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*Chronology**The Development of the Association of European Border Regions*

- 1965** First suggestions to found an Association of European Border Regions were made during the "Internationale Regio Planertagung 1965" (conference on regional planning) in Basel.
- May 1967** Meeting of border regions in the framework of the "Europa-Kongress" held in Bocholt (Germany). Subject: "Europe of the Regions".
- November 1969** Congress on "Problems of Border Regions" at the Free University of Brussels (VUB).
- 27.-28.05.1970** 1<sup>st</sup> Anholt talks at Anholt Castle (EUREGIO) under the chairmanship of Alfred Mozer. An initiative committee is charged to "examine all cross-border regional organisations in Europe in order to prepare the foundation of an organisation". Dr. Viktor von Malchus is asked to examine and report on the current state of cross-border co-operation in Europe.
- 17.-18.06.1971** 2<sup>nd</sup> Anholt talks. Foundation of a "Permanent Conference of European Border Regions". Dr. Viktor Frhr. von Malchus elaborates an outline paper dealing with: "Methods and Practical Aspects of Cross-Border Cooperation of European Border Regions", which is published by the EU in several languages. Mr. Alfred Mozer is elected President of the Conference; Mr. Georg Wieck becomes Secretary.
- September 1971** Official foundation of the "Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)" in Bonn.
- 1972** 1<sup>st</sup> European Symposium of Border Regions held at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Comprehensive report on "Cross-border Regions in Europe" worked out by Dr. Viktor Frhr. v. Malchus as representative of AEBR.
- 1973 - 1975** Annual Meetings of AEBR. Reports on the state of cross-border cooperation. Organisation of seminars for exchanging information. Development of close contacts with the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the Council of European Municipalities (CEM).
- 1975** 2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium of Border Regions organised by the Council of Europe in Innsbruck with AEBR intensively involved. Comprehensive report of Dr. Viktor Frhr. von Malchus: "The cooperation between European border regions – Status and latest developments"
- 1976** Organisational restructuring of AEBR's work under its new President Mr. Horst Gerlach.
- 1976** The European Parliament claims after its visit in the EUREGIO (1974) the creation of a new legal instrument for cross-border cooperation. Gerlach-Report.

- 21.01.1977** Elaboration of the “Statutes for the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)”. Establishment of an Advisory Committee of Experts. Claim for the establishment of a Secretariat for border regions at the Council of Europe. Statement of AEBR on the development of European Regional Policy.
- 06.06.1978** Communication of the European Parliament to the Members of the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport on the “Aims, Organisation and Activities of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)” (Nyborg-Report).
- 11.11.1979** Approval of the “European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities” by the Council of Europe’s Advisory Committee. Approval by the Council of Ministers on May 21, 1981. The Outline Convention came into force in December 1981.
- 1979** Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble, Member of the German Parliament (Bundestag), becomes President of AEBR. Official observer status for AEBR at the Council of Europe. Mr. Hartmut Hausmann is appointed Managing Director. Dr. V. Frhr. v. Malchus is appointed Chairman of the Advisory Committee of Experts (Scientific Technical Committee).
- 04.12.1980** The Advisory Committee of Experts recommends to further develop the “Council of Europe’s Outline Convention”, and to elaborate a European Charter for Spatial Planning and a “Charter of Border Regions”.
- 1981** Foundation of the Liaison Office of European Regional Organisations (BLORE) by AEBR, CPMR and old industrial regions.
- 03.08.1981** Report of the European Parliament on the “Intensification of Cross-border cooperation” (Boot-Report) with the assistance of AEBR.
- 19.11.1981** Approval of the “European Charter of Border and Cross-border Regions” of AEBR and presentation of AEBR in Bad Bentheim.
- 1982** Reports on “Economic Development Strategies for European Border Regions” and “Current Problems in European Border Regions” elaborated by AEBR.
- 19.02.1982** Collaboration in the Advisory Committee on Municipal and Regional Institutions of the EC Member States.
- 25.-26.11.1982** Joint congress of CEM and AEBR in Freiburg/Breisgau. Subject: “Europe without Barriers”.
- 01.-02.12.1983** Dr. Karl Ahrens, Member of the Bundestag and President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, is elected President of AEBR in Emmerich. Main subject of the conference: “Preparation of Action Programmes for the Endogenous Development of Border Regions”. 24 members of 20 regions.

