

RURAL COALITION STATEMENT

RESPONSE TO THE OUTCOME OF THE SPECIAL EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF 7-8 FEBRUARY

THE RURAL COALITION OF EUROPE STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF A STRONG BUDGET FOR THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Rural Development Policy aims to keep rural areas economically viable and competitive, preserve cultural landscapes and at the same time enhance the provision of ecosystem services. This can only be met if adequate resources are being made available for the Rural Development Policy (RDP) under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Hence, the Rural Coalition of Europe welcomes the decision of the European Council on the Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020) which paves the way to finalising the work for next CAP programming period.

On the other hand, the Rural Coalition is disappointed by the failure of the European Council to provide enough resources to finance EU RDP in accordance with their objectives. The foundation for a sustainable RDP that will provide a sound future for rural areas needs a reliable framework in which to be built.

Our members manage three-quarters of Europe's land and produce almost all of its natural domestic resources. They deliver viable food, timber and other ecosystem services to society and at the same time contribute to a balanced territorial development. They are a key driver for sustainable and inclusive growth and employment in rural areas, thus significantly contributing to the EU 2020 goals.

ABOUT THE RURAL COALITION:

The Rural Coalition is a platform of organisations representing farmers, land managers, forest owners, hunters and other rural actors, who came 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 (Oana.Neagu@copa-cogeca.eu)

CEJA - European Council of Young Farmers (p.rouhier@ceja.eu)

ELO - European Landowners' Organization (forest@elo.org)

FACE - Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (gabor.vonbethlenfalvy@face.eu)

UECBV - The European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (glcapodiecici@uecbv.eu)

CEPF - Confederation of European Forest Owners (wendelin.gravenreuth@cepf-eu.org)