

# Continental Europe Region (CER)

## Minutes of Meeting September 5&6 2009 – Milan, Italy

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### I. Contact

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Hi All-

If you want to follow-up on anything in this report you may contact me at:

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CER's web address is WWW.AA-EUROPE-NET. You will find European English-speaking meeting lists, CER reports, and CER officers' directory.

### II. News from Around the Region –

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**Rome** – On the way to forming an Intergroup

**Milan** – Have lost 1 meeting per week. Hosting CER has energized groups

**Rhineland** – Placed posters in Hostels. US Consulate invited to AA to host a table at Ex-Pat Fair.

**Prague** – Put up a web site. New meeting in Bruno in Moravia.

**Netherlands** – To address process issues designated 15 minutes at each meeting for business

**Stockholm** – 100 attendees at Young People in AA convention. Working on setting up Help-line. Have secured enough home-stay spots for CER December meeting

**Franconia (Munich)** – Need IG chair, PI Secretary and rep for CER. Placed Stars & Stripes ad. Started a Prudent Reserve.

**Tri-Borders** – On track for North Sea Convention.

**Berlin** – 14 meetings per week with as many as 70 in attendance. Just below their prudent reserve and most positions filled. After presentation at international school, the kids gave written feedback to the fellowship

**Madrid** – Working on replacing a venue. Thinking of joining with Costa del Sol intergroup

**Romania** – Working on establishing service structure. New meeting in Transylvania. A couple CER members have visited area.

### III. Reports from CER Officers and Committees

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**Chairperson** – Attended meeting of Regional chairs but felt info was not applicable to our region.

**Finance** – Even with the reduction in reimburseable positions CER continues in the red. It's prudent reserve is funded by ageing its receivables. On the bright side the Young People's Convention in Sweden brought in a new source of cash.

**Ceres** – This is the German association CER has been working on to normalize its operations. The bank account has been opened. Decision from German government on not-for-profit status expected 1-3 weeks.

**How We Do Business** – This committee created CER handbook. This has been already useful as quick reference of precedence and GSO guidelines regarding Regional activities. Includes a digest to 10 years of CER decisions

**Young Persons Committee** – Milan now has an underage drinking law for those under 16. Still working on placing Young People's DVD on GSO website.

#### CER Background

CER is a region within the service structure of GSO-York. CER is the link between the AA groups and York. From its members come Continental Europe's delegates to the yearly GSO Conference held in York.

In CER are representatives from various IGs. There are also officers some of whom are IG reps. When there aren't enough IG reps then officers are elected from the general region. Consistent with guidelines from the "AA Service/World Concepts" CER is top heavy. Officers include Chairperson, Treasurer, alternate delegates, past delegates, and liaison officers for sub groups such as electronic media and Youth Outreach.

The purpose of CER is to:

- Provide an opinion from the region on GSO past actions and proposed activities
- Liaise between IGs on important subjects such as public information (PI) and budget
- Carry the message of recovery from the groups to central administration
- Support existing and emerging IGs and meetings in the Region
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CER is unusual in that it covers a large geographic region. Also, individual groups in the region function with minimal full-time members and have many visitors. And, they must coordinate with a host nation. As a result running CER is expensive both in money and in the time to accomplish tasks.

**Telephone Liaison Officer** – Tim is leaving post. Suggested post be non-reimbursable as total Europe phone system not possible.

**On-Line Committee** - Need individuals to be on-line responders to large volume of emails. In process of changing to a content-management system that will allow individuals to change the site.

**ArenA** – Elected in June, J. of Sweden has produced first issue. Lovely but in inconvenient A3 format, ArenA, can be printed “tiled” or without graphics. Shrinking to A4 makes it unreadable. ArenA needs area CER IGs to submit their reports on time so information can be reconstituted into ArenA articles. An anonymous donation covered the 1 Euro/copy cost of the supplied copies. Plans the “Europe Map” as a poster for the International Convention at a cost of 500 Euros. Decision not final.

## **IV. 2010 CER Meeting Dates**

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The following dates were agreed upon for 2010 meetings

February 13 & 14 Milan  
June 12 & 13 (no site yet)  
October 9 & 10 (no site yet)

Note that these are the SECOND weekends of the month, the same as our IG.

## **V. Admin Proposals**

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There were a series of proposals made. Below are each and the outcome.

1. **Tie CER meetings to European conventions.** For the moment the dates will stay as proposed.
2. **Make the position of Telephone Liaison Officer non-reimbursable.** Passed.
3. **Ease the restrictions for posting an AA convention on the CER website.** The requirements will remain as they are. “For a convention to be promoted on the CER website it must be sponsored by an IG or established meeting”
4. **Establish a running file of PI activities.** Under consideration. The Content Management system may address.
5. **Establish an IAC (International Advisory Council for Homosexual Men and Women in AA) representative within CER.** Withdrawn
6. **Proposal to make ArenA editor a 3-year position.** Passed

## **VI. Election of Officers**

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Nominees were take for the following positions:

Chairperson – Jim of Athens. Monica of Madrid  
PI Secretary – Dallas of Milan. Karl of Nice  
Telephone Liaison Officer – no nominees

Elections to be held December 2009

## **VII. CER Inventory**

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Each year CER conducts an inventory. We were divided into 3 groups for discussion. Below are the groups’ summaries

Group 1 – Need a process for integrating new members. Each CER meeting should include a PI forum. CER cannot impose itself on an IG but must be invited. Cheaper to bring an individual to a CER meeting than to host meeting in outlying areas.

Groups 2 – Need to address sponsorship and inclusiveness of new CER members. Add requirement of belonging to a committee as part of appointment to CER. Create a “First Meeting” starter kit for going into a new geographic region.

Group 3 – Need sponsorship into service for CER new comers. Create “Sister-City Committee” to bring groups and IGs into CER.