High level representatives from 7 European regions meet to discuss strategies to raise the attractiveness of mountain areas

Key stakeholders all around Europe will assemble this Wednesday 27th of June in the European Parliament to discuss practical strategies to improve the life of people living in mountain regions all around Europe. MEP Veronica Lope Fontagné (Spain) is hosting the meeting, where MEP Fiorello Provera (Italy), MEP Jens Nilsson (Sweden), Carmen Pobo Sánchez, President of the Province of Teruel, (Spain), Ronning Dag, Chairman of the Hedmark County Council (Norway), Leif Nilsson, president of the region Dalarna, (Sweden) and Jan Edøy, Councilor for Regional Policy and Local Government, Mission of Norway to the EU are invited to intervene.

In a context where more and more people are leaving the big urban centres in search of a better quality of life, some mountain areas encounter a “rural renaissance”. A beautiful environment, a quieter life, close to family and friends, are given an increasing value and are found in mountain areas. Some people even move from one country to another to find the environment they look for. There seems to be a competition for people moving out from the Netherlands to mountain areas of Massif Central or Sweden!

Moreover, the recent economic crisis emphasizes these movements, like in Spain where unemployed people leave the cities for their country side (sometimes abandoned) home where they grow quality vegetables and start running small enterprises. Mountain areas gain from this migration of people who bring their fresh mind-set, dynamism and increase slightly their demographic weight.

This situation and the strategies to attract and maintain specific target groups of people to mountain areas will be discussed during the meeting starting at 2.30 pm, on Wednesday 27th of June. The meeting is organised in the framework of the project INTERREG IVC PADIMA Policies Against Depopulation In Mountain Areas. The project is managed by the Provincial Government of Teruel, Spain and gathers 8 partners from 5 European countries. During this project of cooperation, partners have collected and exchanged 99 good practices to fight depopulation in their regions. Finally, each partner will transfer a good practice identified during the project with the aim of improving the regional policies in their region.

The 99 good practices identified during the project, the 3 policy and recommendations guides and the final report of the project detailing the results and the strategies by target group are available on-line at www.padima.org. The most significant findings and good practices will be discussed or presented on 27th of June. For more information, please contact:

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