



AREPO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

05 September 2022

List of participants:

Members of the Executive Board

- **Begoña García Bernal**, Regional Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development, Population and Territory of Extremadura

- **Patricia Picard**, Treasurer of AREPO and Regional Councillor of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes.

Other participants

- **Laurent Gomez**, Secretary General of AREPO;

- **Julia Martin Cerrato**, Head of Agricultural and Food Quality Service;

- **Nadine Hernández Droth**, Consejería de Agricultura, Desarrollo Rural, Población y Territorio Advisor;

- **Francesc Mestre**, Delegation of Extremadura in Brussels;

- **Victor Corvera Descalzo**, Delegation of Extremadura in Brussels;

- **Giulia Scaglioni**, Policy Officer of AREPO;

- **Francesca Alampi**, Policy Officer of AREPO.

AREPO's Executive Board meeting was held on Zoom in the morning of 5 September 2022.

The interpretation was provided in French and Spanish through the Zoom platform.

The Secretary General, Mr Laurent Gomez, introduced the meeting by welcoming all participants and presenting the agenda of the meeting, which was made up as follows:

- Presentation of the next AREPO General Assemblies (October 2022 in Wurzburg and March 2023 in Extremadura);
- Update on the state of the accounts 2022 ;
- Update on AREPO activities and actions for 2022;
- Any other business

1. GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN WURZBURG

Some logistical details and the provisional agenda for the three days have been presented. [Please see the presentation here.](#)

Particularly, it has been discussed about the possibility to hold in Wurzburg an informal meeting on the topic of wine with a technical group made up of some AREPO members.

This possibility to organise such a meeting was foreseen for the General Assembly that was supposed to take place in Besançon on April 2020 before the GA got canceled because of the pandemic.

Following the interest shown by many member Regions, under the mandate of Presidency of Crete, AREPO started analysing its potential area of action on the topic of wines of origin. As agreed during the General Assembly in Thessaloniki (March 2019), AREPO firstly carried out an internal study on the potential scope of action of AREPO in the wine debate. Since some member Regions strongly insisted



on the caution to be exercised with regard to the competence of AREV in this field, the objective of this study was therefore to assess the legitimacy of a network of Regions, such as AREPO, in the European wine debate without duplicating the activities carried out by AREV.

In order to avoid confusion with AREV, AREPO could only position itself on issues directly related to wines under geographical indications, on questions of territorial development (competence of regions) and not on oenological practices.

This was reaffirmed by the President of AREPO, Ms Begoña García Bernal.

Ms Picard, Treasurer of AREPO, informed the Board that she will be the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes representative within AREV and emphasised the importance to work together with this other Association of Regions.

Conclusion: it has been decided that the AREPO Secretary General will reach out to the AREV Secretary General proposing to organise a technical meeting between the AREPO team and Board and the AREV team in Würzburg, on the occasion of AREPO General Assembly, in order to explore possible areas of cooperation and coordination concerning competences.

Then, the provisional agenda of the GA has been presented and approved.

2. GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN EXTREMADURA – FEBRUARY 2023

In February 2023 the AREPO General Assembly should take place in Extremadura, in parallel with an event organised by the Agriregions coalition.

The choice of the date will be defined on the basis of the availability of Commissioner Ferreira, who has been invited to participate in the assembly.

The President of AREPO confirmed that by October the Extremadura delegation will confirm the date and the activities to be organised for the General Assembly.

3. AREPO PROMOTIONAL EVENT IN BRUSSELS – MARCH 2023

This biannual AREPO event should take place on **21-23 March 2023** (date to be fixed depending on the EP calendar). It will be organised and partly financed by **AGROSMART global project** (Interreg):

- **Conference** presenting among others the result of the project and dedicated to the revision of GI system;
- **Tasting** of regional products in the evening.

In September, we will start contacting our Member Regions (Brussels office and one referent from each region) in order to collect the adhesions to the event and coordinate their participation so that the organisation of the event will officially begin.

The Secretary General reminded the importance of this event that has always counted on the participation of the Commissioners for Agriculture. By combining the conference with the tasting of quality products from our regions, this event made it possible to show what the food diversity of our territories is and to affirm AREPO's role and recognition at EU level.

4. UPDATE ON THE STATE OF THE ACCOUNTS

The Secretary General stressed that AREPO member regions continue to show support towards the work done by the association. So far, in 2022, 24 regions payed their membership fee.



At the beginning of September, we have sent a reminder to the 6 regions whose membership fee was still pending. Two of them promptly replied that their fees were already approved for payment.

Therefore, the state of the account is excellent, also considering the financing coming from the EU project in which AREPO is involved as partners.

The main expenses concern the interpretation service we provide during our meetings.

For 2022, the main expense will be represented by the General Assembly to be held in Wurzburg in October 2022.

5. UPDATE ON AREPO ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS FOR 2022

An overview of the main EU policies followed has been presented. The focus was especially on the revision of the GI system, to discuss AREPO position and how AREPO is organising its work on this topic in order to elaborate the amendments to be tabled through the European Parliament. For further details, please read the Power point presentation.

AREPO policy officers also presented the conferences where AREPO has been invited to participate in and the events planned for the future months ([Please, read the PPT, slides 19-20](#)).

To conclude, the Board has been informed that AREPO is starting setting up a consortium of partners to be able to participate in a Horizon Europe research and innovation call dedicated to GIs and sustainability.

The proposal has not been published yet. AREPO is currently working on the basis of the information available in a draft of the Horizon call. The available budget should be 3 million of euro, a limited budget compared to the methodology required (analysing all the 3000 EU GIs). The main goal is to develop political recommendations concerning GIs and their contribution to sustainability.

CONCLUSION

- The report of the meeting will be shared also with the Vice-Presidency in order to inform them and collect their feedback on the elements discussed during the meeting;
- The AREPO Secretary General will reach out to the AREV Secretary General proposing to organise a technical meeting between the AREPO team and Board and the AREV team in Wurzburg, on the occasion of AREPO General Assembly, in order to explore possible areas of cooperation and coordination concerning competences;
- The AREPO team will share the amendments proposal elaborated together with the technical group.