

Dr. rer. pol. Viktor Freiherr von Malchus
Chairman of the
Advisory Committee of AEBR 1977 – 2008



(Source: ICBAN)

Dr. Viktor Freiherr von Malchus was one of the founders of the Association of European Border Regions. At that time, he was Director of the 'Planungsgemeinschaft Breisgau', one of the 10 Regions, which came together in Anholt in 1971 to sign the foundation declaration of AEBR.

In 1977, when AEBR adopted its first statutes, stating i.a. that only regions can be members of AEBR, a special 'Advisory Committee for Cross-Border Cooperation' was established under the chairmanship of Dr. Viktor Freiherr von Malchus in order not to lose the special expertise of Mr. von Malchus, who left the Planungsgemeinschaft Breisgau to become director of the Institute for Regional and Town Planning of the Land North Rhine-Westphalia.

As chairman of the Advisory Committee, Mr. von Malchus was independent. He appointed the members of the Advisory Committee. AEBR owes a lot to Mr. von Malchus, as he has contributed considerably to the work of AEBR by elaborating statements, reports, info-sheets, maps and many other documents.

When Mr. von Malchus passed away on 31 July 2008, he left a gap, not only due to his unique knowledge, but also due to his personal qualities. Many considered him as a friend and colleague who strongly influenced the cross-border cooperation with his scientific and unique knowledge about the border areas. Especially in the field of spatial planning, development structures and logistics he decisively indicated directions. He lived in practice the idea that "Europe must grow bottom-up". The European border and cross-border regions owe him a lot, because during more than 40 years he changed the vision of Europe in the border areas.

On the occasion of the AEBR General Assembly held in Plauen (Euregio Egrensis) in 2008, Mr. von Malchus was elected *Honorary Chairman of the Advisory Committee*.

In 2009, Mr. Jens Gabbe, former Secretary General of AEBR, was appointed Chairman of the Advisory Committee.