



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

**How to ensure a sustainable future for our European citizens?  
The regions' answer**

More than one hundred regional leaders from all over Europe (EU and non-EU), experts from the Assembly of European Regions (AER), the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe (Council of Europe), will gather in Bodo, Capital of Nordland (N), on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2002, to prepare a global political action plan for sustainable regions and towns.

In view of the upcoming Earth Summit (Johannesburg, 26<sup>th</sup> August - 4<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2002) and the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference of Regional Ministers of Spatial planning, organised by the AER for 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2002 in Pécs (Baranya, H), this meeting organized by the AER Regional policy Committee aims:

- to assess the regional dimension of sustainable development in the various fields (management of local natural resources, agriculture and the rural world, transport, tourism...),
- to compare innovative regional practices in favour of sustainable development,
- on this basis, to make recommendations in view of the reform of European policies such as CAP, regional and cohesion policies, and of the new transport policy,
- and finally, to find out the best issues and solutions for sustainable development at regional level.

On 15<sup>th</sup> June, the participants will attend a seminar "The Regional Level - Trends and Future Prospects" organized by the authorities of Nordland which will focus on recent developments in the EU as well as in the Nordic countries such as the Swedish Pilot Regions and the Norwegian debate on the need for a pertinent regional level.

A press point, followed by lunch, will take place on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 11.45** at the Radisson Hotel in Bodo.

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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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