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- March 1984** Second Periodical Report on the socio-economic situation and development of the regions in the European Community. "Specific Problems of Border Regions" are mentioned for the first time.
- 19.06.1984** A section on the co-ordination of regional development in border regions is included in the EC Funding Regulations.
- 04.-06.09.1984** 3<sup>rd</sup> European Conference of Border Regions of the Council of Europe in Borken/EUREGIO. Preparation and Organisation by AEBR. Subject: "Legal Prerequisites and Key Aspects of Cross-border Cooperation". Comprehensive reports. Special publication of the ILS – NRW, Vol. 0.032, Dortmund 1986.
- 1984** Establishment of a contact office for cross-border cooperation at the Council of Europe.
- 18.-19.01.1985** Foundation of the "European Centre for Regional Development" (CEDRE)" as a discussion forum for European regions.
- 14.-15.06.1985** Foundation of the Council of European Regions (later: "Committee of the Regions") as decision-making forum for European regions. AEBR is a founding member.
- 01.09.1985** Elaboration of an AEBR systematic for cross-border development concepts and programmes (later taken into account in INTERREG)
- 15.10.1985** Communication of the European Commission dealing with population in border areas.
- 21.10.1985** AEBR claims a cross-border European policy for spatial planning and regional development during the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Ministers responsible for spatial planning in The Hague.
- 27.11.1985** AEBR claims institutional reforms of the treaty on founding the European Community in the area of social politics: European regional planning, federalist conceptions (border regions).
- 20.-21.03.1986** AEBR congress in Luxemburg "Border regions claim a European transport policy".
- 20.11.1986** AEBR General Assembly. Reports on the European Parliament (Pötschki-Report) and regional cross-border development programmes. Publication of AEBR Infosheets in 1987 and the following years.
- 23.-26.03.1987** 4<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Border Regions in Zaragoza with AEBR intensively involved. Subject: "Cross-border Cooperation in View of the Year 2000".

- June 1987** The EUREGIO takes over the Secretariat of AEBR. It is suggested to establish a “European Centre for Border Regions” Mr. Jens Gabbe is appointed Secretary General (managing director).
- 29.-31.10.1987** AEBR congress on “Nature and Protection of the Environment – Agriculture/Tourism – Conflicts and Ways of Coexistence” in Rheine/EUREGIO.
- 22.-24.11.1987** AEBR General Assembly on “Cross-border Cultural Cooperation in Europe”. AEBR publishes “10 Basic Principles for Cross-border Cooperation in Europe”.
- 1987** First own budget line for cross-border cooperation in the EU budget  
Intensive involvement of AEBR on request of the European Commission in the elaboration of the INTERREG programme (basic principles, criteria, project proposals)
- March-May 1988** Exhibition on cross-border cooperation in the Palais de l'Europe. This exhibition is also presented in Karlsruhe, Hannover, Bolzano, Trieste etc.
- 07.04.1988** AEBR advocates a closer cooperation with the Nordic Council of Ministers and other European organisations.
- 27.-29.04.1988** AEBR General Assembly “Technological Development in Cross-border Areas” in Gronau/EUREGIO.
- 14.07.1988** First meeting with EC Commissioner Schmidhuber in Brussels. Since then annual meetings with the responsible Commissioner and Directorate General XVI (now DG Regio).
- 25.-28.06.1988** AEBR exhibition on the occasion of the Summit of the Heads of State or of Government in Hannover.
- 12.-14.04.1989** AEBR congress in Trieste/Italy. Subject: “Cross-border Cooperation in the Europe of 1990 – Legal Basis and Regional Development Programmes”. Further elaboration of the “Basic Principles of Cross-border Cooperation of European Border Regions”.
- 01.-03.11.1989** AEBR General Assembly in Barcelona. Subject: “Cross-border Cooperation in Europe”.
- 19.12.1989** AEBR seminar in Freiburg on “Cross-border Regional Development Concepts in the EC and their Implications for Border Regions in the Upper Rhine Area”.
- 1990-2001** AEBR pilot project LACE “Observatory for cross-border cooperation”, supported by the European Commission
- 20.02.1990** AEBR advocates cooperation with border regions in Central and Eastern Europe and suggests assistance for the foundation of Euroregions.
- 07.06.1990** AEBR meeting with EC Commissioner Millan in Brussels. Subject is, inter alia, the Community Initiative INTERREG 1990-1993.

