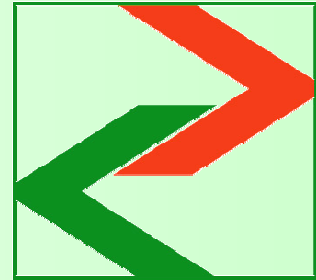


Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europäischer Grenzregionen (AGEG)
 Asociación de Regiones Fronterizas Europeas (ARFE)
 Association des régions frontalières européennes (ARFE)
 Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
 Comunità di lavoro delle regioni europee di confine (AGEG)
 Europæiske grænseregioners Arbejdsfællesskab (AGEG)
 Werkgemeenschap van Europese grensgebieden (WVEG)
 Associação das Regiões Fronteiriças Europeias (ARFE)
 Σύνδεσμος Ευρωπαϊκών Συνοριακών Περιφερειών (ΣΕΣΠ)
 Stowarzyszenie Europejskich Regionów Granicznych (SERG)
 Ассоциация Европейских Приграничных Регионов (АЕПР)



AEBR NEWSFLASH - DECEMBER 2010

Informal Meeting of the Ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy 22 - 23 November 2010, Liège/Belgium

AEBR President Karl-Heinz Lambertz at the informal meeting of the Ministers in charge of Cohesion Policy



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In the scope of the Belgian Presidency, an informal meeting took place on 22 and 23 November 2010 in Liège. Along with other regional organisations, the AEBR participated as an observer.

The economic, social and territorial cohesion is an important aim of the EU policy. To reduce socio-economic differences and to foster a balanced development, a total of 347 Mrd. Euro is available in the 2007-2013 programming period. In addition to objective 3 of the territorial cohesion policy, further funding instruments such as the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund.

„With only 2.5 % of the budget, the objective European Territorial Cohesion forms only a small part of the Cohesion Policy. This is the time now for the Border Regions in particular to speak up for a continuation of the INTERREG funding. It is well known that the cohesion of Europe is only as strong as its seams”, said AEBR President Karl-Heinz Lambertz on the sidelines of the meeting.

You will find the whole text as well as the Presidency Conclusions on http://www.aebr.eu/en/news/news_detail.php?news_id=55.

FIFTH REPORT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

The 5th Cohesion Report is the last development of a strong European debate on the future EU cohesion policy and the role of territorial cohesion. A consultation process is currently open and the AEBR wants to offer a deep analysis on the perspectives for European border and cross-border regions. In this sense, the January 2011 issue of this Newsflash will be devoted mainly to this, with an overview of the debates since the publication of the AEBR Working Paper "Future of Cross-Border Cooperation after 2013", including the Territorial Agenda, the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion, the Barca Report, and all AEBR related position papers and reactions. It will also include AEBR's contribution to the consultation and (hopefully) some other opinions and contributions from AEBR members. As an appetizer, please find below a first statement in this regard.

One year ago, a non-paper of the President of the EU Commission on the draft Budget after 2013, included no

noteworthy remark to the Cohesion Policy, neither to Territorial Cohesion. – Loud and clear protests and position papers were successfully immediately by the AEBR and other European organizations, concentrated and strengthened by the Committee of the Regions. These reactions were successful, as the Europe 2020 Strategy gives a great priority to territorial policy and territorial cohesion and cooperation.

This is also reflected in the 5th Cohesion Report. It is clearly stated that „territorial cooperation, and its main CBC element, contributes essentially to smart and sustainable growth”.

The AEBR underlines the focus on concentration of objectives, effectiveness and quality, but also the added value to be gained through the Interreg A Programme. It is fair that territorial cooperation, as a EU political objective, will have an own chapter in the new Cohesion Report. Highlighting urban-rural partnership is particularly important for border regions, as it is the

case of the „place-based approach”.

To fully exploit the possibilities of CBC in the EU, as the very recent evaluation of Interreg III has already found, they should be oriented on the one hand to the quality of CB measures for common daily problems in border regions and their developmental potentialities (adding investments and also „soft measures”); and, on the other hand, the amount of available means should match the political objectives and expectations of European border and cross-border regions.

Fifth Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/cohesion5/index_en.cfm.

Public Consultation on the Conclusions of the Fifth Report on Economic and Social Cohesion 12.11.10-31.01.11: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/consultation/5cr/index_en.cfm.



