



ERP Follow-Up: *Putting rural civil society in position*

June 23 11.00 – 15.00 CET

Scotland House Robert Schumanplein 6, 1040 Brussels

Introduction

The event, taking place in the framework of the follow-up of the 6th European Rural Parliament (ERP), aims to translate the outcomes of the 6th ERP Declaration of Inverurie and Call to Action into concrete policy dialogue and action at European level. Bringing together rural stakeholders, EU institutions and policymakers, the event will create a strategic space to assess progress, strengthen partnerships and position rural voices in key upcoming EU policy processes, particularly in the context of the post-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Cohesion Policy. At a time of evolving governance structures and shrinking participatory spaces, the event also seeks to reaffirm and strengthen the role of organised rural civil society in shaping European policies and ensuring that rural communities are not only heard but actively involved in decision-making.

Objectives of the event

1. To take stock of progress on the Declaration of Inverurie and identifying key priorities for action.
2. To contribute to current EU policy discussions, particularly on the post-2027 MFF, CAP, Cohesion Policy and the NRPP's.
3. To strengthen the role and coordination of rural civil society, ensuring a strong and visible rural voice in the European policy space.
4. To identify space and actions for partnerships between the ERP, EU relevant policymakers and public bodies, including the Rural Pact.

The outcome should be a strategy to organize the rural voice in Europe and the position of the ERP in that rural voice.

Agenda

| Time | Subject | People |
|----------------|---|--|
| BLOCK 1 | INTRODUCTION | |
| | RURAL COMMUNITIES AS SOLUTIONS TO EUROPE'S CHALLENGES | |
| 11.00 - 11.05 | Opening Rural Areas as solutions to Europe's Challenges | Chairperson Tom Jones |
| 11.05 - 11.10 | Welcome on behalf of the Scottish Government | Brian Grogans - Head of the Rural Policy Unit in the Scottish Government |
| 11.10 - 11.15 | 6 th ERP message: Scottish Rural Action: Host of the 6 th ERP | Theona Morrison Chair of SRA |
| 11.15 - 11.25 | Strengthening the rural voice from civil society perspective: the ERP as a unique civil society movement of 70 partners | Goran Soster ERP |
| BLOCK 2 | RURAL IN THE EU POLICY PROCESSES | |
| 11.25 - 11.35 | Rural development in the post 2027 MFF period. | Mrs. Maria Walsh MEP |
| 11.35 - 11.45 | The LTVRA in current EU policy discussions and the position of civil society | Mrs. Alexia Rouby DG AGRI |
| 11.45 - 11.55 | The Right to Stay-strategy | Mrs. Diletta Zonta DG REGIO |
| 11.55 - 12.05 | Q and A on policy processes | Tom Jones |
| BLOCK 3 | PANEL 1 | |

| | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| | <p align="center">How can we organize a strong and united rural voice within and outside the Rural Pact?</p> <p><i>Reflections on the future of stakeholder engagement and rural civil society cooperation. How to strengthen the rural voice from the civil society perspective? How does the Rural Pact support this voice now and in the future? How to ensure support to make the voice heard independently?</i></p> | |
| 12.05 – 12.45 | Stakeholder engagement: rural civil society cooperation | Vanessa Halhead ERP |
| | Stakeholder engagement: the Rural Pact agenda 2026 | Enrique Nieto RPSO |
| | Stakeholder engagement: The position of rural communities. | Michael Schmitz CEMR |
| | Moderator | Anita Selicka |
| 12.45 - 13.30 | LUNCH BREAK | |
| BLOCK 4 | GROUP DISCUSSIONS <i>What can ERP contribute to a strong rural voice?</i> | |
| 13.30 – 14.10 | <p>What can Civil Society and the ERP contribute to a strong rural voice? What actions must be taken for that? Which partnerships between the ERP and other relevant bodies could be build?</p> | 4 groups + 4 moderators |
| BLOCK 5 | PANEL 2 ERP Steering Group: What is the best way to move forward? | |
| 14.10 - 14.45 | <p>Step 1 Moderators share concisely what they discussed and which actions to take up. Step 2: The Panel reacts to the recommendations: what is the best way to move forward?</p> <p>Moderator</p> | <p>ELARD: Goran Soster RYE: Spyros Papadatos PREPARE: Miodrag Matavulj ERCA: Tom Jones</p> <p>Ben van Essen</p> |
| BLOCK 6 | CONCLUSIONS | |
| 14.45 - 14.55 | Wrap up by Key Listener | Edina Ocsko |
| 14.55 - 15.00 | Closing | Chairperson Tom Jones |

On behalf of the European Rural Parliament Steering Group

Tom Jones – President of the European Rural Community Alliance ERCA

Piotr Sadlocha – President of the European Leader Association for Rural Development ELARD

Guoda Burokeine - President of the Partnership for Rural Europe PREPARE

Ketrin Kastehein – Chairperson Rural Youth Europe RYE

info@europeanruralparliament.com

<https://europeanruralparliament.com>