- 11.-13.10.1990** AEBR General Assembly in Brixena/South Tyrol on: "European Integration and Regional Policy for Border Regions".
- 1990** Creation of an Observatory for cross-border cooperation (LACE) with financial assistance of EC. Organisation of joint conferences with the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CERM) at the Polish Border in Cottbus, Zittau and Zinnowitz on the Island of Usedom.
- 25.05.1991** Contract on the application of the Council of Europe's European Outline Convention from 1981 between North Rhine Westphalia, Lower Saxony, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Kingdom of the Netherlands allowing cross-border cooperation between territorial authorities and other public bodies. Model contract for Europe.
- 18.-21.06.1991** 5<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Border Regions in Rovaniemi/FIN with AEBR intensively involved
- 15.07.1991** Statement on the EC-Document "Europe 2000" and the new role of cities and regions in border areas.
- 25.-27.09.1991** AEBR General Assembly (20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AEBR!) in Legden/North Rhine Westphalia. Subject: "Role of Border Regions in the Europe of 2000".
- 13.01.1992** AEBR decides on close cooperation with the European Commission. Implementation of the LACE pilot project with workshops, a quarterly LACE Newsletter, establishment of a database and preparation of INTERREG II. Suggested solutions for day-to-day border problems.
- February 1992** Publication of a White Paper of the Assembly of European Regions "Border Regions and European Integration" (Authors: Charles Ricq, Francesca Fago, Peter Loosli).
- 15.-17.10.1992** AEBR General Assembly on "European Border Regions, LACE and INTERREG – Networks of European Integration" held in Carrickmacross/Ireland.
- 1993** Implementation of the LACE project with numerous seminars, extension of the database, suggestions for revising the "Charter of the European Border Regions".  
Further development of AEBR as the only Europe-wide network for all European border regions and their concerns.
- 24.-25.09.1993** Statement of AEBR on the Commission Paper: "The Future of Community Initiatives in the Framework of the Structural Funds (Green Paper)". EC approves LACE II for 1992/1993.
- 29.10.1993** AEBR General Assembly in Vilamoura/Portugal: "Cross-border Regions – European Lines of Separation or Bridges of Encounter".
- 1994** EU decides on a continuing Community Project INTERREG II: Continuation of the LACE project. Elaboration of new statutes for AEBR.
- 15.04.1994** Continuation of the LACE III project (1994).

- 13.-15.10.1994** 6<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Border Regions in Ljubljana/SLO with AEBR intensively involved
- 25.11.1994** AEBR General Assembly/LACE-Conference in Triest. Discussion on the AEBR/EU publication: "Practical Guide to Cross-border Cooperation". The number of members has grown to 50 regions. Revision of the statutes of AEBR from 21.01.1977.
- 06.02.1995** New version of the "Charter of European Border and Cross-border Regions" from 1981. Working programme for LACE 3. Further development of the database.
- 12.09.1995** Final report of LACE III. Preparation of LACE TAP for 1996-2001. Annual meeting with Commissioner Ms. Monika Wulf Mathies.
- 01.-02.12.1995** Approval of the amended "Charter of European Border and Cross-border Regions" by the General Assembly of AEBR. Subject of the meeting held in Szczecin: "European Spatial Development and its implications for European Border Regions".
- 28.05.1996** Preparation of INTERREG III; implementation of the LACE PHARE Project. Interim Report.
- 16 - 17.09.1996** Discussion on the bilateral and trilateral contracts on the application of the "European Outline Convention" from 1981. Discussion on the Community Initiative INTERREG IIC.
- 18.09.1996** The EU-Commission assigns the LACE TAP project on technical assistance and support of cross-border cooperation, which is linked to the Community Initiative INTERREG IIC, to AEBR (for the period 1996-2001).
- 03.10.1996,  
17./18.10.1996** 1<sup>st</sup> LACE-TAP seminars in Brussels and Strasbourg.
- 14.-16.11.1996** 25 years of AEBR. General Assembly and Congress on "More Work Through Cross-Border Cooperation" held in Rheine (Germany). Publication of the brochure "AEBR – Association of European Border Regions – 25 Years of Working Together". Mr. Joan Vallvé, Member of the European Parliament, is elected President of AEBR.
- 1997** AEBR summary reports on all 59 INTERREG IIA programmes and finalisation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the "Practical Guide to Cross-Border Co-operation (LACE)" in 9 languages.
- 1997** AEBR Discussion Paper "The EU initiative INTERREG and future developments", that had a strong impact on INTERREG IIIA and Phare CBC.
- 30.01.– 03.12.1997** Organisation of 10 LACE-TAP seminars all across Europe, e.g. in Bonn, Copenhagen, Monaghan (IE), Llívia (Pyrénées), Trieste (IT) and Luxemburg.