Hearing at the EP's Committee on Regional Development, 30 November 2010

The AEBR Secretary General took part as keynote speaker, together with Prof. Charles Ricq (European Observation Center of Regions, Geneva), in the exchange of views at the European Parliament's REGI Committee "A better Territorial Cooperation for an ever closer Union". Under the presidency of Mrs. Danuta Hübner, Chairwoman

of the REGI Committee, the working document on "Objective 3: a challenge for territorial cooperation – the future agenda for cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation" was presented by MEP Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid. You can find this working document as well as Prof. Ricq's presentation, dealing mainly with the interest of

border areas a micro-spaces for integration, the need to take into account every border region's specificity, some examples of experimental cross-border clusters, and issues related to identity on the AEBR Website: http://www.aebr.eu/en/news/news_detail.php?news_id=53

DIALOGUE WITH DIRK AHNER, DIRECTOR GENERAL, GD REGIO

For the third time in the past 12 months, a delegation of AEBR met with Director General Dirk Ahner. The intensive dialogue on 7 December 2010 lasted for 90 minutes and concerned above all the improvements that AEBR proposed for future INTERREG A programmes on the basis of best practice examples, which concerned mainly the management and financing of programmes. Furthermore, a

stronger role of the secretariats in terms of advice and assistance for applicants was discussed, as well as a cost limitation for monitoring and audit (without quality deficits). A second essential point was the improved decentralisation of INTERREG A programmes, a fact which is also favoured by GD REGIO. In this regard, the AEBR proposed a model for larger programmes per border with sub-programmes. These sub-

programmes should have fixed own financial means and the power to decide about projects. At the same time, it should be possible to implement joint important plans for the whole border area.

The proposed solutions, which have been proved in praxis, will in the coming weeks and months continuously be discussed with the DG REGIO.

LATEST NEWS ON THE DIRECTIVE ON CB HEALTHCARE AND PATIENTS' RIGHTS

After the approval in first reading at the end of the Spanish Presidency of the Council (June 2010), the Directive has entered its second reading process. Within this framework, a three-way meeting took place on 15 December. The Belgian EU Presidency, the European Parliament's rapporteur and the Commission have achieved a compromise. Even more, on 21st December the Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreper) has cleared the Directive, accepting it with

qualified majority. Only Portugal, Romania, Poland and Austria voted against, with the abstention of Slovenia. It seems we have entered a historical moment for European CB Healthcare.

In any case, the main issue is still "prior authorization" for the following services: hospital care, specialised care, patients at particular risk and treatment that could raise serious concerns. The approved text also tries to clarify the cases justifying the refusal of that authorization.

Member States' competences are

a main issue when dealing with healthcare, but it is the time for the EU to go one step forward in order to strengthen the integration of all European territories. Still, national logic prevail and the focus on national competences hinders the opportunity to discuss a real European task: cross-border healthcare for citizens living in border regions. Other topics addressed are quality and safety, rare diseases and e-health.

The AEBR Newsflash January 2011 will further develop this information.

AEBR Seminar on CBC in Central Europe

In cooperation with the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic and Euregio Silva Nortica, AEBR organises a seminar on Cross-Border Cooperation in Central Europe.

This meeting will take place on 3rd February 2011 in Prague and will bring together experts in the field of cross-border cooperation, practitioners and representatives of the involved governments.

The programme and practical information can be found on http://www.aebr.eu/en/events/events_detail.php?event_id=76.



EVENTS IN THE EU

DATE/PLACE	TOPIC	INFOS
22-23 November 2010 Liège (BE)	Informal Ministerial Meeting	http://www.eutrio.be/informal-meeting-european-ministers-responsible-cohesion-policy
30 November 2010 CoR, Brussels	Committee of the Region's Forum "The Single Market Act: What's in it for Europe's regions and cities?"	www.cor.europa.eu/sma
6 –7 December 2010 Brussels	European Development Days	http://eudevdays.eu
11 January 2011	Consultation and exchange of views on the CoRs draft opinion on „Seasonal Workers and Intra-corporate Transfer“	dialogue@cor.europa.eu
14 January 2011	ESPON INTERCO workshop on territorial cohesion indicators	http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_ScientificPlatform/interco.html
19 January 2011 Mérída, Spain	CALRE Working Group Urban-Rural Linkages - Kick-off meeting	http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_ScientificPlatform/interco.html
21 January 2011 Geneva (CH)	FOGAR GENERAL ASSEMBLY	
25 January 2011 Representing office of the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino, Brussels	Consultative Workshop “Moving towards a Carpathian Strategy”, organised by UNEP Vienna—ISCC, European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC Research)	www.eurac.edu www.carpathianconvention.org
26 January 2011	CoR-DG COM European Year of Volunteering Conference	
27 January 2011 European Commission, Brussels	Conference "IMI and the Services Directive - Releasing the full potential"	http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/imi-net/conferences/2010/27_01_en.html
29 January 2011 Agadir, Morocco	Second Plenary Session of ARLEM	www.cor.europa.eu/arlem
31 January - 01 February 2011 Brussels	5th Cohesion Forum “Investing in Europe’s Future: The contribution of cohesion policy to Europe 2020”	http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/5thcohesionforum/doc/draft_programme.pdf
9-10 February 2011 Brussels	INTERMODES 2011	www.intermodes.com
9-11 February 2011	Fourth Quadriologue Regional Seminar	



