

### Past and current AER activities in the field of cohesion policy

Date and venue	Type of event	Number of participants	Personalities who attended	Link
2002, Pecs, Baranya (H)	1 <sup>st</sup> Conference on the future of cohesion policy	220	Jean-Charles LEYGUES, DG Regio	<a href="http://www.a-e-r.org/events/regional-policies-committee/2002/baranya.html">http://www.a-e-r.org/events/regional-policies-committee/2002/baranya.html</a>
2003, Calabria (I)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Conference on the future of cohesion policy	120	Jean-Charles LEYGUES, DG Regio	<a href="http://www.a-e-r.org/events/regional-policies-committee/2003/calabria.html">http://www.a-e-r.org/events/regional-policies-committee/2003/calabria.html</a>
2004, Eger, Heves (H)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Conference on the future of cohesion policy	250	Peter Balacz, European Commissioner to cohesion policy	<a href="http://www.a-e-r.org/events/regional-policies-committee/2004/heves.html">http://www.a-e-r.org/events/regional-policies-committee/2004/heves.html</a>
2004	AER Reaction to the 3rd report on social and economic cohesion, published by the European Commission in February			<a href="http://www.a-e-r.org/fileadmin/user_upload/MainIssues/CohesionRegionalPolicy/Reaction-3reportGB.doc">http://www.a-e-r.org/fileadmin/user_upload/MainIssues/CohesionRegionalPolicy/Reaction-3reportGB.doc</a>
2005, Brussels	Meeting between the AER and Danuta Hübner,		Onno HOES, President of AER Committee 1 and Regional Minister in Noord-Brabant (NL) Danuta Hübner, European Commissioner for regional policy, Klaus KLIPP	
2005	AER Reaction to the draft Community Strategic Guidelines 2007-2013 for Cohesion Policy			<a href="http://www.a-e-r.org/fileadmin/user_upload/MainIssues/CohesionRegionalPolicy/Consultations-2005/EN-Guidelines.pdf">http://www.a-e-r.org/fileadmin/user_upload/MainIssues/CohesionRegionalPolicy/Consultations-2005/EN-Guidelines.pdf</a>

2006				
4 <sup>th</sup> April, Strasbourg	Meeting between the AER and Danuta Hübner,		Adrien ZELLER, President of Alsace Region (F) Danuta Hübner, European Commissioner for regional policy Ronald HALL, DG Regio, Klaus KLIPP, AER Secretary General	
2 <sup>nd</sup> October, Strasbourg	Conference on the future of interregional cooperation		Elisabeth HELANDER, DG Regio	
Final declaration on Interregional co-operation				<a href="http://www.a-e-r.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Commissions/RegionalPolicies/EventsAndMeetings/2006/Strasbourg/WorkingDocuments/EN-FinalDeclaration.doc">http://www.a-e-r.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Commissions/RegionalPolicies/EventsAndMeetings/2006/Strasbourg/WorkingDocuments/EN-FinalDeclaration.doc</a>
2007				
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Presidents/Vice-Presidents of 6 Romanian County Councils meet Danuta Hübner, European Commissioner for regional policy		President Martin Bottesch (Sibiu), President Janós Demeter (Covasna), Vice-President Dan Coriolan Simedru (Alba), President Levente Zoltán Bunta (Harghita), Vice-President Vasile Mihail Butaru (Brasov), President Edita Emöke Lokodi (Mures), Klaus KLIPP <b>Danuta Hübner</b>	<a href="http://www.a-e-r.org/news/2007/2007012201.html">http://www.a-e-r.org/news/2007/2007012201.html</a>
	Task Force (see details below)	Survey: 60 regions Task force: 11 regions		For logged-in member : <a href="http://www.a-e-r.org/home-en/main-issues/cohesion-regional-policy/cohesion-policy-post-2013.html">http://www.a-e-r.org/home-en/main-issues/cohesion-regional-policy/cohesion-policy-post-2013.html</a>

5 <sup>th</sup> September	Meeting AER with Dirk AHNER, DG Regio		Thomas ANDERSSON, Klaus KLIPP	Id.
13 <sup>th</sup> December	2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting AER with with Dirk AHNER, DG Regio		Thomas ANDERSSON, Klaus KLIPP	Id.

### Task force timeline 2007-2008

Warning : the page is reachable only if you are logged-in - <http://www.a-e-r.org/home-en/main-issues/cohesion-regional-policy/cohesion-policy-post-2013.html>

15 <sup>th</sup> June 2007	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of the Task Force
4 September 2007	2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Task Force
AER Recommendations on Cohesion Policy post 2013	<a href="http://www.a-e-r.org/fileadmin/user_upload/MainIssues/CohesionRegionalPolicy/EN-Cohesion2013DEF.doc">http://www.a-e-r.org/fileadmin/user_upload/MainIssues/CohesionRegionalPolicy/EN-Cohesion2013DEF.doc</a>
September-October 2007	Questionnaire on future cohesion policy
14 December 2007	3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Task Force

### Brief benchmarking on AER concrete results on cohesion policy

AER was mentioned as a key actor and partner in the EC 3<sup>rd</sup> Report on Social and Economic Cohesion (2004) Here are the proposals that were retained in this report:

- making interregional, trans-national and cross-border co-operation into a separate objective in the new cohesion policy;
- designing that policy as a tool for growth and competitiveness for all the regions;
- supporting the setting in place of tripartite agreements between the European, national and regional authorities;
- improving the co-ordination of the interventions in favour of rural development by creating a common rural fund.

Several key proposals were taken into account on the European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC).

The main objectives of the AER campaign were:

- to extend the use of the instrument from cross-border co-operation to also encompass interregional and transnational co-operation
- to introduce a mechanism whereby the EGTC could be used to support co-operation on the EU's external borders, where regions face perhaps the greatest difficulties in terms of crossborder co-operation

- to ensure that the Regulation was directly applicable in all Member States and that Member States would not have the possibility to prevent their local and regional authorities from establishing EGTCs, as long as they only concerned themselves with the competences of the local and regional authorities themselves
- to ensure that the EGTC remained optional for the regions and that they could continue to use existing instruments for territorial co-operation if they so wished

As a result of these lobbying actions, the AER played a key role in ensuring that the EGTC Regulation was approved by the Council of Ministers. In particular, the AER was successful in achieving a number of specific goals through its lobbying campaign:

- (i) The European Grouping on Crossborder Co-operation (EGCC) was renamed the EGTC (European Grouping on Territorial Co-operation) and can be used for crossborder, interregional and transnational co-operation
- (ii) The Regulation includes a clause that states that agreements can be reached between Member States and third countries to allow regions outside the EU to participate in an EGTC, thus facilitating crossborder co-operation on the European Union's external borders
- (iii) Member States can only prevent the participation of local and regional authorities in an EGTC where they can prove that this contravenes national law or is against public interest
- (iv) The EGTC can be used for actions financed by the Structural Funds, but also for territorial co-operation actions funded from other sources
- (v) The optional nature of the EGTC has been reiterated

The administrative simplification, which has always been a strong requirement of the AER, has now been a priority for the EC for a few years.

Regions much better taken into account in the recently released Plan of the Slovenian Presidency for cohesion policy.

Since 2005, the number of meetings with DG Regio and/or the Commissioner has significantly grown in number and quality. The number of meetings would need to be completed by Mr Klipp who met several times with members of DG Regio. All in all, in the past 3 years, the AER has built very good relations with DG Regio, which it did not have so far.