

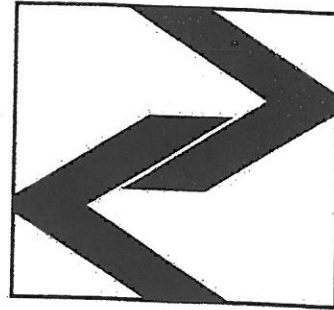
**COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CONFERENCE OF
EUROPEAN REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES (CALRE)
AND THE ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN BORDER REGIONS
(AEBR)**

The Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE)

and

The Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

- wishing to reinforce the support to the regional democracy in Europe with a view to promote the rule of law, ensuring the respect to the regional competences by the European and national authorities,
- conscious of the need to strengthen the institutional role of the European regions and the importance of the respect to the cultural diversity in Europe within the framework of cross-border partnership,
- considering that the participation of citizens in political life at regional level is a fundamental component of democracy, and that a cross-border partnership contributes to promote peace, freedom, security and human rights,
- wishing to combine their forces for more effective initiatives in favour of regional authorities in Europe that raise the opportunity of making the borders a meeting place,

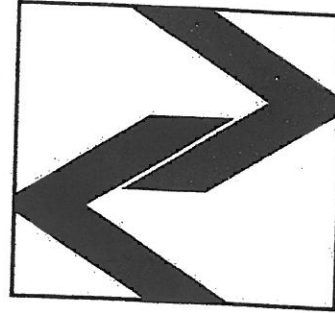


1. HAVE DECIDED TO:

- establish co-operation on a regular basis and develop their contacts on issues of shared interest
- take into account the counterpart's activities when carrying out their own activities
- promote the counselling and mutual support on issues related to the objectives of both bodies
- identify measures likely to increase complementarities between their activities, collaborating in joint programs or projects related to the activities within the purpose of the present Agreement

2. WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING THESE OBJECTIVES:

- the Presidents of CALRE and ARFE shall meet whenever necessary and at least once a year
- the committees eventually created within ARFE and the CALRE working groups will be encouraged to:
 - identify issues which might serve as a basis for joint activities
 - exchange information concerning their work programmes and other documents of shared interest so that account of these can be taken in their respective documents and activities
 - co-operate more closely so as to co-ordinate their activities
 - promote the participation of the European regions to the legislative process in the framework of national Parliaments and European Institutions
 - promote the institutional model of Legislative Regional Assemblies in institution building projects



- the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies and the Association of European Border Regions shall invite one another to send representatives to plenary assemblies, conferences, seminars and other events of shared interest.
- high-level meetings between the secretariats shall be held at regular intervals

The present agreement has no financial implications other than those that could be taken individually by the undersigned organisations, according to their respective internal rules.

Done in Brussels, on 5th December 2012

On behalf of CALRE
The President

Fernando J. Manzano Pedrera
President of the Parliament of
Extremadura

On behalf of AEBR
The President

Karl Heinz Lambertz
Minister-President of the German-
speaking Community of Belgium