance of interregional cooperation

Mrs Tuulikki Karjalainen, Vice-President in charge of culture in Kainuu (FIN) stressed the importance of cultural cooperation with the countries of Eastern and Central Europe, whilst explaining his Region's difficulties regarding the use of European funds (Interreg and Tacis) in order to finance joint projects with neighbouring Karelia (RUS) in the context of the recently created Euroregion. Other speakers insisted on the major role of interregional and cross-border cultural cooperation in the acceptance of the current enlargement process.

## New technologies...

New communication technologies help in the development of intercultural dialogue and better mutual understanding between the various European cultures thanks, in particular, to the exchange of experience. Mr Weber of the Council of Europe and

Mr Tarancon Fandos of the Comunitat Valenciana (E) considered that it would be useful to create an internet cultural hub or meeting point for communication under the AER's auspices which would serve both as an observatory for regional cultural policies and as a server giving access to the many activities and the great experience of the Regions of Europe.

## ...And their limits

However, Mrs Agnès Maltais, Minister of Culture and Communication in Quebec (CA), warned against the idealisation of what these new means of communication could bring to the cause of cultural diversity. *"New technologies and diversity must not be confused. New technologies do not guarantee us the diversity of supply, but rather they guarantee us the diversity of the ways of gaining access to the supply. Those responsible for culture must protect the diversity of cultural supply, its qualities and beauty, and its openness to the other cultures on this planet"* - she explained.

## Fruitful exchange with artists

For the first time, artists from Regions from all over Europe and regional decision-makers in the field of culture met and debated together. The round table brought together Joachim Angerer, Lord Abbot of Geras (Niederösterreich - A), Dermot Dealy, writer (Westmeath County - IRL), Gil Jouanard, writer (Languedoc-Roussillon - F), André Lamielle, Secretary General for the International forum "Junge Chormusik" (Midi-Pyrénées-F) and Tomi Ungerer, cartoonist, designer and writer (Alsace - F), and allowed the importance of roots and origins in art and creation to be underlined. It also stressed the role of the independence of artistic creation and the freedom of expression in the democratic vitality of our society.

**AER contact:** Franz-Josef Stummann and Doris Materne  
fstummann@are-regions-europe.org  
dmaterne@are-regions-europe.org

Many documents, including the final declaration, are available on the AER Web site:  
<http://www.are-regions-europe.org/commun/A214b4.html>

## > Main AER Bureau decisions

At its meeting in Nyon (Vaud-CH) on 27th October, the Bureau of the AER debated the position proposal on the Intergovernmental Conference formulated by Willi Stächele, Secretary of State for Baden-Württemberg (D) and President of the AER "Institutional Affairs" Committee.

Conscious of the fact that it will become increasingly difficult to make unanimous decisions, the AER Bureau recognises that in the future qualified majority voting will be necessary for the progress of Europe. However, the Bureau feels that as long as no clear definition of competences of the European institutions exists, drawn up on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity, unanimous voting must be maintained in order to respect the current priorities of numerous European Regions, in particular in the field of culture, education and training, and in this way encourage their acceptance of European decisions.

### Post-Nice preparation

The Bureau considers that this IGC is merely the first step towards an indepth reform which would take the interests of all governance levels in Europe into account. The European Council in Nice must make a decision on the continuation of reforms aiming to simplify the Treaties, the inclusion of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights in the body of Treaties which constitutes a united Europe and a completely new definition of competences. The calendar and the direction to take must clearly appear in the outcome of the current Intergovernmental Conference.

Among the main AER demands the following appeared:

- the Committee of the Regions (CoR) should become a fully fledged body of the European Union with the right to appear in a legal court of justice in order to defend its own rights, as well as the

right to question its members on affairs with a regional aspect;

- the right for the Regions with legislative powers to represent themselves within the Court of Justice of the European Communities.

### Current Committee activities

The Bureau was informed on the activities of the AER Committees, which have all had meetings over the last two months, and the programmes (Centurio, Summer School and Eurodyssey). It was pleased with the success of the First European Conference of Regional Ministers of Culture, approved the final declaration on regional cultural diversity in Europe and invited the "Culture, Education & Training, Youth, Media and Sport" Committee to repeat this initiative in coming years. Mrs L Prokop, President of this Committee, reported on the Committee meeting which had taken place three days earlier in the same venue (Nyon, CH). She also reported on several projects launched within the sub-Committee Youth such as, for example, their own Web site, an AER Youth Summer School...

