

European Countryside Movement

M.E.R.
C.
M.



CEDIP



IFHP
FIHUAT
IVWSR

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR
HOUSING AND PLANNING
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE POUR L'HABITATION
L'URBANISME ET L'AMENAGEMENT DES TERRITOIRES
INTERNATIONALES VERBAND FÜR HOHNHILFWESEN
STÄDTERBAU UND RAUMORDNUNG



Rurener



Communication on « The future of food and farming »

What implications for rural development ?

International Association Rurality-Environment-Development - RED
European Association for Rural Development Institutions - AEIAR
International Association for Family Movements for Rural Training - AIMFR
Association of European Regions for Products of Origin - AREPO
European Committee of Property Owners - CEDIP
European Confederation of Independent Winegrowers - CEVI
European Greenways Association - EGA
European Leader Association for Rural Development - ELARD
European Network of Outdoor Sports - ENOS
European Federation of Rural Tourism - EUROGITES
International Federation of Equestrian Tourism - FITE
International Federation for Housing and Planning - IFHP
Peri Urban Regions Platform Europe - PURPLE
European Network of rural communities of energetic neutrality - RURENER
European Rural University - URE

The European Commission has recently presented the first official draft of the CAP reforming process under the title « The future of food and farming ». The proposal aims to match more closely citizens' needs and the major European challenges of today and tomorrow. But questions arise about the development of rural territories.

The European Countryside Movement :

► notes that :

- the title of the proposal for a new CAP refers solely to issues primarily related to the first pillar, this begs the question of how a real consideration of rural non-agricultural development challenges is to be addressed. From this point of view, the communication isn't explicit enough.
- the proposal for simplification is strongly predicated upon a greater degree of subsidiarity.

► shares the overarching objectives of :

- CAP simplification.
- strengthened contractualization of the shared result objectives. We although regret the lack of visibility regarding the way of implementation of this new strategy.
- strengthening of the added value of CAP in the fields of job creation, growth and quality investment, circular economy and bioeconomy, contribution to the COP 21 objectives, research and innovation, digital economy, and the contribution to the European agenda on migration.

► has strong concerns about the effects of Member States having increased independence on rural development and peri-urban territories (taking the global context into account), which could lead, without a formalized strategic framework, to:

- simplification based on greater subsidiarity which could raise the question of integrated and non-agricultural rural development, taking into account the analysis carried out on the implementation of the current CAP 2014-2020.
- a transfer of charges towards national administrations which entails budgets with national discrepancies.

► acknowledges that the importance and the added value of the LEADER approach (now implemented through all ESI Funds via CLLD), is recognized, but, at the same time, calls for a clearer commitment by the European Institutions to provide a framework which enables rural inhabitants to fully explore the potential of this approach in the framework of the CLLD instrument.

There should be a mandatory requirement to make all ESI Funds in rural areas available via CLLD.

► asks that the proposal for a European Rural Agenda and an «Interfunds» for rural development,

formulated at the instigation of R.E.D. with the active support of the E.C.M. organisations, the European Committee of the Regions, the European Parliament intergroup RUMRA, shall be implemented.

► The European Rural Agenda would provide the required strategic framework for:

- clear agreements with the Member States.
- implementation of the Cork 2.0 rural proofing recommendations which ensure the inclusion of the rural dimension in all European Union policies.
- implementation of a cross-funding initiative financing the integrated development of rural areas.
- strengthening of the CLLD instrument, with a simplifying approach for their implementation and an «Interfunds» for rural territories.