



**THE RURAL COALITION
WELCOMES THE POLITICAL AGREEMENT ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY
FOR 2014-2020**

The Rural Coalition welcomes the political agreement on the Rural Development Policy (RDP) and underlines the importance of the involvement of the stakeholders in the preparation of detailed implementation rules of the policy.

A strong RDP is essential to improve support and foster the economic viability of rural areas, increase the capability and expertise of rural society actors, and enhance the provision of ecosystem services and thereby contribute to the wellbeing of society. The new RDP provides opportunities for rural actors to achieve these objectives, through measures that facilitate knowledge transfer and information actions, support investments and innovation uptake, encourage the young farmers and the setting up of producers groups or promote agriculture and forest environmental actions.

The Rural Coalition considers that the implementation of the new RDP should be based on stronger partnerships and early involvement of stakeholders, both at European and national levels. A reinforced participation of and partnerships with stakeholders will improve the effectiveness and outreach of the provided funding.

Our members manage three-quarters of Europe's land and thus, they are the key drivers of the rural economy. They play an important role in the development and management of rural areas in a multifunctional and sustainable way that contributes to a balanced territorial development.

5 JULY 2013

The Rural Coalition of Europe is a platform of organisations representing farmers, land managers, forest owners, hunters and other rural actors, who come together to promote and defend the importance of Rural Areas in the EU as well as defend the interests and livelihoods of those living and working in Europe's rural areas.

For further information:

COPA-COGECA - European farmers and European agri-cooperatives

CEPF - Confederation of European Forest Owners

CEJA - European Council of Young Farmers

ELO - European Landowners' Organization

FACE - The Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU

UECBV - The European Livestock and Meat Trades Union