



AER Bureau Meeting

Minutes of the debates and major decisions at the Bureau, 3 October 2013, Rize (TR)

Participants : AER Bureau members
AER Secretariat : P. Goergen, M. Mori, R. Kramer, S. Bentz,
Excused : K.U. Petersen, R. Perry, J.C. Gayssot, V. Cordeiro, A. Reichardt,

*Note: a full version of the debates held and marked '**Debates***' in the following text is available on request from the AER's General Secretariat.*

I. Opening and welcome

I.a. Opening of the meeting

Hande ÖZSAN BOZATLI (HOB), AER President, thanks the host region for its warm welcome.

I.b. Welcome from the host region

Nurullah ÇAKIR, Governor of Rize, welcomes the Bureau members.

II. Agenda and minutes of the last meeting

II.a. Adoption of the draft agenda

The document is put to the vote.

☛ **The draft agenda is adopted**

II.b. Adoption of the draft minutes of the previous meeting

The document is put to the vote.

☛ **The draft minutes are adopted**

III. Statutory Matters

III.a. State of membership

No questions from members.

The document is put to the vote.

☛ **The state of membership is adopted.**

III.b. New candidacies for the bureau

The **President** mentions the names of the countries which have not yet appointed their representative(s) to the Bureau, for instance the French regions. The representative from Covasna asks to change the name of their bureau representative from Tamas to Tomas.

The list of candidates to the bureau is put to the vote.

☛ **The document is adopted.**

III.c. Creation of a Turnaround Group

The **President** explains that this group is different from the “Monitoring and Evaluation group”. The Turnaround group is set up with the following aims: (1) follow up the work of the Task Force and ensure that its proposals are put into place; (2) work on the main AER objectives; (3) make proposals to improve AER relationships with other regional organisations working on the European stage.

The Turnaround group is composed of the following persons:

- Magnus **BERNTSSON** (AER Vice-President Treasurer)
- Branislav **BUGARSKI** (Secretary for Interregional cooperation, Vojvodina)
- Klaus **KLIPP** (Former AER Secretary General)
- Karsten Uno **PETERSEN** (AER Committee 2 President)
- Marijke **TSOUTSANIS-VAN DER KOOGH** (AER Bureau member)

Three meetings are planned: 10th of October to discuss the implementation of the Task Force proposals; 21st of November to tackle the main AER objectives and 12th of December to work on the AER cooperation with other interregional organisations in Europe.

Interventions by Mr **EDSTAV** (Uppsala-S), Mr **VANRAES**(Bruxelles-Capitale-B), Ms **ÖZSAN BOZATLI**, Mr **ROMAN** (Alba-RO), Mrs **MAGYAR**(Csongrad-H), by Mrs. **SAECREDIUS** (Dalarna-S), Mr **VASILE** (Timis-RO), Mr **COOLS** (Wallonie-B), Mr **RONNING** (Hedmark-NO), Mr **BERNTSSON**. Discussions involved mainly around the scope of the group, and on who should be involved.

As proposed by Mr **VANRAES**, the **President** agrees to have a brainstorming meeting with bureau members based on the report of the turnaround commission.

A first vote is proposed to see if Bureau members accept to vote the setting up of the Turnaround group, its objectives, its composition, its calendar as one package.

☛ **The proposal to vote for all aspects in a package is adopted (in favour 9 / against 7 / abstention 0)**

The second vote on the Turnaround group as a package is open:

☛ **The setting up of the group, its objectives, its composition, its calendar is adopted (in favour 11 / against 4 / abstention 2)**

III.d. Monitoring and Evaluation Group:

The group is still looking for a third member. Mr. **HARTMAN** (Västerbotten-S) explains the composition, scope and working procedure of the group. Following the interventions of Mr **HARTMAN** (Västerbotten-S), Mr **SANDGREN** (Jönköping-S) and Ms **VAN ALPHEN** (Noord-Brabant-NL), the mission statement document of the Monitoring and Evaluation Group is put to the vote with the following amendment: in point 6 the word “necessary” is changed to



“important”. Moreover it is proposed that the Bureau will be able to ask to have access to all documents that will be produced by the AER secretariat for the work of the Monitoring and Evaluation Group.

The Monitoring and Evaluation group mission statement proposed in the working document is put to the vote with Mr **HARTMAN**'s amendment. The vote also comprises Ms **VAN ALPHEN**'s proposal.

☞ **The amended working document and proposal are adopted (in favour 17 / against 0 / abstention 0)**

IV. Finances

IV.a. State of Play of membership fees

Mr **BERNTSSON** (Västra Götaland-S) is confident on the membership fee situation because AER is in regular contact with the regions posing problems.

IV.b. Cashflow Forecast

Mr **BERNTSSON** (Västra Götaland-S) explains that there are liquidity available on the AER bank account which is not in deficit. The **President** informs bureau members that as a routine, everything that is paid by AER is signed by Pascal **GOERGEN** and M. **BERNTSSON**. M. **VASILE** (Timis-RO) underlines the importance that the private sector should gradually take in our budget.

IV.c. Membership fee threshold

M. **BERNTSSON** (Västra Götaland-S) explains the rationale behind the proposal to introduce a membership fee threshold at 35,000€. He also explains the proposal to end the discounts for some regions.