The Bureau was also informed on the conclusions of the "Institutional Affairs" and the "Social cohesion, Social services, Public health, Employment" Committees concerning the Charter of Fundamental Rights which coincide with its own opinions. President Luc Van den Brande invited experts from the two Committees to prepare a joint position for the next General Assembly on this basis.

In its report on the "Social cohesion, Social services, Public health, Employment" Committee meeting (Stellefteå, 28th - 29th September 2000), Ragnar Kristoffersen, Committee President, requested that the AER increase its support of Eastern and Central European countries.

Brian Greenslade, "Regional policies, Territorial planning, Infrastructures, Environment, Tourism" Committee President, reported on the meeting in Tulcea (21st - 22nd September) which brought in 120 participants. He stressed that the outcome of the activities concerning perspectives for regional policies had been obtained thanks to the change in working methods of the Committee (small thematic working groups, increased contact via email, AER forum on the Web site...).

### Amendments to the Statutes adopted

At this meeting, the Bureau approved the draft budget 2001 and took note of a new member (Cahul-MOL) and one withdrawal (Stockholm-S). It adopted the amendments to the AER Statutes which aim to extend observer status, to modify the membership and withdrawal procedures and to encourage members to apply the principle of equal opportunities for men and women in the context of the Bureau composition. It was decided to elect a second First AER Vice-President, to amend the status of Committee Presidents who would henceforth be elected at the proposal of the Committees and who would also automatically become AER Vice-Presidents in the future. The Bureau also accepted to open its meetings to external sources, specialists in particular.

The Bureau was also informed regarding preparations for the General Assembly in Seinäjoki, in particular regarding the elections and the list of candidatures received (see below). Detailed minutes can be found by members on the AER extranet.

**AER contact:** Eric Milesi  
emilesi@are-regions-europe.org



## > Elections 2000 - Extended delay for candidatures

At its next General Assembly the AER will elect, for a two year mandate, its President, two First Vice-Presidents, the Vice-President Treasurer as well as Presidents for its four Committees. It will also elect its political Bureau.

Several candidatures have been received by the AER regarding the AER

Presidium. With reference to the Bureau, only Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, have put forward candidatures at the time of publishing, i.e. only 8 out of the 25 countries represented within the AER.

The Bureau decided to extend the deadline for candidatures to the beginning of December. The real preparation for the upcoming elections will take place at the next Bureau meeting on 7th December in Seinäjoki (FIN).

**AER contact:** Hans De Belder  
h.debelder@are-regions-europe.org

## > *New Services on the AER Web Site* <http://www.are-regions-europe.org>

Since the 25th September, the Press and Communications Service has launched several new services on the, now trilingual, AER Web site aiming to make the Regions of Europe better known and encourage the development of dialogue and interregional cooperation:

### • **Political discussion forum**

This forum allows all those involved in regional public affairs to participate in and democratically express their points of view on current debates at European level (<http://www.are-regions-europe.org/FORUM/index.html>). The forum on "Towards new cultural policies in Europe" launched this new form of interregional dialogue and, at this point in time, two new forums have been opened, one on "European Regional Policies 2007- 2013" and another on "New European Governance". As an AER member Region, you can also start a debate by sending your request to the relevant AER Committee:

### • **Data base :**

#### **European and interregional links**

In addition to providing easy access to European information, this base represents the first European hub for the exchange of experience between the Regions of Europe in various fields (<http://www.are-regions-europe.org/DATABASE/bddlinks.html>);

#### • **Interregional partnership pool**

This pool aims to make it easier for regional actors to find partners for cooperation projects (<http://www.are-regions-europe.org/DATABASE/partnership/index.html>);

#### • **Data base of regional contacts - Visiting cards of European Regions**

This data base represents nearly 300 AER member Regions (key figures, assets, cooperation agreements, useful contacts...) and includes links to over 200 regional Web sites in Europe (<http://www.are-regions-europe.org/VICARDS/index.html>);

#### • **Mailing lists**

These lists allow all those interested to be regularly informed on new items on the Web site by email (<http://www.are-regions-europe.org/COMMUN/whatsnew.html>) and/or of the quarterly newsletter of the

Assembly of European Regions (<http://www.are-regions-europe.org/COMMUN/newsletter.html>).

