

Changing the AER for the 21st Century



Changing the AER for the 21st Century, short version



- Services for better decision-making and visibility, putting regions on the map.
- A global role, beyond Europe.
- Regional policy making grounded in the territories, cultures, histories and lives of the citizens.
- Less bureaucracy in the governing bodies.
- Decentralizing thematic policy work to Forums.
- New business model:
 - Basic subscription fees.
 - Separate fees for qualitative activities and programmes.

The story so far...

- **June 15th 1985** AER is founded. CoE: AER is representing European Regions.
- **1992** Subsidiarity recognized in the Maastricht Treaty.
- **1994** Committee of the Regions (CoR) established.
- **1996** Declaration on Regionalism in Europe by AER.
- **2009** Regionalism part of the Lisbon Treaty.
- Political mission taken up by the **Committee of the Regions**.
- Regions have **own offices** in Brussels.
- **EU affairs integrated** in region's international relations portfolio.
- **EU regional policy** facilitating and supporting interregional exchange.
- Region's needs met by more **specific networks**.

Mission accomplished?

- Regionalism alone no longer relevant - at least not in the ideological context set out 30 years ago.
- Europe: more peoples, more different societies, more different cultures are part of one union.
- Major impact of technology and economic globalisation on everyday life – the way we live, work, interact and relate to our health.
- Social globalisation impacts demography and population composition.
- More complex societal and environmental challenges:
 - immigration, migration and relocation of big businesses and companies;
 - adapt to an ageing population;
 - more workers and less jobs;
 - increased natural disasters;
 - race for sustainability;
 - pressure on natural resources;
 - increasing global threat of terror and violence.
- New technologies change political and administrative governance.

More efficient and cost-effective

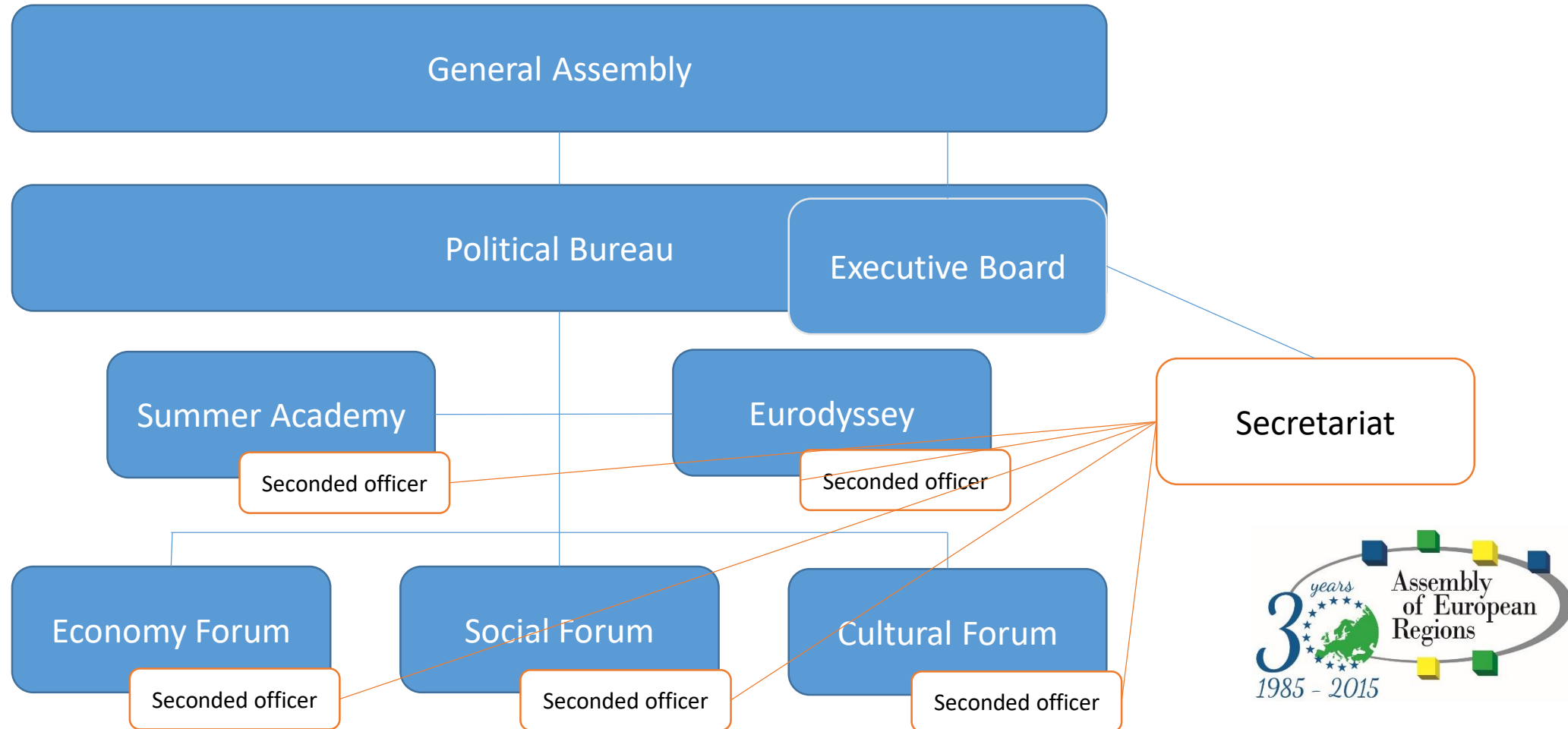
Formed to meet the world 30 years ago. Overhead. Bureaucracy. Political and economical changes in member regions. Financial difficulties.  **Need for change.**

- Dismissal of the former Secretary General.
- New strategies: for overall AER; for communications, member relations and planning.
- Streamlining secretariat; reducing staff costs and cutting expenses.
- Financial recovery plan.

