

**RURALITE-ENVIRONNEMENT-DEVELOPPEMENT**  
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**association internationale – international association**

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**Call for a Europe close to the citizens and that focuses on all its territories!**

**R.E.D. attests that citizens and territories can act with and by Europe!**

*The adoption, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2018, by the European Parliament of a Resolution in favor of a European Rural Agenda is one of the many illustrations of that!*

This Resolution is the **result of a collaborative action between the European Parliament and the European organizations** of territories and citizens of the **European Countryside Movement**. They were the backbone of the draft resolution **by taking as a reference the Call for a « European Rural Agenda » which Rurality-Environment-Development had made**, echoing the European Urban Agenda, in 2016.

**The commitment of the French Government in favor of a National Rural Agenda**, echoing the Call made by R.E.D. and to the adoption of the Resolution, **and of the Summit of the Greater Region for a Rurality Reference Center** (on the impulse of the **Walloon Minister for Rural Affairs**), are demonstrative of the citizens' ability **to act with and through Europe!**

These are **strong and mobilizing signals** which must be welcomed and promoted in order to bring back the desire of Europe for all the citizens.

The questions asked by citizens and territories are nowadays not institutional, but political.

➤ **They ask for :**

- a **clarification** of the European social and economic **objectives** in a globalized and enlarged Europe, which is less protective.
- **more cohesion** and expect the effective translation of this issue into operational programs of Member States and Regions. Article 174 of the Lisbon Treaty expresses the « stakes » and the « need »!
- a **real consideration of their fundamental rights** (Charter of Fundamental Rights).

- **They claim to be involved in the definition and the implementation of public policies and regionalized operational programs.** The European authorities had advocated it for the period 2014-2020 (Common Strategic Framework for ESIF) and included as an option in the preamble of the partnership agreements. Citizens have rarely observed it.

**Recommendations from R.E.D. to re-enchant the desire for a Europe with rural citizens**

*« The genius and resilience of citizens and territories mobilized to meet european and national challenges »*

- **Translate the Resolution in favor of a European Rural Agenda in the political and strategic corpus of the European Union and in partnership agreements or in the regulatory frameworks of European policies:**
  - an expected transcription in the budgetary guidelines and the regulations of the Structural and Investment Funds.
  - an indispensable political framework for Rural proofing (conclusions of the CoR/R.E.D. seminar of the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2017).
  - a clarifying to implement the recommendations of the RURban experiment (Rural-Urban Interrelations) whose work has continued throughout the OECD area.

- **Claim the recognition of rural territories as centers of development and innovation.** A recognition, which relies on networks of exchange between actors and territories and which has to assert itself in framework for the « **Smart Villages** » or « **Smart Rural Territories** »:
  - o propose and finance, within the framework of territorial development, plans and ESIF, **measures to support training and innovation.**
  - o propose, within the framework of CLLD territorial strategies, measures to support the emergence of « **Smart Villages** » at the village or territory scale, and the development of « **Smart Villages** » by including them in territorial development strategies. Access to very high speed broadband and the imperative consideration of digital, ecological, climatic, societal ... transitions.
- **Incorporate CLLD/LEADER approach and integrated territorial development into a regulatory reference framework** (partnership agreement) for the implementation of European policies and European regionalized programs (the greening CAP in reference) by:
  - o **focusing on territories that know how to stimulate and federate the citizens' engagement, inter-territorial networks of exchange between actors and innovation** to overcome the demographic, geographical and natural handicaps;
  - o **encouraging and supporting the definition and implementation of cultural strategies at project territories scale:** vectors of social mediation, attractiveness and territorial anticipation to the changes of a world in transformation;
  - o **encouraging the implementation of integrated strategies « biodiversity, energy and climate »;**
  - o **mobilizing**, in a convergent and proactive way, all the **European Union's budgetary resources to finance project territories strategies. R.E.D. proposal** in favor of a European « **Interfund** » in reference;
  - o **encouraging intelligent cooperation between rural and urban but also peri-urban centers.** The potential and the added value of each village, entity and territory, taken into consideration and promoted.
- **To overcome the Rural/Agricultural amalgam for:** a better taking into account of the development potential of rural territories' diversity but also of the potentialities and agricultural stakes to stimulate the cooperation between family farming and territories. The co-financing options for the EAFRD call for this approach.
- **To mobilize**, while recognizing European added value, **the distant maritime and continental territories.** These are also **lands of innovation** in strategic regions for Europe.
- To make the most of the European multi-level organization to **boost the attractiveness of territories with natural and geographical handicaps and also those impacted by depopulation. The characteristic of Europe is to be inhabited everywhere.** The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Article 174 of the Treaty in reference.

### Clarifying the European project and its added value to stimulate commitment

- **Making the added value of Europe more visible** by focusing on a more **collaborative and proactive governance** between the Member States, the European Commission, the European Parliament but also with the Regions and their Territories as well as with the European Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee.
- Inspiring commitment in Europe and promoting the European project by building on a « **Charter of Fundamental Principles and Rights** » which will be based on Article 174 of the Treaty on European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

