



ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES VOIES VERTES
EUROPEAN GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION
ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE VÍAS VERDES



Comments on the reform of the Advisory Groups of the DG Agri

MER-Com2013-3 - July 2013

International Association Rurality-Environment-Development

European Committee of Property Owners

European Federation of Rural Tourism

European Greenways Association

European Leader Association for Rural Development

European Rural University

International Association of Family Movements for Rural Training

International Federation of Equestrian Tourism

Peri Urban Regions Platform Europe

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European Countryside Movement - July 2013

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The reform of the Advisory Groups of the DG Agri

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In the framework of the reform of the DG Agri Advisory Groups and the reducing of their number,

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partner of the European Countryside Movement,

suggest the following comments and proposals:

- ⇒ future functioning of the Advisory Groups must enable them to take a proactive role in relation to the European policies carried by DG Agri and not to be merely, for the most part, information spaces on recent advances in CAP;
- ⇒ given the societal stakes carried by rural territories and the second pillar of the CAP, the Advisory Group on Rural Development should be maintained, with at least the same number of participants;
- ⇒ the areas of competence of the Advisory Group on Rural Development will cover the three objectives of the second pillar of the CAP :
 - the competitiveness of agriculture
 - the sustainable management of natural resources, and climate action,
 - a balanced territorial development of rural areas;
- ⇒ Working Groups should be established at least in relation to each of the three objectives of the rural development policy. Working Groups should be oriented towards more practical and useful results.
- ⇒ interrelationship of the CAP with other policies of the Strategic Framework (ERDF, ESF, EMFF, Cohesion Fund, multi-fund local development, ...) will also be addressed by this Advisory Group ;
- ⇒ the composition of the Advisory Group on Rural Development should be reviewed to better reflect the diversity and contribution of development actors in rural areas, both in their areas of activity than in their nature : economy (in conjunction with their contribution to GDP), environment, society, training, governance and territorial cohesion...

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