

European Countryside Movement Mouvement Européen de la Ruralité

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M.E.R.

Seminar

Rue de Trèves, 61, Brussels
13 November 2008 - 9.30 am - 1.00 pm

Which answers to climate changes in the rural areas ?

Climate change is today a major and widely recognized determinant of the future of our society and its development prospects.

The impacts of climate change can be already perceived in some fields, the most often in rural areas : natural disasters, drought and flooding, decrease of biodiversity, invasive species, loss of agricultural productivity, and even food shortage,..

But the ongoing climate change affects also territorial cohesion and balanced linkage between towns and countryside. The contributions of rural actors (services, productions,..) and the amenities of the countryside (nature, landscape,..) are basic factors of a long-lasting societal equilibrium : some of these elements are threatened or affected by climate evolution.

How respond to climate change in rural areas ? How can rural actors reduce impacts and tackle causes of climate change ? Which rural contributions to face this global threat ?

By dealing with this issue from a rural approach, the seminar of the European Countryside Movement also renews a key point of the next decades : the recognition of rural areas and their actors as necessary stakeholders for the sustainable vitality of our planet.

Technical data

Agenda : Secretariat opens : from 9.15 a.m.
Opening of the session : 9h30
Seminar ends at 1.00 p.m.

Seminar venue : COPA-COGECA, rue de Trèves, 61, 1040 Bruxelles

Working languages : French and English, with interpreters

Registration (please before 6 November 2008) : by e-mail
or by faxing the registration form (downloadable from www.ruraleurope.org see agenda)

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Programme

9h15 Welcome

9h30 Opening of the session

1. Rural areas and climate change – Setting the scene

Introduction

Mr Gérard PELTRE, President, European Countryside Movement

Impacts on local actors, living and working in rural areas

Mr Allan Buckwell, Country Land and Business Association (CLA) (*)

2. Challenges for sustainable development arising from climate change

From the perspective of the agricultural and rural European policy

Ms Hilka Summa, Head of Unit « Bioenergy, biomass, forestry and climate changes », DG Agri, European Commission

From the perspective of the European regional development policy

Mrs Agnès Kelemen, Policy Officer, Unit C.1. «Conception, forward studies, impact assessment », DG Regio, European Commission

3. Possible answers and expectations of rural actors : an active involvement of zones likely to bear the brunt of the climate change impact

Debates opened by speeches illustrating :

- the agriculture sector : **Ms Tania Runge**, Environmental policy officer, Horizontal Team, COPA-COGECA
- the sustainable management of environment and ecosystems : **Mr Michael Sayer**, European Landowners Organisation (ELO) (*)
- the role of local rural authorities: : **Ms Marie Bullet**, Policy Officer, « Environment, energy, transport », Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)

Debate with the floor and the OING partners of the European Countryside Movement

() to be confirmed*

A seminar of the European Countryside Movement
organized by Rurality-Environment-Development (R.E.D.)
with the technical support of COPA-COGECA
and the financial aid of the
European Centre of the Property Owners (CEDIP)

European Countryside Movement

Mouvement Européen de la Ruralité

M.E.R.

European platform
set up in 1997

The European Countryside Movement (*Mouvement Européen de la Ruralité - M.E.R.*) is a platform of international NGOs bound by a charter on shared objectives for a dynamic countryside.

Composition of the European Countryside Movement

International Association Rurality-Environment-Développement - RED (presidency)
European Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Regions - AEM
Association for the European Rural Universities - APURE
European Council for Agricultural Law - CEDR
European Council of Young Farmers - CEJA
European Centre of the Property Owners - CEDIP
Committee of Agricultural Organisations in the European Union - COPA
General Committee for Agricultural Cooperation in the European Union - COGECA
European Landowners Organisation - ELO
European Federation of Farm and Village Tourism - EUROGITÉS
Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU - FACE
International Federation for Housing and Planning - IFHP

The aims of the European Countryside Movement (M.E.R.)

- to promote an integrated rural development policy mobilising and involving the interests of all sectors;
- to pursue productive dialogue with the international institutions, particularly those of the European Union, in order to protect the interests of all rural socio-economic sectors, especially in the implementation of Community policies;
- to maintain the social and economic diversity of the countryside in a positive relationship with respect to urban areas;
- to contribute to improvement of the overall quality of life of rural populations, and to preserve their autonomy of action;
- to ensure that rights and customs deriving from public and private property play a positive part in the socio-economic and environmental management of the countryside;
- to draw together town and country, ensuring both are involved on an equal footing in the development and administration of land use policies at national and regional level.

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