- 23.04.1997** European Parliament Report elaborated by Riitta Myller (FIN) on "Cross-border and interregional Cooperation" based on a study of AEBR.
- 02.10.1997** EU Treaty of Amsterdam. Cross-border cooperation is for the first time incorporated in the treaty.
- 13.-14.10.1997** AEBR General Assembly/LACE-Conference in Salamanca (ES): "EU Institutional Changes and the Future of INTERREG – Implications for the Border Regions". Approval of the "Salamanca Paper" elaborated by AEBR ("The EU Initiative INTERREG and Future Developments") and the Recommendation: "Cross-border Cooperation for Protecting Populations Living in the Large River Valleys of Europe against High Water and Floods".
- 1997/1998** Finalisation of the LACE/PHARE Final Report. Publication of the first LACE Infosheets and Magazines. Publication of the studies: "Cross-border and interregional Cooperation", "VADE MECUM – Cross-border and interregional Cooperation on External Borders of the European Union" and "Cross-border Cooperation on Maritime Borders" elaborated by AEBR.
- 01.01.1998** The Managing Director of EUREGIO and Honorary Secretary General of AEBR, Mr. Jens Gabbe, is appointed full-time Secretary General of AEBR.
- 26./27.01.1998  
-05.12.1998** Organisation of 30 LACE-TAP-Seminars on INTERREG IIA-Programmes on the EU internal and external borders and preparation of INTERREG III. Establishment of regional LACE-TAP Offices (Antennae) in all parts of Europe.
- 02./03.07.1998** LACE-TAP-Seminar on "Public Relations at Borderlines" and exhibition in the European Parliament in Brussels. EU-Publication including the lectures and debates in 1999.
- 23.-24.11.1998** AEBR General Assembly and LACE-TAP Annual Conference in Nice (FR) on "Future of Cross-border Cooperation in Europe – Reforms, Subsidiarity, Partnership". Number of AEBR members has increased to 59 (representing 140 border regions).
- 24.-25.03.1999** Approval of the Agenda 2000 (EU enlargement, distribution of funds for Structural Funds and Community Initiatives for the programming period 2000-2006) by the European Council in Berlin.
- 1998/1999** Statement and Debate on the draft of the European Concept for Regional Planning (EUREK). Update of the list of day-to-day border problems. Elaboration of LACE-TAP working documents:  
- "Institutional Aspects of Cross-border Cooperation"  
- "Cross-border Financial Management"  
- "The Future of Maritime Cooperation"  
Finalisation of the LACE-TAP Report 1996-1999. Organisation of a total of 60 LACE-TAP Seminars (1997 – 1999) in all parts of Europe.
- 30.01.1999** AEBR congress: "European Spatial Development Perspective and Border Regions" in Berlin. Recommendations for ESDP.

- 05.05.1999** "50 Years Council of Europe" in Strasbourg. Precursor for the Cooperation of European People in Peace and Freedom. Promoter of Cross-border Cooperation.
- 10./11.05.1999** ESDP – European Spatial Development Perspective – Towards Balanced and Sustainable Development of the Territory of the European Union. Approved at the informal meeting of Ministers responsible for spatial planning in Potsdam (Germany) and published by the European Commission. This document includes detailed statements on cross-border cooperation.
- August 1999** AEBR is charged with the implementation of the EU LACE-PHARE Project, which aims at improving the cross-border network and providing information and training in the Central European Countries (CECs) until the end of 2000.
- 06.08.1999** Secretary General Jens Gabbe and Dr. von Malchus, Chairman of AEBR's Advisory Committee, visit the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) in Copenhagen, topic: cooperation of the NCM with AEBR
- 16.-18.09.1999** AEBR General Assembly/LACE Annual Conference in Joensuu (FIN): Subjects: "Border and Cross-border Regions as Turning Point and Motor of a New European Dimension" and – "Cross-border Tourism – Reconciling Development Opportunities with Environmental and Agricultural Interests." Number of Members has increased to 60 (representing 140 border regions).
- 28.-30.10.1999** 7<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Border Regions in Timisoara (Romania). Subject: "Transfrontier Cooperation – Factor of Social Cohesion and Political Stability in Europe". Introduction to the subject by AEBR (J. Gabbe).
- 29.11.1999** EU-Conference on INTERREG III in Brussels. Elaboration of "An operational guidance paper for the elaboration and implementation of INTERREG IIIA programmes 2000-2006".
- 1997 – 1999** Publishing of LACE Info-Sheets on cross-border cooperation (i.a. spatial planning, economy, tourism, environment, education)
- 1999** AEBR papers "Institutional Aspects of Cross-Border Cooperation" and "Cross-Border Financial Management".
- 1999 – 2000** LACE-PHARE Assessment Reports on 22 border areas in all EU accession candidates.
- 2000** Publication of "LACE-PHARE Info-Sheets".
- 11.05.2000** Approval of the EU Community Initiative INTERREG III in Brussels.
- 30.06.2000** Presentation of AEBR summary "List of daily border problems" and draft of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Map of European Border Regions.
- 19.-21.10.2000** AEBR General Assembly and LACE Annual Conference in Drama, Greece. Topic: "Overcoming physical barriers, national periphery and border absurdities through cross-border cooperation – What help can



