

EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE MOVEMENT



E.C.M. Communication

The organisations of the European Countryside Movement come together to support the European project and a European Rural Agenda!

E.C.M. NGOs were part of the successful creation of the European Parliament Intergroup RUMRA (Rural, Mountainous and Remote areas) and are remain active members.

They express their thanks to Mercedes Bresso, MEP and President of RUMRA, for having promoted the European Rural Agenda initiative and for having supported R.E.D.'s initial call for such an agenda and for having supported the resolution adopted on the 3d of October 2018.

The organisations of the collaborative “European Countryside Movement” platform are also grateful for the engagement of the European Deputies of the RUMRA Intergroup. They now

- Expect to see the implementation of this resolution in E.U. policies and regulations. As regards the European Rural Agenda, its recognition as part of the European policy and regulatory framework post 2020 should result in our being able:

- To reintegrate the EAFRD into the Common Strategic Framework and into the “ESIF Family”. A greater inter-relationship between these funds is vital for the financing of local strategies, the ITI Instruments and to develop smart villages;
- To reinforce the LEADER/CLLD approach;
- To guarantee, in line with Article 174 of the Treaty of Union, the same opportunities to rural citizens as enjoyed by others in term of access
 - to services, training, culture, employment, entrepreneurial capacity...
 - To broadband and high internet speed.

- Remind others once again, - as mentioned in past communications of R.E.D. - of the importance of the recognition of rural territories as places of development and innovation (“Smart Rural Territories”) which support

- Their social, creative and entrepreneurial potential
- their revitalization (some of them are suffering from depopulation) through the development a multi-sector economy: agriculture, non-agricultural production, rural tourism, agro-tourism, energy

- Reiterate their strong trust in the capacity of the European Institutions, co-decision makers (Commission, Parliament, Council) or advisors (European Committee of the Regions, European Economic and Social Committee) to initiate an European project closer to citizens' expectations.

- As well-informed supporters of the European project, and its added value for citizens, are eager to see this resolution in favour of a European Rural Agenda and of balanced cooperation between urban, rural and peri-urban hubs at the heart of the campaign of the European elections in all Member States.

The levels of distrust of the European project expressed by citizens of rural and peri-urban citizens and manifested in recent voting patterns and participation in popular movements make this an urgent requirement.

- invite all NGOs acting for rural, mountainous, plains, peri-urban or island territories to act to defend a European project that serves the interests of citizens and the diversity of rural territories.

This diversity of Europe's rural territories make it a vital setting for the entrepreneurship and innovation that is indispensable in meeting European challenges of the present and the future.