



European Rural Parliament

in a cooperation with European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

MID-TERM EVENT

VMA Building, Rue Belliard 99/101, Brussels, BELGIUM

January 30th, 2025

This is a crucial time for shaping future European policies, therefore the ERP Steering Group warmly invites you to reserve January 30th for this important ERP Midterm Event in Brussels. It is organized by the ERP in a cooperation with European Economic and Social Committee, which was also the host location for the 1st ERP in 2013.

This event will offer a unique opportunity to engage with policymakers and contribute to this vital conversation to ensure rural voice. The event will also be hybrid, but it is very important that the ERP Partners are represented in strength in person, so we hope you will be able to attend. We kindly ask you to register and seek the necessary resources to attend in order to join the discussions about our rural future.

PURPOSE of the Mid-term event:

- To maintain momentum and profile of the ERP between the previous and next ERP Gatherings, and celebrate over a decade of constructive contributions, since the first ERP was held at the EESC.
- To ensure a relevant dialogue between European Civil Society Organisations and policy and decision makers, primarily with the EU Institutions during the current Multi Annual Financial Framework and in the preparation of the succeeding one.
- To provide a platform for shared learning between the many partner organisations who subscribe to the principles and ethos of the ERP.
- Providing an informative exchange of emerging views, concerns and aspirations, arising from recent National/Regional Rural Parliament Gatherings and our recent ERP Partner's survey, with representatives of the key civil society stakeholders contributing to policy making at a European level.

Morning Session

10:00

OPENING. Welcome from

Tom Jones, ERP Steering Group, European Rural Communities Alliance

Peter Schmidt, European Economic and Social Committee NAT Section

Radim Sršeň, Committee of Regions

10:35

Panel session on CURRENT RURAL CHALLENGES, including views gathered from ERP partners all around Europe.

Vanessa Halhead, European Rural Community Alliance (ERCA)

Āris Ādleris, Partnership for Rural Europe (PREPARE)

Goran Šoster, European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD)

11:20	<p>Key note speech from</p> <p><i>Christophe Hansen, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Food, delivering the LongTerm Vision for Rural Areas.</i></p> <p><i>Bogusław Wijatyk, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - Rural priorities for the Polish Presidency.</i></p> <p><i>Daniel Buda, Vice Chair of the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee.</i></p> <p><i>Followed by Q and A session with the audience.</i></p> <p><i>Chaired by Tom Jones, ERP Steering Group, ERCA.</i></p>
12.50	<p>The 6th European Rural Parliament Gathering, autumn 2025.</p> <p><i>Presentation by the hosts, Scottish Rural Action represented by Artemis Pana, National Coordinator, and Reid Hutchison, Economic Development Coordinator, Aberdeenshire Cour</i></p>
13.00	<p><i>Buffet Lunch Break provided by EESC</i></p> <p>Networking activities</p>

Afternoon session

14:30	<p>1ST Panel discussion on RURAL NEEDS and RURAL VOICES</p> <p>Presentations and discussions on National Rural Parliaments and linkages with wider policy support.</p> <p><i>Representatives of ERP partner organizations across the Europe:</i></p> <p><i>Erik A Eriksson, Hela Sverige Ska Leva, Swedish Rural Parliament</i></p> <p><i>Dragan Roganovič, Network for Rural Development of Serbia, Balkan Rural Parliament</i></p> <p><i>Artemis Pana, Scotland's National rural Parliament,</i></p> <p><i>Anneli Kana, Kodukant, Estonian Rural Parliament</i></p> <p><i>Kim Smedslund, PREPARE, ERP Steering Group</i></p> <p><i>Chaired by Anita Sejicka, Latvian Rural Forum, ERP Steering Group</i></p>
15:00	<p>Session on THE EUROPEAN INITIATIVES FOR RURAL AREAS</p> <p>Presentations on, the rural observatory, the Rural Pact, and CAP Network activities. Followed by Q and A session with the audience.</p> <p><i>Clara Hormigos Feliu and David Auteri, The EC Joint Research Centre</i></p> <p><i>David Lamb, EU CAP Network</i></p> <p><i>European Rural Pact Support Office representative</i></p> <p><i>Edina Osco, Smart Rural 2027, Future of communities and smart villages</i></p> <p><i>Chaired by Lidija Pavić-Rogošić, EESC</i></p>

15.40

RURAL POTENTIAL. Presentations on Innovative tools, current research projects and capacity building support.

Goran Šoster, PREPARE, Rural compass tool from GRANULA

Other speakers to be confirmed.

Chaired by Miodrag Matavulj, PREPARE, ERP Steering Group

16.10

2ND Panel discussion on RURAL NEEDS and RURAL VOICE

Presentations and discussions on the voice of rural youth, and linkages with wider policy support.

Youth representatives and movements and ERP partner organizations across the Europe

Maarten Koreman, the Netherlands

Sebastien Perel, European council of young farmers: CEJA

Monika Slaninova, Slovakian Rural Parliament

Chaired by Anja Fortuna, Rural Youth Europe (tbc)

16:40

CLOSING VIEW of “what if,” and “why not”!

Hannes Lorenzen, ARC2020

Closing remarks from ERCA, PREPARE, ELARD.