



Changing **A E R** For the 21ST CENTURY

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**OVER 200
REGIONS**

**l a r g e s t
independant**
network of regions
IN WIDER EUROPE

FROM 35 COUNTRIES
from Norway to
Turkey and
from Russia
to Portugal

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NEW MISSION, NEW OBJECTIVES

- Embracing globalisation
- Focus on regional leadership
- Making organisation more efficient
- Reinforced project management

Keeping current mission: voice of the regions & promoting interregional cooperation.

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NEW MISSION, NEW OBJECTIVES

- **MOTIVE:** To adapt to socio-political and global trends - focusing on services for better decision-making and visibility, putting regions on the map.
- **IMPLICATIONS:** Keeping presence at the Brussels scene – and adding a global role, beyond Europe.
- **BENEFITS:** AER will keep relevance when adapting to new circumstances.

*CONSULTATION QUOTES: Opinions are divided;
most embrace globalisation, others argue that focus should be on Europe.*

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ASSOCIATE – NEW MEMBER CATEGORY

European or non-European:

- Territories (which are not regions)
- Organisations or associations
- Administrative divisions below national and regional level
- Territorial divisions above the currently recognised regional level

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ASSOCIATE – NEW MEMBER CATEGORY

- MOTIVE: Broader membership base.
- IMPLICATIONS: European or non-European territories, organizations or associations can become members – below national and regional level as well as above the currently recognised regional level.
- BENEFITS: AER can speak with a stronger and more relevant voice. Regional politicians can listen to various perspectives and stakeholders to inform their decision making

CONSULTATION QUOTES: mostly positive about new associated members, AER has to make sure that full members, get the most benefits

MEMBER SURVEY FEEDBACK: Members welcome cooperation with other actors and stakeholders

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DEFINING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

EXECUTIVE BOARD overall management of organisation

- President, Treasurer, 3 Vice Presidents, Committee and YRN Presidents
- 4-5 meetings per year

GENERAL ASSEMBLY overall decision making

- all members
- one vote each
- meetings 1X per year

THEMATIC COMMITTEES thematic issues & best practices, projects programmes.

- President
- open to all members
- managed by seconded officers
- meetings 2X per year

BUREAU Political decision making

- 2 representatives/ country
- open to public
- meetings 2X per year

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DEFINING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **MOTIVE:** Creating a flexible and fleet-footed organization, relieved of overly bureaucratic and hampering procedures
- **IMPLICATIONS:** Statutory issues only at the General Assembly. Management issues handled by the Executive Board.
- **BENEFITS:** More effective management. More time for political work. Better public exposure of AER positions. High quality exchange of best practices.

CONSULTATION RESULTS: emphasis on a strong bureau

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ACTIVITIES

BUREAU

Political debate &
decision-making as
base for **lobbying &
advocacy**

T H E M A T I C C O M M I T T E E S

Exchange & dissemination
of BEST PRACTICES.

Running of projects &
programmes

Self-governing and limited in activities
only by their budgets and imagination.

The Bureau and the Thematic Committees are recommended to meet jointly (in parallel), focusing on topics, results and input -information, insights- and political positions.

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ACTIVITIES

- **MOTIVE:** The purpose is to adapt better to the changing needs of members.
- **IMPLICATIONS:** Greater membership added-value
- **BENEFITS:** Greater member participation, greater lobby power, more membership revenue

CONSULTATION QUOTES: Members mention AER's important role in lobbying towards the European institutions

MEMBER SURVEY FEEDBACK: strong focus on cooperation and regional exchange of best practices and benchmarking, but also representing regions on European level, and members appreciate a greater emphasis on European project facilitation. Members also appreciate AER's programmes.

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SECRETARIAT & SECONDED OFFICERS

Seconded officers:

- Co-organise events and projects in cooperation with the secretariat
- Manage the content of the meetings
- Draft speeches, policy contributions

Secretariat

- Monitoring of EU activity in AER fields of interest
- Keeping members informed of EU policy developments, calls for projects etc
- Disseminating and facilitating
- Co-organise events and projects in cooperation with the seconded officers

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SECRETARIAT & SECONDED OFFICERS

- MOTIVE: Empower the members, creating an active membership rather than having a secretariat pushing the agenda for them. Resources need to be deployed differently.

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SECRETARIAT & SECONDED OFFICERS

- **IMPLICATIONS ON BUREAU MEMBERS:** Being in charge of policy-making, each bureau member must be able to rely on an officer to draft position papers and liaise with the secretariat.
- **IMPLICATIONS ON COMMITTEE PRESIDENTS:** Each President commits to appoint a seconded officer who will work in liaison with the secretariat and, ideally, in the AER office.
- **IMPLICATIONS ON PROGRAMMES:** Regions taking the presidency of the Summer Academy and Eurodyssey commit to appoint a seconded officer who will work in liaison with the secretariat and, ideally, in the AER office.
- **IMPLICATIONS ON AER PRESIDENT:** The AER President commits to appoint a seconded officer who will work towards all tasks linked to the President's duties (speech writing, drafting answers to letters, drafting the President's contributions to various communication tools, preparing the logistics of trips etc) in collaboration with the secretariat.

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SECRETARIAT & SECONDED OFFICERS

- **BENEFITS:** A secretariat animating the network for the benefit of the whole membership rather than spending a lot of resources for a topic of interest to only a few members.

CONSULTATION QUOTES: Members acknowledge that a new AER structure needs an adapted secretariat structure, but are careful in assessing the possibilities of getting seconded officers

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Political Bureau

Executive Board

Economy Committee

Social Committee

Culture Committee

Eurodyssey

Summer Academy

SECONDED OFFICER

SECONDED OFFICER

SECONDED OFFICER

SECONDED OFFICER

SECONDED OFFICER

SECRETARIAT

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