

# SONJA ALICE STEEN

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Address: Fylkeshuset, 8048 Bodø, Norway

Date of birth: 22.02.1953

Nationality: Norwegian

## **CURRENT POSITION: FULL-TIME POLITICIAN**

### **EDUCATION:**

Sortland High School	1973
Bodø Teacher Training College, Working Knowledge,	1984
Bodø Teacher Training College, Working Knowledge2	1985
Finnmark Regional College, Cultural Studies:	1986-1988
State's Teacher Training College, Commercial and office subjects	1989
Telemark College, Leadership and management in a female perspective	1990
Bodø University College, Information Management I,	2004
University of Tromsø, The County Council as a reg. development actor	2004
Bodø University College, Information Management II,	2005
Bodø University College, Business English	2006

### **WORK EXPERIENCE:**

State Pension Fund, office assistant	1974 – 1976
Stay at home mum	1976 – 1978
AOF Vesterålen, Office representative	1978 – 1981
Head of teaching	1981 – 2003

### **LANGUAGES:**

Norwegian – fluent oral and written  
English – good oral and written

### **ELECTED MEMBER OF:**

Autumn 2007: Parliamentary leader for the Labour Party, Nordland County Council  
2005-2007: Executive of Economic Development, Nordland County Council  
2003 - 2010: Full-time politician, Nordland County Council (president of the Committee of Education, Vice chair of the County Council, Executive of economic development and transportation )  
2011- : Chair of the County Council

### **POLITICAL HEART ISSUES:**

*Young people are our most important human resource. It is not enough with natural resources like fish, oil/gas and a beautiful nature. We have to make it possible for our youth that wishes to return home after finishing their studies letting them find attractive jobs, good local communities, active culture life, good schools and kindergartens and communications. Education, Culture, and cultural tourism, as well as international cooperation as such, are also matters of special interest to me.*



**Nordland**  
FYLKESKOMMUNE

Chair of the County Council

Vår dato: 19.02.2013

Vår referanse:

Deres dato: «Sdo\_SvarPaaDokDato»

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Org.nr: 964 982 953

AER

6 rue Oberlin  
67000 Strasbourg  
FR FRANCE

### Letter of candidacy

On behalf of the Nordland County Council will I like to nominate, Mrs Sonja Alice Steen as a candidate for the presidency of Committee 3 - culture, education and international cooperation.

Mrs Steen has a long experience in politics and has been actively involved in shaping the youth politics in our county as well as in AER. She has been a full-time politician at county level since 2003. During this periode has she been head of the committee of education and also been county executive of Economic development. Since 2011 she is Chair of the County Council of Nordland. Mrs Steen has been vice president of the Committee 3 since 2011 and is acting president of the subcommittee youth.

Nordland County Council does also take pride in being a county which have a huge youth involvement and good youth policies. Promoting youth matters on a European level will be useful in improving our political experience and at the same time share our best practices.

Yours sincerely,

Eirik Fiva

Director International Office, Nordland County Council

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### **Motivation letter**

My motivation for running for presidency in AER Committee 3, is first of all my interest in working with topics as culture, education and international regional cooperation, especially related to youth matters.

I am convinced that having a good youth policy making is essential if you want to develop your region into being ready for the future.

Nordland County has a long tradition of emphasizing on young people. Youth is one of main focuses in our political program for this period. We do also involve young people from all our municipalities in a county youth assembly. I will use my presidency to reinforce a relationship between our youth politics and what is being given priority on a European level. I have also participated in the work of AER related to Crisis, and been present in the Pescara as well as the Warszawa events.

As a vice president of the Committee 3 I also have worked within all thematic fields which has been on the agenda, for example the questions of drop outs from high school. I also think that an improved interregional cooperation in partnership with regions from east and west in Europe is very important.

A decrease in the population and lack of skilled workers is one of the major challenges a lot of Europe's regions are facing. That means that I as a politician have to be concerned with a comprehensive community planning. In addition is it also very exciting to collaborate with young people. There is always something new to learn, even for a "seasoned" politician. For a new period of the Committee 3, I would in addition to what we already do, also give focus to better linking of the opportunities and connection between culture and tourism.

Best Regards

Sonja Alice Steen  
Candidate for presidency of Committee 3, AER

## **A broad outline of the political Programme**

- **The Candidacy for the next President of Committee 3 – culture, education and international cooperation - AER**
- **Mrs Sonja A. Steen, Chair of the County Council of Nordland**

As a vice-president since 2011 of the Committee 3, Mrs Steen has followed the Work programme 2011-12 closely, and especially the work related to youth topics, as a president of the subcommittee youth.

*A Programme Note for the Candidacy of Mrs. Sonja A. Steen, for President, Committee 3:*

### Culture:

- Culture and Health: follow-up and new activities
- Youth and Culture: young culture, participation, co-creation, tool for jobs
- Cultural heritage and green/sustainable tourism, also use of local food and local activities

### Education & Training:

- School drop-out, thematic and project follow-up
- Promotion of vocational training, including mobility of vocational training students
- Life-Long Learning. What is the potential? New opportunities for young adults / adults to better meet the challenges of the labor market.

### Youth:

- Youth employment and mobility
- Equal rights and opportunities for all young people
- Promotion of young peoples' active participation in society

### International Cooperation – related to the themes of the Committee

- Integration & Migration. Collaboration and inclusion
- Cooperation with the Mediterranean on a broad basis
- Develop eastern partnership