- be offered by INTERREG, PHARE CBC and MEDA?"; Number of members: 69.
- 2000** Publication of LACE-PHARE Practical Manual and LACE-PHARE Position Paper + Action Plan, Inception Report.
- 2000** AEBR is charged by the EU-Commission with the implementation of LACE TACIS Project for Russia, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.
- 2000** Practical Guide to Cross-Border Cooperation (LACE), 3<sup>rd</sup> revised edition, official EU publication (DG Regio, DG Enlarge).
- 21./22.05.2001** EU conference on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohesion Report in Brussels.
- 13./14.09.2001** AEBR presents the CoR-Study on "Cross-border and interregional cooperation in Europe" in Maastricht.
- 2001** LACE-TACIS: Practical Manual elaborated by AEBR.
- 20.-22.09.2001** AEBR General Assembly and Annual Conference in Strasbourg, topic: "Cross-border cooperation in the EU today and tomorrow". The Annual Conference had the topic: "1971 – 2001 Border Regions – Putting European Integration into Practice, 30 years anniversary of the Association of European Border Regions", Presentation of the map "European Border Regions 2000" and the anniversary brochure. AEBR had 79 members at the end of 2001/beginning of 2002.
- 01.04.1999-31.03.2001** By that time, AEBR-LACE had a network of more than 5000 persons, the AEBR homepage [www.aebr.net](http://www.aebr.net), a data base and 10 LACE offices. 29 Workshops and 2 Annual Conferences were organised, publication of 5 Info-Sheets, two magazines as well as the „Practical Guide“ in five languages. With regard to the LACE project, comprehensive reports and conclusions were elaborated by AEBR in 2001.
- 2001-2002** Member of the committee of experts on cross-border cooperation of the Council of Europe.
- March 2002** Meeting of the large European associations of regional and local authorities (AEBR, CPMR, Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Eurocities, AER) in Linz, where future cooperation was agreed.
- April 2002** AEBR statement on the 6<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme of the EU.
- May 2002** AEBR statements on "White Paper on a joint European Transport Policy until 2010", and on the "First Interim Report of the European Commission on economic and social cohesion".
- 2002** Agreement with the CoR on a long-term cooperation with a joint working programme.
- June-July 2002** Collaboration in the European Convent through statements and requests on the "European Constitution Treaty".
- 17.-18.10.2002** AEBR General Assembly and Annual Conference in Papenburg, Ems Dollar Region (DE), topic: "Understanding – comprehension - trust –

- socio-cultural cooperation as location factor". More than 200 participants from 29 states and 70 regions. First bestowal of the AEBR award "Sail of Papenburg", which was initiated by the EDR, to "Euroregion Lower Danube" (MD/RO/UA). Adoption of the "Papenburg Declaration".
- 13.-14.12.2002** AEBR documents: Info-News (FR/EN/DE), Added value of cross-border cooperation, 3x3=10 – Advantages of AEBR, and the AEBR website - [www.aebr.net](http://www.aebr.net) -, were adopted by the Executive Committee.
- 12.02.2003** After 35 years of close cooperation: Agreement with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on specific cooperation themes parts.
- 17.02.2003** Meeting of Commissioner Barnier (DG REGIO) with high-ranking representatives of European regions/cities and associations of regional and local authorities in Brussels to discuss the EU's 2<sup>nd</sup> cohesion report. New "Legal instrument for border regions" firstly mentioned.
- March 2003** AEBR wins the tender on elaborating the European Commission study: "Decentralised cross-border cooperation: developing legal instruments for community cooperation".
- May 2003** AEBR statement on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohesion Report: Safeguarding the cross-border cooperation as one of the priorities of European Cohesion and Regional Policy.
- July 2003** INTERREG-IIIIC-Application: Regional Framework Operation (RFO) "Change on Borders" is elaborated.
- 19.09.2003** 1<sup>st</sup> draft report on "Cross-border cooperation of Universities". Decision of the Executive Committee on the publication of a trilingual electronic AEBR newsletter (quarterly edition: 1600 copies).
- 27.-28.11.2003** General Assembly and Annual Conference of AEBR in Karlovy Vary / Euregio Egrensis (CZ): Topic "Education and Labour Market". The award for outstanding achievements in the field of cross-border cooperation "Sail of Papenburg" went to EUREGIO Styria- Slovenia.
- 18.02.2004** Presentation of the "3<sup>rd</sup> Cohesion Report of the European Commission", taking into account AEBR proposals on the "Legal Instrument".
- 23.02.2004** 1<sup>st</sup> forum of European associations of regional and local authorities on "Cohesion Policy: New Chances for an enlarged Europe".
- 27.02.2004** Draft AEBR statement with regard to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cohesion Report.
- 01.03.2004** 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of "RFO – Change on Borders", which, involving 25 partners, was approved and run up to 2007 (2004-2007). AEBR serves as "help-desk".
- 05.03.2004** Presentation of AEBR's legal study for the European Commission, approved in June without any modifications. Together with the study, a position paper is elaborated by the Secretariat General and presented in three languages (authors: J.Gabbe, V. v. Malchus, Th. Stumm).
- 18.06.2004** Former Minister-President Poul Schlüter (DK) reports to the Executive

