PRESS RELEASE:

ALDA AND EAR/AER JOIN FORCES

After several meetings, the chairmen of ALDA (European Association for Local Democracy) and EAR-AER (European Academy of the Regions), MM. Oriano Otočan and Nelu Neacsu, have decided today July 15th 2015 to join forces. Both organisations aim the same target groups, local and regional authorities and local associations, both organisations are dedicated to promote the regional approach in regional development and good governance and citizen participation at the local level. It has been decided that both organisations will propose to their respective boards to become member of the other organization. It has also been decided that both organisations will offer their expertise and opportunities to the members of the other organization.

Established in 1999, ALDA has already 170 members and has its main office in Vicenza Italy and regional antennas in Strasbourg and Brussels. The organization is doing projects on behalf of its members and is focused especially on the Western Balkan countries. It also has an Eastern-European partnership and a Mediterranean partnership. Activities in the European Union focus in particular on the promotion of Active European Citizenship. Activities in the Western Balkans and European Neighbourhood focus on good governance, citizen participation, European integration and decentralisation.

After half a year of activities, EAR/AER has 10 partners and 3 members. It is located in Brussels and has expertise in the following domains: regional development (employment, administrative capacity building, education, health care, culture), mobility, transport and environment (clean energy, waste recycling), justice and anti-corruption and access to European funding programs. It started to make a reputation with its European Regional Debates featuring national or regional experts on matters in the domains mentioned hereabove.