



June 2010

Online newsletter of the ALDE Group in the Committee of the Regions

1. **András Szalay new 2nd Vice-President**
2. **Anneli Jäätteenmäki MEP guest speaker at ALDE-CoR meeting**
3. **ALDE-CoR decides to hold seminar on Macro-Regions in Ancona**
4. **Joint seminar with LYMEC on "Liberal Economy in Local Governance" in Liverpool in July**
5. **ALDE-CoR members update**
6. **ALDE CoR Seminar on Women Entrepreneurs in the Green Economy on 5th October**
7. **LeaDeR Awards**

András Szalay new 2nd Vice-President



András Szalay (HU) has been elected ALDE-CoR's new 2nd Vice-President at the group meeting of 9 June. The group's presidency is now: Flo Clucas (UK - President), Bas Verkerk (NL - First Vice-President), András Szalay (HU - Second Vice-President) and Gianmario Spacca (IT - Third Vice-President)

Anneli Jäätteenmäki MEP guest speaker at ALDE-CoR meeting



Anneli Jäätteenmäki MEP was the guest speaker at the ALDE-CoR's recent group meeting, invited to speak on the European Citizen's Initiative, which was to be debated at the CoR plenary later in the day.

ALDE-CoR decides to hold seminar on Macro-Regions

At the invitation of ALDE-CoR's Third Vice-President, who is President of the Italian Region of Marche, the group has decided to **hold a seminar later in the year in the capital of Marche, Ancona, on the subject of Macro-Regions**. Following the success of the Baltic Sea Macro-Region, other initiatives such as the Danube, the North-Sea, the Irish-Sea, or the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region (which prompted the invitation) have climbed up the political agenda. The seminar aims to build upon the experience of the Baltic Sea and to share with others the experience of the structures already in place in the Adriatic-Ionian.



Joint seminar with LYMEC on "Liberal Economy in Local Governance" in Liverpool in July



For the 3rd year in a row, the **ALDE group in the CoR supports LYMEC in organising a seminar** on a topical issue. This year it will be held in Liverpool, the city of ALDE-CoR President Flo CLUCAS. Clucas will welcome them to the city and speak to them about the change liberals



can do in local government and the role of the Committee of the Regions. The seminar will also look at how the **financial crisis has affected Local Government's ability to deliver and how to provide accountable, transparent local democracy**. There will be a visit to the Liverpool School for Social Entrepreneurs and a presentation from the Women's International Centre for Economic development, a centre chaired by ALDE President CLUCAS, as well as a walking tour of Liverpool city centre highlighting how EU investment has aided city regeneration.

ALDE-CoR members update

Simone Beissel (ALDE member and Deputy Mayor of Luxembourg) chaired part of the plenary session of the Committee of the Regions on 9th and 10th June as well as the entire Bureau meeting on the 8th. Mrs Beissel stood in for First Vice-President, Ramón Valcarcel and handled a number of complex opinions.

Rob Bats hosts study visit to Drenthe of the ECOS Commission: ECOS members endorsed an invitation by ALDE ECOS Coordinator Rob Bats (NL) for a study visit to Drenthe (Northern Netherlands) on "The EU 2020 Agenda against the Backdrop of Demographic Transition". ECOS members considered the topic of the proposal as highly pertinent for the ECOS Commission and its work programme for this year.

Szalay hosting study visit of the EDUC commission to Pecs: the EDUC Commission accepted at its last meeting a proposal by ALDE EDUC Coordinator Andras Szalay (HU) for two study visits to Pécs (Hungary) & Istanbul (Turkey), both European Capitals of Culture 2010. As suggested by András Szalay and also by several former EDUC Presidents in past EDUC meetings, the EDUC Commission intends to link its external activities stronger to

the programmes of the European Capitals of Culture. The aim of the study visits is to learn from the experiences of two current European Capitals of Culture, Pécs and İstanbul, one situated in a new Member State, and one in an EU Candidate Country .

Ainārs Šlesers hosts seminar in Riga of the COTER Commission: ALDE member Ainārs Šlesers (Latvia) invites COTER members to a seminar on Aspects of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) policy in the context of the EU's border and cross-border cooperation. The aim of the meeting is to encourage the commission to review the TEN-T policies from the perspective of the EU's border regions and the problems that are specific to them, focusing in particular on the development of the Ventspils-Riga-Moscow multimodal transport axis, and on the other major transport nodes in these regions, in line with the EU's framework for cross-border cooperation.

Jasmina Vidmar in Election Monitoring mission in Georgia: Jasmina Vidmar participated in an election monitoring mission to Georgia, where local elections were held on 30 May. Four members of the Committee of the Regions joined their counterparts in the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to monitor the elections, where voters elected mayors and councillors in 64 municipalities, including five self-governing cities. For the first time, the mayor of Tbilisi was up for direct elections. As part of its cooperation with the Congress, the CoR regularly participates in election monitoring at local and regional levels.

ALDE CoR Seminar on Women Entrepreneurs in the Green Economy on 5th October



During this year's Open Days, the ALDE-CoR group is organising a **seminar entitled: "Creating and Enabling Women Entrepreneurs: The Green Economy and More"**. Research shows that in one city alone, Liverpool, the GDP of the city could be increased by some 800 million British pounds if women reached the same level of economic activity as men. Parallel to this challenge is the challenge to adapt to a greener economy. More women setting up green enterprises would therefore provide for a both wealthier and more environmentally friendly society. The seminar will result in a set of conclusions on how to better support women in starting up a business, in particular in the green economy. For more info concerning Open Days 2010 click [here](#).

ALDE LeaDeR Awards

ALDE-CoR is launching the **ALDE Liberal Democrat Local and Regional Politicians Awards (LeaDeR)**. With these annual awards we aim to **recognise the work of outstanding local and regional liberal and democrat politicians**. At the end of each year, an awards ceremony will take place in Brussels. This year the awards ceremony will take place on Monday 15 November. There will in total be 8 different awards. **The national board of ELDR and EDP member parties** as well as their local and regional branches can submit nominations, which **must reach the ALDE-CoR secretariat by 30th of September 2010**. For more information about eligibility and submission of candidates, please see our website: www.alde.eu/cor or e-mail: alde@cor.europa.eu