NEWS FROM EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

Parliament calls for regional policy with more local involvement: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20101213IPR09429/html/Parliament-calls-for-regional-policy-with-more-local-involvement>

New European cultural heritage platform in 2011: <http://www.eutrio.be/pressrelease/new-european-cultural-heritage-platform-2011>

EU plans to promote the Black Sea region need more staff and fresh money: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20101206IPR06472/html/EU-plans-to-promote-the-Black-Sea-region-need-more-staff-and-fresh-money>

Commission launches Strategy to boost development of the Danube Region: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1687&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Cultural and creative industries and the Europe 2020 Strategy: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/news3057_en.htm

European Development Days: what does the future hold for European aid?: <http://www.eutrio.be/pressrelease/european-development-days-what-does-future-hold-european-aid>

REGI NEWS December 2010: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/document/activities/cont/201012/20101206ATT06668/20101206ATT06668EN.pdf>

Calls:

North Sea Region Programme: 6th call open from 14.02.2011 to 14.03.2011: <http://www.northsearegion.eu/ivb/content/show/&tid=148>

Baltic Sea Region: 4th call open from 01.12.2010 to 31.03.2011: http://eu.baltic.net/4th_call.14056.html

Miscellaneous:

Consultative Workshop “Moving towards a Carpathian Strategy”, Common Representation of the European Region Tyrol - South Tyrol – Trentino, Rue de Pascale 45-47, Brussels, 25 January 2011

In the frame of ongoing debates on the future Cohesion Policy, this workshop intends to exchange on future orientations and propositions for the Carpathian area. It is organised by UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna – ISCC) and European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC Research) with the support of AEBR (Association of European Border Regions) and AEM (European Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Regions). During the Workshop the discussion paper on the development of a macroregional strategy for the Carpathian area will be presented by UNEP Vienna – ISCC and representatives of the European Union (EU), the national experts of the Carpathian Countries and the Carpathian regions, and other relevant organisations will be invited to discuss the document. You will find the whole message and the strategy by following this link: http://www.aebr.eu/en/events/events_detail.php?event_id=81.



EVENTS, NEWS AND PRESENTATIONS OF AEBR MEMBER REGIONS

- 5 December 2010, Burgas (Bulgaria): First International Congress “Integration and Sustainable Development in the Black Sea Region” - Press Release in English and Russian: http://www.aebr.eu/en/events/events_detail.php?event_id=80
- 13 December 2010, Kleve (Euregio Rhein-Waal): Annual Reception 2010.
- 15 December 2010, University Campus Walferdange, Luxembourg: AEBR Task Force Cross-Border Health meeting.
- 15 December 2010, Neubrandenburg (Germany): 15 Years Euroregion Pomerania. More: http://www.aebr.eu/en/news/news_detail.php?news_id=52
- 21 January 2011, Bad Bentheim (Germany): General Assembly and New Year Reception of EUREGIO (http://www.aebr.eu/en/events/events_detail.php?event_id=82)
- 28 January 2011, Strasbourg (France): Cross-Border Meetings of the Region of Alsace: „A new stage in the field of cross-border cooperation“

European Year of Volunteering 2011

Initiative by the Regional Government of Extremadura:
http://www.aebr.eu/en/news/news_detail.php?news_id=56

The *Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland* has won the Shanghai Expo Award: <http://www.cboi.ie/>