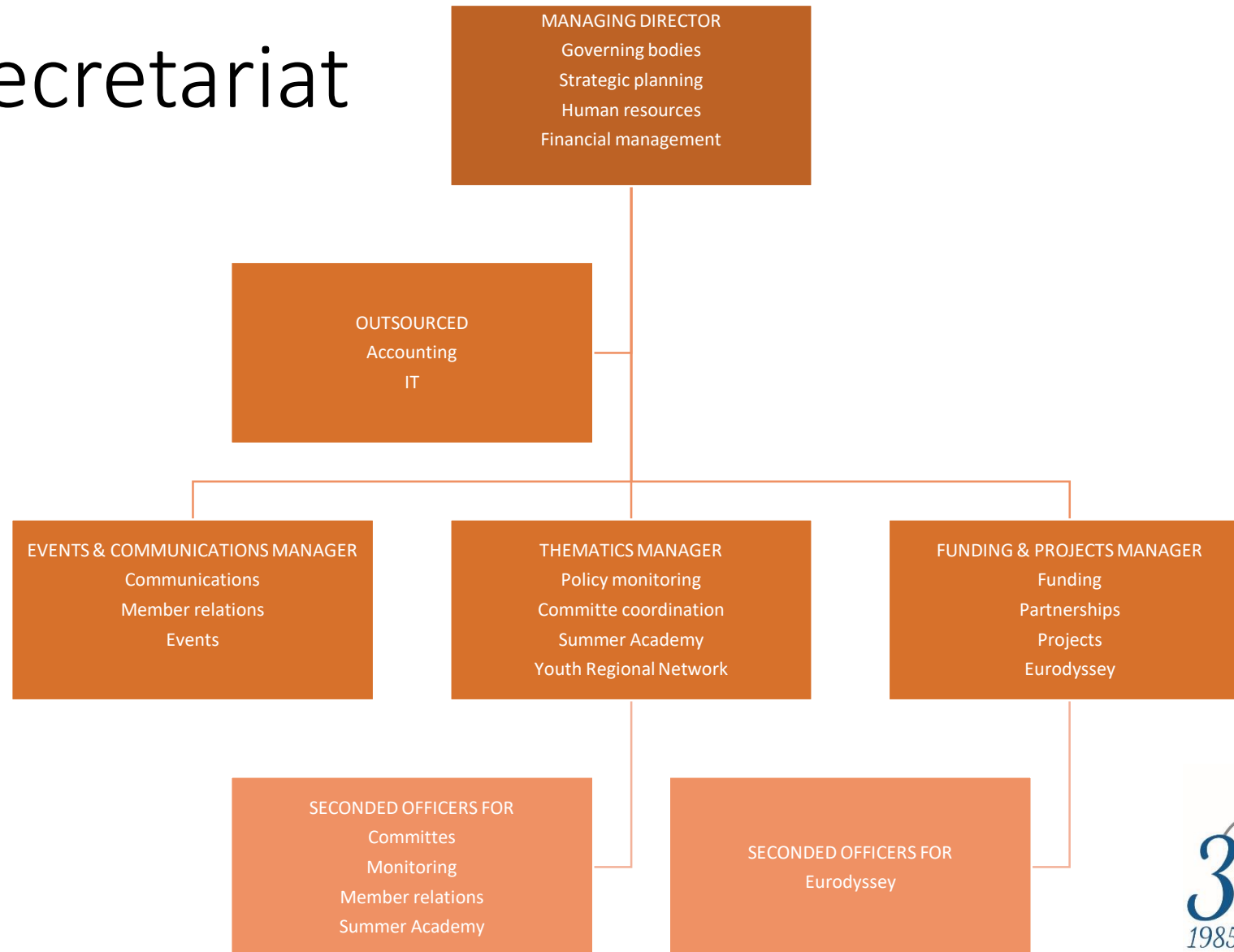
Supporting leadership

- New mission, new objectives:
 - Network *for* and *of* regional and local politicians;
 - Addressing political concerns of a pan-European nature;
 - Fostering leadership excellence on all levels of governance;
 - Provide services for better decision-making and provide visibility, putting regions on the map.
- Globalisation, beyond Europe.
- Regional policy making grounded in the territories, cultures, histories and lives of the citizens.
- Supporting and improving political place-based policy making.
- Fleet-footed governance:
 - Extended Executive Board.
 - Thematic Forums for policy-making and exchange of best practise – coordinated by a Political Bureau.
- New initiatives.
- Facilitating secretariat.
- Seconded officers.
- New business model:
 - Basic subscription fees for governing bodies, forums etc.
 - Separate fees for qualitative activities and programmes.

New organization



New secretariat



Drafting a vision of Europe and beyond

- Active and capable regional **leaders** that provide leadership and good governance to their citizens and territories, contributing to an open, innovative, well-governed and strong European territory.
- AER is *the* key network for local and regional politicians thinking locally but acting in a **global context**.

Are the changes sufficient?

Need we do more?