For member Regions and interregional organisations without their own Web sites or those that wish to diffuse information on their European level initiatives (supported by the AER) to a greater extent, a members page has been opened under the heading "AER members", "Current Activities" (<http://www.are-regions-europe.org/GB/A2/A210.html>).

### **Around 20 000 visitors per year**

The Web site is currently being promoted to members, public institutions and European media and you can help us to do this by distributing this information as widely as possible in your country, to your partners (socio-professional organisms, universities, NGOs ...) and to the media.

Since its launch in 1999, the AER Web site has been visited by 20 000 people with rush periods of between 150 and 200 visitors per day coming up to AER meetings. The average is estimated at around 50 people per day and an average visit lasts around 12.5 minutes. This summer the main international research motors started listing our Web site, therefore these figures should continue to improve, increasing AER and its member Regions' visibility not only in Europe, but also on other continents.

### **Savings made**

The creation of this Web site with the data bases and the AER extranet cost 40 000 Euros over two years (excluding equipment, server, training and updating of the data base 4D). The return on investment should be over 3 years thanks to savings made on photocopying, postage and telephone bills.

The site is controlled and regularly updated by the Press and Communications Service, in collaboration with the various structures and with the support of the Translation service.

**AER contact:** Barbara Skoczylas-Thauront  
[bthauront@are-regions-europe.org](mailto:bthauront@are-regions-europe.org)



## > *2001: European Year of Languages*

The Council of Europe and the European Union have declared 2001 the European Year of Languages.

The aim of this year is to increase the value of linguistic diversity in Europe, promote poly-lingualism and encourage language learning all life long, including lesser used languages, as prescribed in the Charter of Regional and Minority Languages.

The Regions are invited to participate in this year by organising events and regional level activities. The European Commission has reserved 4.35 million Euros for the co-financing of projects organised with this aim (at 50%). For further information on eligibility criteria, submission procedures and deadlines, please consult the Official Journal of the European Communities of 8-09-2000: Call for proposals EAC/66/00 or <http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/languages/fr/actions/commactions.html>.

At the first European Conference of Regional Ministers for Culture (Nyon, 25th - 26th October), participants from 75 European Regions and from Quebec (Canada) debated the action to be taken either together or individually in order to contribute to the spread of regional languages and the respect for minority languages. The AER Committee "Culture, Education & Training, Youth, Media and Sport" committed itself to organising, during this year, a large interregional event in order to contribute to the success of this joint Council of Europe - European Union initiative. The Committee will also support the adoption of the Charter on Regional and Minority Languages by the members of the Council of Europe (only 8 countries out of 41 have adopted this Charter at the current time).

# > 15th General Assembly of the Regions of Europe

7th.-8th. December 2000 - Seinäjoki - South Ostrobothnia (FIN)

**A**t the invitation of the Region of South Ostrobothnia, the next AER General Assembly will be held in Seinäjoki Areena in Finland. Participants can be registered from the afternoon of Wednesday 6th December and the very same evening the host Region invites all participants to their Celebration of Finnish Independence Day in the Town Theatre. Among the main events for this Assembly 2000 can be found the elections for the AER political representatives for a two year term, a debate on the new forms of Governance in Europe. Take a look at the programme:

## THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2000

09.00 - 12.30

Bureau meeting  
(for Bureau members and their assistants)

09.00 - 12.30

Seminar organised by the Region of South Ostrobothnia  
(for other delegates) Seinäjoki-sali

12.30 - 13.00

Press conference

13.00 - 14.30

Lunch

13.00 - 15.00

Registration of delegates

15.00 - 20.15

**General Assembly**

15.00 - 15.30

- Opening speech by Mr Luc Van den Brande, AER President
- Welcome speech by Mr Kyösti Virrankoski, Chairman of the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia and Member of the European Parliament
- Speech by Mr Martti Korhonen, Finnish Minister for Regional and Municipal affairs

15.30 - 16.00

Extraordinary General Assembly  
- Amendments to the Statutes

16.00 - 16.15

General Assembly  
- Adoption of the draft agenda  
- Approval of the minutes from the General Assembly 1999  
- Report on membership and reception of new member Regions

16.15 - 16.30

- Administrative accounts 1999, report from the AER Statutory Auditor and Pacte programme: settlement

16.30 - 17.00

- General report from the AER President  
- Activity report from the Secretary General

17.30 - 19.00

- Reports from the Committee Presidents and working groups and presentation of draft resolutions