→ Debate

Following the interventions of the **President**, the **Secretary General**, M. **RONNING** (Hedmark-N), Ms **VAN ALPHEN** (Noord-Brabant-NL), M. **BERNTSSON** (Västra Götaland-S), Ms **MAGYAR** (Csongrad-H), Mr **SANDGREN** (Jönköping-S), Mr **VANRAES** (Bruxelles-Capitale-B), Mr **VASILE** (Timis-RO) and Mr **SANDOR** (Covasna-RO), the proposal of a threshold and the end of discounts is put to the vote.

☞ **The proposal for a membership fee threshold at 35,000€ and for the end of discounts is adopted (in favour 17 / against 0 / abstention 1)**

V. Feedback on the activities of the President and EB since the elections

V.a. Implementation of AER strategy

The **President** says that this strategy will be discussed after the report of the turnaround group.

V.b. New rules for partnerships with private companies



M. **BERNTSSON** (Västra Götaland-S) explains that the General Assembly gave a mandate to the Secretary General to launch these partnerships following new specific procedures which are now presented to the bureau.

→ **Debate**

Following interventions by Mr. **VANRAES** (Bruxelles-Capitale-B), Mr. **VASILE** (Timis-RO), Ms **CARLSSON** (Norrbotten-S), Mr **RONNING** (Hedmark-N) and Mr **GENC** (Istanbul-TR), the new rules for entering into partnerships with private companies are put to the vote.

☛ **The new rules are adopted (in favour 17 / against 0 / abstention 0)**

V.c. New MAP Strategy 2013-2014

The President gives the names of the persons responsible of the future MAP visits and invites all Bureau members interested in becoming AER ambassadors for the MAP strategy to contact her or the AER secretariat. Our MAP strategy is crucial to attract new members. The new MAP strategy is put to the vote.

☛ **The new MAP strategy 2013-2014 is adopted (in favour 19 / against 0 / abstention 0)**

V.d. Validation of partnerships with the private sector

M. **BERNTSSON** (Västra Götaland-S) introduces the three new private partners: ACCOR group, Brussels Airlines and Volvo Trucks. The validation of these new partnerships is put to the vote.

☛ **The three new private partners are adopted (in favour 17 / against 0 / abstention 1)**

V.e. Validation of thematic partnerships

The **President** presents the rationale behind these new thematic networks partners. The Secretary General explains that to be eligible as a thematic partner, 3 criteria must be fulfilled:

- the partner must work on a European scale
- the partner must come from a network that defends the regional dimension
- the network must be thematic

Following the interventions of Mr **EDSTAV** (Uppsala-S), Ms **MAGYAR** (Csongrad-H), Mr **VASILE** (Timis-RO), Mr **SANDOR** (Covasna-RO) and the **President**, the list of new thematic networks is put to the vote.

☛ **The new thematic partnerships are adopted (in favour 17 / against 0 / abstention 1)**

V.f. Meetings with EU institutions and other organisations

The **President** presents the various meetings she has had with EU institutions or other organisations such as the Congress of the Council of Europe, ARLEM, the Committee of the Regions, CORLEAP, FREREF, WIC as well as meetings with French regions such as Rhône-Alpes.



VI. Committees & Thematic activities

The **President** announces that the thematic activities of the Committees will be put to the vote at the end of their respective presentations. All activity reports are adopted by 18 votes.

Each Committee (1-2-3) and transversal thematic Presidents (Institutional Affairs and Equal Opportunities) present the state of play of their activities as well as the key events to come.

Bureau members will receive an email with all the Committees and Thematic activities' reports.

VII. AER Programmes

VII.a. Eurodyssée : MoU

→ *Debate*

Following the interventions of the **President**, Mr **COOLS**, Mr **VASILE**, Mr **VANRAES**, Mr **BERNTSSON** and Ms **CARLSSON**, the Memorandum Of Understanding between AER and Ile-de-France is put to the vote.

☛ **The MoU is adopted (in favour 18 / against 0 / abstention 0)**

VII.b. Rur@ct: state of play

The **President** is very positive about the developments of the program and the interest of the new regions for Rur@ct.

VIII. Activities of the SG

VIII.a. Human Resources

The Secretary General explains that monthly interviews with the staff members will be put into place starting end 2013 beginning 2014. The problem of overhours has been mentioned by KPMG and the question of Human resources has now become a priority.

VIII.b. Press&Communication

The EB has validated the new banners, roll-ups, brochure for the regional expertise centre and academic centre as well as the AER stand. The press release on regional airports has been a success and rose the interest of many journalists in Europe. The Secretary General reminds the bureau members that it is the Press and Communication department that is in charge of producing the 2013 activity report.

VIII.c. Management: Progress& Monitoring Report

A monthly report by the Secretary general is discussed at each EB meeting. The same applies to each foreign mission by the SG. The SG has also proposed a new system of indicators to check the state of AER. This will be put into place from November onwards.

IX. AOB

The **President** mentions that a probable candidate to host the next General Assembly has been found: Lower Silesia in Poland. 27-28 May are potential dates for the next GA.

Ms **STEEN** (Nordland-N) wants to organize meetings between all the committees, possibly followed by meetings of the transversal groups. This idea was welcomed by the President.

The **President** also referred to the proposal of the Executive Committee to appoint a person to begin the project of the Working Group for the Eastern Partnership. This working group could be part of Committee 3. Mrs. **STEEN** agrees to assign this mandate to Mr Vyacheslav **BEREZHNYI** who will start to work on this initiative until it is discussed at the next plenary meeting of the Commission 3 (30/31 October 2013 in Strasbourg).

RK, 16/10/2013