

Program of the President of the Regional Parliament of the Tyrol Dr Herwig van Staa for the presidency of the CALRE (November 2008 – October 2009)

## **1. Background**

Since its founding in 1997, CALRE has been collecting most valuable knowledge in terms of exchange of experiences and cooperation and has been pursuing a series of trend-setting initiatives that the presidency of CALRE 2008/2009 can use as a basis of its work.

The central concern for the future will be the further reinforcement of the legal position as well as the competences of regional parliaments with legislative power, in particular by means of the implementation of the decisions taken at Bilbao and Vitoria and the Proclamation of Euskadi.

The rejection of the EU-reform by the referenda in France, the Netherlands and Ireland have shown very clearly the estranged relationship between European citizens and the institutions of the European Union. Particularly related to the issue of decreasing the democracy deficit within the EU, CALRE and the regional parliaments unified in it have an essential role to play: They are in direct contact with EU citizens, have to take the decisions that are immediately felt by the people and have to implement EU rules on the regional level.

The Charter of Regional Self-Government is particularly important for the process of regionalisation in Europe: It guarantees the regions their rights and competences and creates a common understanding of the definition of the European regions.

Another main point of the CALRE presidency 2008/2009 will be to create close and institutionalized cooperation with all regional organisations active on the European level in order to jointly and persistently enhance the process of regionalisation within the European Union.

## **2. Targets**

In view of this background, the CALRE presidency 2008/2009 –continuing the work of its working groups - will concentrate on the following targets:

### **2.1. Enhancing of Federalism and Regionalism in Europe**

- Defence and protection of the achievements contained in the Treaty of Lisbon in favour of the parliaments of regions with legislative power, in particular the right to control European law in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality: Either by pressing ahead with the ratification process or – if this proves to be impossible – in some other way such as through the self-commitment of the EU.
- Assertion of the Charta of Regional Self-Government.
- Enforcement of the position of the working groups of the regions with legislative power within the CLRAE and the CoR.

- Intensification and institutionalisation of the cooperation between regional parliaments and regional governments.
- Reinforcement and enlargement of the cooperation of CALRE with RegLeg, CoR, CLRAE, CEMR and AER.
- Institutionalising of the large organisations that are active in the area of regional cooperation (Alps Adriatic Working Community, Working Community Arge Alp, Association of European Border Regions, Working Community Pyrenees, Working Community Jura, Working Community Galicia/North Portugal, Working Community Central and Southern Adriatic).

## **2.2. Improvement of democratic authorization of administration on regional level**

Extension and reinforcement of the role of control mechanisms of the legislation

towards administration in regions with legislative power (audit courts, ombudsmen)

## **2.3. Promotion and reinforcement of cross-border cooperation**

- between neighbouring regions of the EU and between regions in different states of the EU and the Council of Europe
- between friendly regions without common borders – within the EU, within the Council of Europe and neighbouring regions (Mediterranean, Black Sea, Baltic Sea).

**2.4. Intensification of the cooperation of regions with legislative power with local authorities according to the principle of subsidiarity.**

## **3. Working methods**

To implement these targets the presidency of CALRE relies on the cooperation of all regional parliaments in order to give CALRE a voice commensurate with its significance.

## **4. Dates**

**4.1.** In order to intensify its cooperation with CoR and the European parliament CALRE will organise one meeting of its Standing Committee in Brussels. These meeting will give us the opportunity to enhance our contacts with representatives of the EU and the Council of Europe.

**4.2.** Standing Committee of CALRE

22 – 23 January 2009	Brussels
28 – 30 April 2009	Linz
in the week from 7 – 10 July 2009	Venice
18 October 2009	Innsbruck (eve of the Plenary Meeting)

**4.3.** The Plenary Meeting of CALRE will take place on the 19th/20th of October 2009 in Innsbruck.

## **5. Secretariat**

During the period of the CALRE presidency 2008/2009 the secretariat will be provided by the administration of the Regional Parliament of the Tyrol.

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