- Committee on his activities as “Special Emissary of the Nordic Council of Ministers for border issues and mobility” and on “Removal of border barriers between the Scandinavian Countries”.
- 18.06.2004** Executive Committee decides to elaborate a “White Paper on European Border Regions”.
- June 2004** Cooperation Agreement with the Committee of the Regions (CoR).
- June 2004** AEBR's homepage - [www.aebr.eu](http://www.aebr.eu) – is accessed by approx. 3.000-4.000 users per month and is continuously updated.
- July 2004** Cross-border co-operation has been incorporated in the draft European Constitution Treaty (III, Art. 220). Accordingly, border regions are among the particularly handicapped regions in Europe.
- 2004** Statement and proposals of AEBR on the EC's Proposal for a Regulation of the Council laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund.
- Sept. 2004** AEBR publishes a quarterly electronic newsletter “Partnership in a Europe without borders” in English, French and German (circulation: 1600); editor: Dr. V.v. Malchus).
- 07.-08.10.2004** General Assembly and Annual Conference on AEBR in Szczecin/Euroregion Pomerania (PL). Topic: “Creating the future together – successful cross-border concepts”. The number of members rose to 90. Review and adoption of :
- Charter of European Border Regions 2004,
  - A new Action programme on implementing the charter.
- The AEBR Award “Sail of Papenburg” went to EUREGIO (DE/NL). Secretary General J. Gabbe and the Chairman of AEBR's advisory committee Dr. V. v. Malchus were decorated with high Polish medals.
- President J. Vallvé was bid farewell. He was elected as Honorary President. By unanimous vote, Lambert van Nistelrooij, MEP (NL), becomes new President. Jean-Paul Heider (FR) becomes 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President.
- The final declaration on “Cross-border labour market and qualification” with annexed action programme were unanimously adopted.
- October 04** AEBR Statement and proposals on the EC's Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing an instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)
- 15.02.2005** Meeting with Commissioner Danuta Hübner, DG REGIO, followed by a hearing in the European Parliament concerning the new EU legal instrument.
- 03.03.2005** Speech of AEBR President Lambert van Nistelrooij, MEP, in Brussels on: Cohesion and Lisbon Strategy – the role of the regions.
- 04.03.2005** Structure and working methods of AEBR as well as Cohesion and

Regional Policy 2007-2013 (incl. EU legal instrument on cross-border cooperation) are discussed in detail by the Executive Committee. AEBR submits its statements to the European Parliament, to the European Commission and to the European associations of regional and local authorities. AEBR's paper on "Maritime Cooperation" is adopted, the "Support of rural development" is initially discussed.

- 16.03.2005** Annual Conference of the RFO "Change on Borders" in Joensuu/Finland.
- 06.04.2005** Meeting with European associations of regional and local authorities. Topic: "Financial perspectives of the EU".
- 28./29.04.2005** AEBR Political Forum: Towards a new community legal instrument facilitating public law based cross-border co-operation among territorial authorities in the European Union, Mérida/Extremadura
- June 2005** Many AEBR proposals have in the meantime been added to the European Regulations on Cohesion and Regional Policy (inc. legal instrument) as well as to the Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. AEBR claims the nomination of a Special Delegate for Border Issues of the European Parliament, who should deliver annual reports.
- 17.06.2005** The Executive Committee discussed the "Rural development in the framework of European Agricultural Policy" and decides to organise an Annual Conference dealing with the subject "Rural areas in border regions."
- 02.09.2005** AEBR statements on the following issues: "Fostering structural change – an industrial policy for an enlarged Europe", "Science and technology, the key to Europe's future", "Support for Rural Development (EAFRD)". "Developments in the Nordic Council of Ministers – The BEN Project".
- 27.09.2005** AEBR forum in Basel on: "European Health Sector: Cooperations – Added Value for Humans, Economy and Regions".
- 20.-22.10.2005** General Assembly and Annual Conference of AEBR in Drama/Kavala (GR), Topic: "Cross-border cooperation – important contribution to implementing the Lisbon strategy". CAWT wins the AEBR Award "Sail of Papenburg 2005". Decoration of J. Gabbe, V. von Malchus, W. Schelberg, L. van Nistelrooij and K. Hatzidakis with valuable Greek medals.
- 05.12.2005** AEBR President Lambert van Nistelrooij reports in the Regional Committee of the EP on the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument.
- 09.12.2005** Martín Guillermo from Spain is elected to succeed the AEBR Secretary General Jens Gabbe, who retires in October 2006.

Discussions of the President and the Secretary General of AEBR with Director General Meadows regarding possibilities to improve cross-border programmes and projects in the EU's Regional Policy. AEBR fought in 2005 for a modification of the regulations on the regional fund and on territorial cooperation.