19.00 - 19.30

- Activity programme 2001  
- Draft budget 2001

19.30- 20.00

Elections

20.00 - 20.15

President's speech and close

21.00

Official Dinner (at the invitation of the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia and the town of Seinäjoki)

## FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2000

09.00 - 13.00

**General Assembly**

(chaired by the new AER President)

09.00 - 12.00

Debate on European Governance  
(Preparation of the European Commission's White Paper, and the role of the AER)

12.30 - 13.00

- Adoption of a final declaration
- Meeting calendar
- Closing speeches

13.00 - 13.30

Press conference

13.00 - 14.30

Lunch

14.30

Excursions:

Three possible visits :

- Furniture industry in South Ostrobothnia (4 hours)
- City tour, including the Alvar Aalto Centre (2 hours)
- Social and health services in Seinäjoki and its region (2 hours)

## SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2000

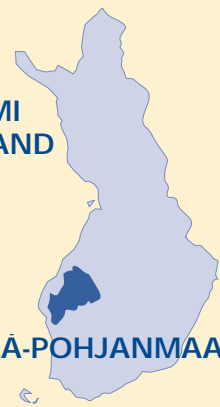
09.00 - 12.00

"Cold and dark"

This programme will include information on and a real life example of the felling area with a modern machine equipped with high technology. What special means are needed to keep a city functioning in a dark, cold and snowy environment ? How to ensure that economic activity goes on? etc.

**AER contact:** Eric Milesi  
emilesi@are-regions-europe.org

SUOMI  
FINLAND



ETELÄ-POHJANMAA

## > Etelä-Pohjanmaa welcomes the AER

The Region of Etelä-Pohjanmaa (South Ostrobothnia), located in West Finland, is one of the 20 Regions in this country. Finland became a member of the European Union in 1995 and since this date its structure has been completely reorganised with the establishment of the law on regional development in particular. The newly created regional Federations are, according to the Statutes, responsible for regional policies and planning. They represent the interests of their Regions to the Central administration, in particular in collaboration with municipalities. As a general rule, they take care of the economic and cultural welfare of their Regions both within their country and abroad.

The Region of Etelä-Pohjanmaa also has these same objectives. Its main aim is to constantly improve the image of the Region in order to avoid the migration of the population, in particular by increasing the competitiveness of businesses, employment, innovation, etc. For the period 2000-2006, Etelä-Pohjanmaa will invest over 340 millions Euros. Since the country's EU membership, the Region receives help from the structural funds under Objectives 2 et 3, as well as from a programme in favour of rural regional development.

Etelä-Pohjanmaa is made up of 27 local municipalities. The Region covers 14 000 km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of 200 000 inhabitants, which corresponds to around 4% of the total surface area. Seinäjoki is the Capital and the largest town in the Region with over 30 000 inhabitants. Etelä-Pohjanmaa has the greatest density of SMEs and agricultural installations in the country. It is also a major university town with several technological centres and faculties spread around Seinäjoki and the whole Region. Seinäjoki also has a large specialist alimentary centre.

In addition to its active participation in AER activities since 1997, the Region of Etelä-Pohjanmaa is also a member of the Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation (BSSSC) .



## > AER Activities: August - October 2000

### Political meetings and events

- Festival of Traditional folk games and sports in Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok (H), 19-21/08; (Dr Scherer, representing Mrs L Prokop, and Mr F J Stummman)
- Meeting with Mr W Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe and Commissioner V Reding (Mrs L Prokop, Strasbourg, 5/09)
- Meeting with Mrs Wulf-Mathies (Mr H De Belder, Berlin, 14/09)
- Meeting between the CPMR, CEMR and the AER Secretary Generals within the CoR (Brussels, 20/09)
- European Cup of Regional Flavours (Mr H De Belder, Limburg, 25-28/09)
- Participation in the seminar "The Barcelona process: 5th anniversary, an evaluation" (Mr H De Belder, Barcelona, 5/10)
- Participation in the CPMR General Assembly (Mr H De Belder, Florence, 12-13/10)
- Presentation of a report on the implications of the Biarritz summit for the Regions in the context of a European Policy Centre (EPC) meeting (Mr H De Belder, Brussels, 17/10)
- Reception of a Polish delegation led by Mr Kropiwnicki, Minister for Regional development and construction, at the AER Secretariat (Mrs B Thauront, 18/10)

### Member contact

- Meeting with the Association of French Regions - ARF (Mr H De Belder, Paris, 19/09)
- Meeting with the United Kingdom delegation (Mr H De Belder, London, 2/10)