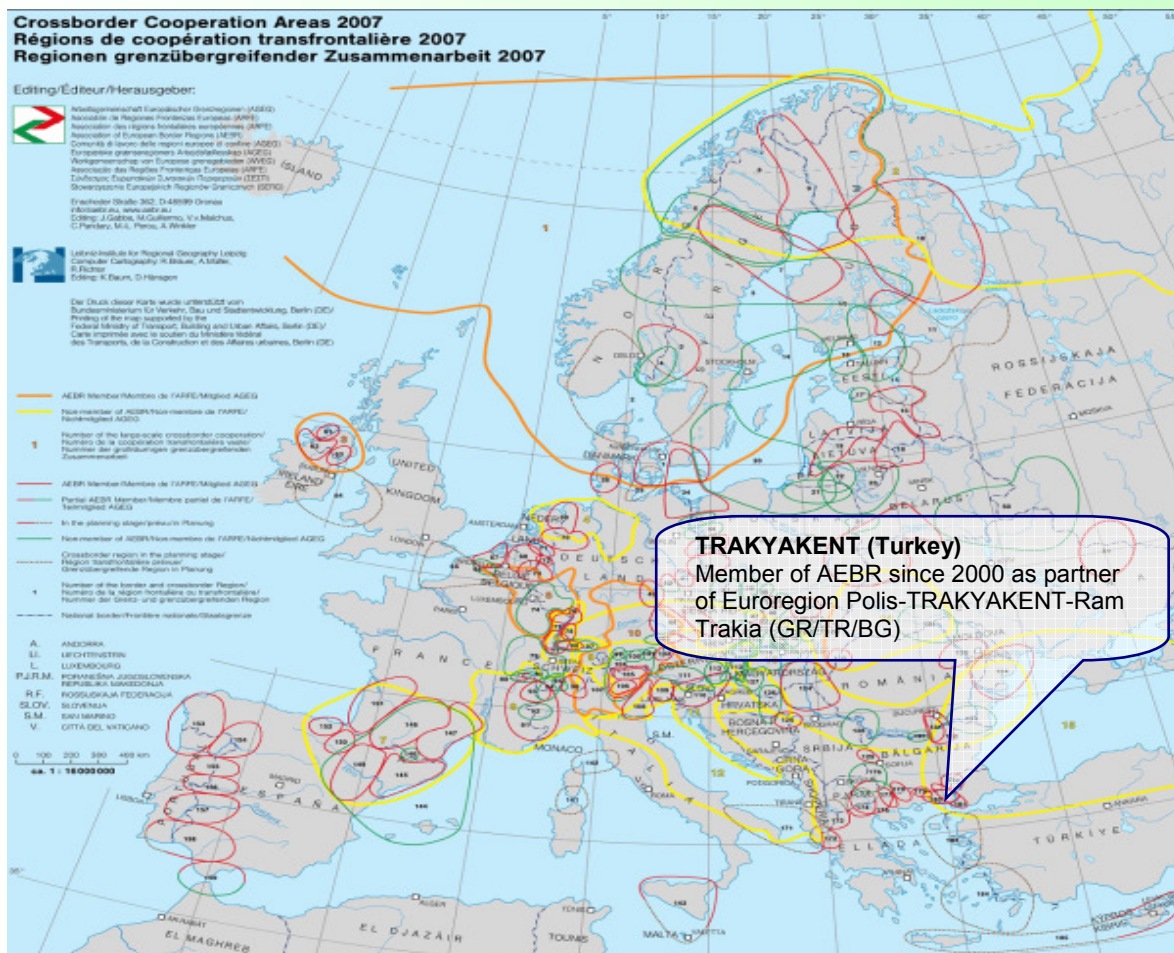
As partner of Euroregion Polis-Trakyakent-RAM Trakia, **TRAKYAKENT** became a member of AEBR in the year 2000. It is up to know the only Turkish member of the association.

The presentation of TRAKYAKENT includes information about this region as well as a map and photos, and is available in English, Turkish, and Greek on http://www.aebr.eu/en/members/member_detail.php?region_id=146.

If you wish to announce events or publish news from your region in this section, please get in touch with the AEBR Head Office by contacting c.pandary@aebr.eu. Deadline for the next edition is 14 January 2011. Thank you!

MAIN AEBR EVENTS 2011

3 February 2011:	Seminar on CBC in Central Europe, Prague, Czech Republic http://www.aebr.eu/en/events/events_detail.php?event_id=76
4 - 5 February 2011:	AEBR Executive Committee meeting, Tabor, Czech Republic http://www.aebr.eu/en/events/events_detail.php?event_id=75
24-25 February 2011:	AEBR Forum on Research, Development and Innovation in Border Regions, Vigo (EGTC Galicia-Norte)
Late spring:	AEBR Executive Committee meeting in Bulgaria
22-24 September 2011:	AEBR Executive Committee meeting, General Assembly and Annual Conference 2011 in Kursk, Russia, Euroregion Yaroslavna
Late November- Early December 2011	AEBR Executive Committee meeting in Finland



TRAKYAKENT (Turkey)
 Member of AEBR since 2000 as partner of Euroregion Polis-TRAKYAKENT-Ram Trakia (GR/TR/BG)

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In the next edition:

- **AEBR Statement on 5th Cohesion Report**
- **CB Healthcare**
- **Up-to-date news from our member regions**

The “Association of European Border Regions” (AEBR) is the oldest independent association of regions in Europe, founded in 1971, and the only one dealing with Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC). AEBR has almost forty years of extensive theoretical and practical experience in all aspects related to CBC, but also in the fields of inter-regional and transnational co-operation.

With one hundred members (European border and cross-border regions), the AEBR is a forum for cross-border cooperation and makes the voice of the border and cross-border regions heard at European level.

Euroregions, border and cross-border regions or organisations, which would like to receive information about the conditions of an AEBR membership, are invited to contact the [AEBR Head Office](http://www.aebr.eu).

The AEBR Newsflash is sent to everyone on the AEBR “members and friends” e-mail list. If you have friends or colleagues who would like to be added to the mailing list, please send their details to the [AEBR Head Office](http://www.aebr.eu).

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 A PDF version of this newsflash is available for download from our website (www.aebr.eu).