- 03.03.06** Adoption of the following AEBR statements:
- "Implementation of the Lisbon Programme of the EU";
  - "Modern SME Policy for Growth and Employment";
  - "Role of territorial cohesion in regional development";
  - "New prospects and new challenges for a sustainable European tourism".
- April 2006** Publication of the eighth electronic AEBR newsletter "Partnership in a Europe without borders".
- Mai 2006** Introduction of the Deputy Secretary General Martin Guillermo Ramirez, in company of J. Gabbe and V. v. Malchus, on the occasion of meetings with the German/Czech border regions in Dresden, with the German/Polish border regions in Berlin and with Scandinavian border regions in Malmö and Helsinki.
- 03./04.05  
15./16.05** AEBR forum on "Future of territorial cooperation – EU Programmes 2007 – 2013" in Strasbourg. First approach to CBC in Africa by Ambassador Diarrah (Mali).
- 02.06.06** EU regulations on Cohesion and Regional Policy (incl. territorial cooperation and legal instrument) 2007 - 2013 are adopted and published in the official journal
- June 2006** AEBR's updated Action Programme is adopted by the Executive Committee
- 07.07.06** 9th edition of AEBR's electronic newsletter "Partnership in a Europe without borders".
- 16.08.06** Executive Committee decision on "Maritime Cooperation".
- 22.09.06** AEBR General Assembly in Pamplona:
- A new Executive Committee is elected for the period 2007 - 2008, re-election of President L. van Nistelrooij;
  - Presentation of the updated "AEBR Action Programme" and "White Paper on European Border Regions. 2006", Decision to finalise the map "European Border Regions 2006";
  - The winner of the AEBR Award "Sail of Papenburg 2006" is Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia.
- 23.11.2006** On the occasion of the Annual Conference on "Territorial Agenda", a farewell ceremony was held for the Secretary General Jens Gabbe. For more than 35 years, he has made great contributions to the establishment and development of AEBR and the cross-border cooperation in all parts of Europe. Jens Gabbe was honoured by speeches of leading personalities (e.g. Mrs Commissioner Hübner), several decorations and presents.
- 24.11.06** AEBR Political Forum "Rural Development and Border Regions", Cloister Seeon, Landkreis Traunstein (DE).
- 12.03.07** Executive Committee decision on creation of two AEBR working committees: "External borders" and "Cross-border health".
- 29.06.07**

- 2007** Cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee in elaborating its opinion on Euroregions.
- 2007** New edition of AEBR Map “Cross-Border Cooperation Areas 2007”.
- 13./14.09.07** AEBR General Assembly and Annual Conference in Lappeenranta, South Karelia (FI). Main topics of the Annual Conference: “The New EU Neighbourhood Policy and Innovative Solutions in cross-border rural areas”.  
The winner of the AEBR Award “Sail of Papenburg 2007” is the Euregio Rhein-Waal.
- 14.09.07** 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the AEBR Task Force “External Borders” in Lappeenranta.
- Nov. 07** AEBR Position paper: “Cross-border cooperation - European priority and political objective of the EU - beyond 2013”.
- 08.11.07** Signature of “Strategic Alliance” agreement between Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (M.O.T.) and AEBR, Lille (FR)
- 29.11.07** 1<sup>st</sup> Forum of the Ad hoc Task Force “External Borders” of AEBR “The Current Questions of the Border Areas at the new EU External Borders” in Nyíregyháza, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County (HU).
- 29.11.07** AEBR participates in Structured Dialogue Meeting with Commissioner Wallström (Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy).
- 18.12.07** AEBR participates in Structured Dialogue Meeting with Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner, DG RELEX. Topics: “Improving the communication between DG RELEX, national ministries of Foreign affairs and the external border regions” and “DG RELEX-AEBR activities at the External Borders”.
- 2007/2008** AEBR Publication “Cooperation between European Border Regions - Review and Perspectives” in German and English.
- 2007/2008** AEBR Study on CBC of universities.
- 22.02.08** AEBR/ Regio Basiliensis Forum “European Cooperation in the Health Sector II” in Basel (CH).
- 13.03.08** International Forum of the Region of Sicily in cooperation with AEBR/ Task Force External Borders “Role of the Regions at the EU borders: the Cross-Border Co-operation in the Mediterranean and its new instruments” in Taormina (IT)
- 03.04.08** Forum organized in Trieste by AEBR with the support of Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region “Cross-border cooperation of universities and research centres - Contribution to regional development”.
- 18.06.08** AEBR participates in Structured Dialogue Meeting with Commissioner Hübner, DG REGIO, on EU Cohesion Policy.

