



Intergroup on Rural, Mountainous and Remote Areas

Rural territories in the 2014-2020 policies of territorial cohesion and inclusive growth

An event of the European Parliament Intergroup on Rural, mountainous and remote areas

22 September 2015 (2.30-5.00 pm)

Building Jacques Delors, room JD 51, rue Belliard, 99-101, Brussels

The Europe 2020 Strategy, source of the Common Strategic Framework, highlighted the objective of inclusive growth. While the Juncker Commission and new instruments (CLLD, ITI,...) have been set up, it is time to cross the main objectives and the first steps of the 2014-2020 programming period with respect to the future of European rural territories.

Are the rural areas expected partners of the economic, smart and inclusive growth?

Which place do they take in the strategic guidelines of the new cohesion policy?

Which recognition of the rural potential in the prospective programmes and strategies ?

The parliamentary intergroup RUMRA launched in March 2015 shares these questions. Its [strategic guidelines](#) expresses its ambition :

- to promote an integrated development of rural, mountainous and remote areas in a balanced relationship with the urban poles,
- to work for an explicit recognition of rural territories, with their diversity, as poles of development and innovation,
- to further improve the social, economic and technological inclusion of the rural, mountainous and remote areas and the well-being of their inhabitants through the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

That is why the intergroup RUMRA plans on the 22th of September 2015, with the collaboration of the NAT Commission of the Committee of the Regions, a conference on the place and the role of the rural territories in relation to the objectives of territorial cohesion and inclusive growth of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

This conference, the first organized by the Intergroup RUMRA, emphasizes the importance of the trends of the cohesion policy on the rural dynamics. It will also be an opportunity for the European deputies and the rural stakeholders to debate on the potential, often underexploited, of the rural territories and on innovative interrelations rural-urban. At that occasion, a call for a White Paper on rurality will be launched, as requested by the European Countryside Movement in its [memorandum](#).



**A conference implemented
by the international association
Rurality-Environment-Development (R.E.D.)
in partnership with
the European Countryside Movement (E.C.M.)
and the support of
the NAT Commission of the Committee of the Regions**

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Moderator : Patrice Collignon, director of Rurality-Environment-Development

2.00 pm – registration of participants

2.30 Welcome

- **José Luis CARNEIRO**, President of NAT Commission of the Committee of the Regions
- **Randel LANTS**, Rapporteur of the Committee of the Regions on innovation and modernisation of rural economy

The role of the Intergroup for the sustainable development of rural, mountainous and remote areas

- **Mercedes BRESSO**, Chair of the Intergroup, Member of the European Parliament

A White Paper on rurality

- **Gérard PELTRE**, President of the European Countryside Movement (E.C.M.) and of the international association Rurality-Environment-Development (R.E.D.)

Territorial cohesion and rural-urban interactions in the European Union

- **Corina CRETU**, European Commissioner for Regional Policy

Rural areas in territorial cohesion and inclusive growth policies

- **Franc BOGOVIC**, Vice-chair of the intergroup, Member of the European Parliament

Q&A session and discussion with stakeholders

The Heart of Slovenia: example of good practice in the field of territorial cohesion

- **Aleksandra GRADISEK**, Director of Development Centre of the Heart of Slovenia

Round table « An inclusive growth for rural areas and an improved rural-urban interaction »

Chair : **Gérard PELTRE**, president of R.E.D. and of the European Countryside Movement

with the participation of :

- **Judit TOROKNE-ROZSA**, Head of Unit, Urban and Territorial Development, DG Regio (*or her representative*)
- **René SOUCHON**, president, Regional Council of Auvergne (*tbc*)
- **José Luís CARNEIRO**, president, NAT Commission of the Committee of the Regions
- **Michèle VITRAC-POUZOLET**, Peri-urban regions platform Europe PURPLE
- **Michel BAYLAC**, president, European Association A.E.I.A.R. (*tbc*)

Which possibilities for rural territories to benefit from activities under the ESPON 2020 Programme?

- **Peter MEHLBYE**, Director, ESPON Coordination Unit

Closing

- **Franc BOGOVIC**, vice-chair of the Intergroup, Member of the European Parliament

Practical information

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