### Other AER meetings

- Committee A "Institutional Briefing" workshop (Vilnius, 7/08)
- Presidium (Brussels, 8/09)
- Committee C (Tulcea, 22-23/09)
- Committee B (Stellefteå, 28-29/09)
- Committee D (Nyon, 24/10)
- First Conference of Regional Ministers for Culture (Nyon, 25-26/10)
- Committee A (Nyon, 26/10)
- Bureau (Nyon, 27/10)

### Programmes

- Summer School (Vilnius, 6-11/08)
- Centurio: introductory seminar (Brussels, 28-29/09)

### Press and Communications

Launch of the new version of the AER Web site at the end of September (see page 4) and its promotion to members, the AER public and partners. Distribution of several press releases concerning the AER current affairs of this autumn.

**For further information:**  
<http://www.are-regions-europe.org>

## Visiting Cards of European Regions - 2001

The "Visiting Cards of European Regions" has been available on the AER Web site since the end of September. This directory gives information on member Regions and helps to make them better known: try <http://www.are-regions-europe.org/database/vicards/index.html>.

Thanks to the development of a specific programme, all updates made in the AER contact data base can immediately be included on the Web site. In order to make updates easier, an on line form will soon be available on the Web site.

A general update of the "Visiting Cards" will be made in Spring 2001 in view of the next print edition. This will also be the opportunity to include the new member Regions in this publication.

As in 1999, the "Visiting Cards" will be entirely financed by advertising.

Member Regions wishing to take part in this operation can directly contact the Publicity Agent Recherche & Communication.

Regions which accept to assist our search for advertisers within their Region by sending out a letter of support will receive one free page of publicity in this directory.

3000 copies are planned to be printed which will then be distributed to member Regions, institutions, AER partners and European media. We would like to thank, in advance, all those who help us to make this project a success.

**AER contact:** Barbara Thauront, Francine Huhardeaux and Catherine Hommel  
[infopresse@are-regions-europe.org](mailto:infopresse@are-regions-europe.org)

### Recherche & Communication contact:

Max Guez  
Tel: +33 1 55 65 12 12  
Fax: +33 1 55 65 12 00  
Email: [r.c.pao@wanadoo.fr](mailto:r.c.pao@wanadoo.fr)



## diary

### NOVEMBER

Thursday 2nd  
**Conference "Cooperation between the Regions and Large Towns of Europe" 's-Hertogenbosch (NL)**

Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd  
**Conference "Europe, Spatial and Urban Development" (EU French Presidency) - Lille (F)**

Wednesday 8th to Friday 10th  
**Bureau, Mini session and Standing Committee of the CLRAE - Strasbourg (F)**

Thursday 9th  
**Conference "Governance and European citizenship" CoR - Lille (F)**

Friday 10th  
**CoR Bureau - Lille (F)**

Monday 13th  
**RETI General Assembly - Brussels (B)**

Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st  
**CPMR Meeting "Interregional cooperation in the Balkans" - Thessaloniki (GR)**

Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th  
**Conference of Presidents of Regions with legislative power - CLRAE - Barcelona (E)**

### DECEMBER

Thursday 7th and Friday 8th  
**AER Bureau and General Assembly - Seinäjoki (FIN)**

Thursday 7th to Saturday 9th  
**European Council Summit - Nice (F)**

Tuesday 12th to Thursday 14th  
**CoR Bureau and Plenary session - Brussels (B)**

Thursday 14th and Friday 15th  
**CPMR Meeting "Enlargement perspective for the Regions of the accession countries in the Baltic Sea Area" - Gdansk (PL)**

**AER contact:** Francine Huhardeaux  
[infopresse@are-regions-europe.org](mailto:infopresse@are-regions-europe.org)



**AER on line - ARE en direct - VRE direkt - Autumn 2000**  
The Assembly of European Regions' newsletter

**Managing Editor:**  
Hans De Belder

**Editor:**  
Barbara Skoczylas-Thauront

**Editorial Committee:**  
Stéphane Cools, Francine Huhardeaux, Stéphanie Lecaux-

Poirel, Doris Materne, Eric Milesi, Laura de Rose, Franz-Josef Stummman

**Editorial Secretariat:**  
Barbara Skoczylas-Thauront (F version), Francine Huhardeaux (D and GB versions)

**Translation:** Juce Evans (GB), Claudia Meschede and Annette Démaret (D)

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