- 26.06.08** Meeting of AEBR Task Force “Cross-border health” in Maastricht (NL)
- June 08** AEBR position on Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion.
- 09.07.08** Meeting with Director General Ahner (DG REGIO). Topics: 5<sup>th</sup> Cohesion Report, Green Paper to Territorial Cohesion, AEBR paper “Future of cross-border cooperation after 2013”, EGTC.
- 03.09.08** Meeting with Commissioner Hübner (DG REGIO). Topics: 5<sup>th</sup> Cohesion Report, future of EU programmes, financing (INTERREG).
- 09.09.08** AEBR Forum on “CB Transport Networks”, Zaragoza, Aragón (ES).
- 2008** Launching of the Platform “Languages and Borders”.
- 16./17.10.08** AEBR General Assembly and Annual Conference in Plauen, Euregio Egrensis (DE).  
A new Executive Committee is elected for the period 2008 - 2010, re-election of President L. van Nistelrooij.  
Main topic of the Annual Conference: “Cross-border Cooperation in Research and Higher Education - The Chance of Regional Development for European Neighbours”.  
The winner of the AEBR Award “Sail of Papenburg 2008” are ex aequo the Region Oberrhein and Euroregion Galicia – Norte de Portugal.
- 18.11.08** PLATFORMA – The European voice of Local and Regional authorities for development – is officially launched during the European development days in Strasbourg. This project will receive financial support from the European Commission for a period of two years, starting in January 2009.
- 27.11.08** AEBR participates in Structured Dialogue Meeting with President of the EU Commission Barroso on Territorial Cohesion.
- 01.12.08** AEBR participates in EUREGIO II Project “Solutions for improving health care cooperation in border regions” (project duration 01.12.08-30.11.11).
- 2009** AEBR Position Paper on the *CoR White Paper on Multilevel Governance*.
- 02.02.09** AEBR Forum “R & D and Innovation in Cross-Border Areas” in Vigo, at the premises of the EGTC Galicia-Norte, Galicia (ES).
- 2009** Establishment of AEBR Task Force on “Innovation” and online Forum.
- 2009** AEBR Position Paper on *TEN-T Networks*.
- 15.05.09** Meeting of AEBR Task Force “Cross-border health” in Maastricht (NL).
- 05.06.09** AEBR Position Paper on “Recent developments regarding Cross-Border Health”.

- 2009** Constitution of an AEBR Task Force on “Strategy and Finances”.
- June 2009** Foundation in Tiflis of the Euroregion “Euro-Caucasus” between Armenia and Georgia.
- July 2009** 1<sup>st</sup> “AEBR International Youth Forum at the EU External Borders” in Friuli-Venezia-Giulia (IT).
- 2009** AEBR Position Paper on Small Scale Transport Infrastructures (including recommendations for improving the mobility along the outer borders).
- 2009** AEBR answers to CoR consultation “A new strategy on sustainable growth. The Lisbon Strategy after 2010”.
- Sept. 09** 15<sup>th</sup> AEBR Electronic Newsletter “Partnership in a Europe without borders”.
- 18.09.09** AEBR position on the Barca Report “An Agenda for a Reformed Cohesion Policy – A place-based approach to meeting European Union challenges and expectations”.
- 05./06.11.09** AEBR General Assembly and Annual Conference in Ghent, Euregio Scheldemond (B). Main topic of the Annual Conference: “Cross Border Cooperation after 2013: Regional answers to current European challenges”.  
The winner of the AEBR Award “Sail of Papenburg 2009” is Euregio Scheldemond.
- 14./15.10.09** Conference on “CB, regional cooperation and development of Euroregions” in Odessa (UA).
- November 09** AEBR publishes the first issue of a monthly electronic Newsflash.
- 10.12.09** III CB Health Forum, Lörrach (DE).
- December 09** Virtual participation of AEBR at the Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change.
- January 2010** AEBR position on Future EU Strategy 2020.
- 21.01.10** AEBR participates in the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities (ARLEM) in Barcelona. More than seventy local and regional representatives from thirty countries around the three shores of the Mediterranean attended the inaugural meeting. The Region of Andalucía will represent the AEBR in the Bureau of ARLEM.
- 04.02.10** AEBR Forum on “Transport as an Instrument for Territorial Cohesion and Cooperation” in Huesca, Region of Aragón (ES)
- 18.02.10** Open Forum of AEBR Task Force “External Borders” on “Cross-border response to current regional development challenges across Europe - Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) at the EU External Borders” in Oulu, Bothnian Arc (FI).



- 18.03.10** AEBR and Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe sign co-operation agreement.
- March 10** AEBR study visit to Latin American borders.
- 18.03.10** AEBR signs cooperation convention with the Euro-Institute Kehl.
- 22./23.03.10** AEBR contribution to the Governmental Experts Meeting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of African Ministers in charge of Border Issues on the implementation of the African Union Border Programme in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).
- 13.04.10** Meeting of AEBR Task Force “Cross-border health” in Essen (DE)
- 14.04.10** AEBR meets Commissioner Hahn, Regional Policy. Main topic: Future of EU Cohesion Policy.
- April 10** Contribution of AEBR to the CoR consultation on the Europe 2020 strategy.
- 02./03.05.10** Conference organised by the Spanish Government in the framework of the Spanish EU-Presidency, in cooperation with AEBR “European Territorial Cooperation Summit: The EGTCs and Cross-border cooperation”, Cáceres (ES)
- 27.05.10** Meeting of the AEBR Task Force “External Borders” in Sevilla, Region of Andalucía (ES)
- Sept. 10** Forum “Languages and borders”.
- 21./22.10.10** AEBR General Assembly and Annual Conference in Dundalk (R.I./N.I.).  
Number of members: 100.
- October 2011** AEBR General Assembly and Annual Conference, Kursk Region (RU).