

“Cross-border solutions for sustainable growth in mountain and sensitive regions”

Committee of the Regions - Room JDE 51
Rue Belliard 99-101, Brussels – Belgium

20 February 2014

09:00 – 9:30 Registration and welcome coffee

PART 1

- 9:30 – 09:40 Introduction and programme for the day
Daniel Guéguen, Professor at the College of Europe (Moderator)
- 09:40 – 09:50 Welcome message – **Antonio Pettinari**, President of the Province of Macerata, Italy
- 09:50 – 10:15 Opening address with a short Q&A session:
Jose Manuel Sousa Uva, Deputy Director General of DG AGRI in charge of Rural Development Directorate, European Commission
- 10:15 – 10:30 Keynote Speech:
Csaba Hende, Programme Manager at DG Regional Policy, Unit D1: Competence Centre Macro-regions and European Territorial Co-operation – Transnational and Interregional Cooperation, European Commission
- 10:30 – 10:45 SEE Programme 2007-2013: Successful results of territorial cooperation
Alessandra Pala, Project Manager – SEE Programme - Joint Technical Secretariat
- 10:45 – 11.10 Best Practice examples for transnational cooperation – projects in the SEE area:
- **Green Mountain, Access2Mountain, BioREGIO Carpathians, BeNatur, Danube Parks** – SEE Programme
- **Breaking the Borders: Mountain Tourism Development** – Joint operational Program Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013
- 11:10 – 11:30 Coffee Break
- 11:30 – 12:00 *Best Practice examples for transnational cooperation (cont.)*
- 12:00 - 13:00 **Panel 1:** Towards a European Policy for the Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions
- **Andrea Vettori**, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Environment (Agriculture, Soil and Forests), European Commission
 - **Herbert Dorfmann**, MEP, Member of AGRI Committee of the European Parliament

- **Thierry de l'Escaille**, Secretary General of the European Landowners Organisation
- **Kirsten Birke Lund**, Vice-President of the European LEADER Association for Rural Development

13:00 – 14:00 Networking Buffet

PART 2

14:00 – 15:00 **Panel 2:** Transnational bio-corridors – projects to bring macro-regional strategies on the ground

- **Marco Fritz**, DG Environment, Unit B.2: Biodiversity (Green Infrastructure), European Commission
- **Florian Ballnus**, Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection, Representative of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region
- **Guido Plassmann**, Director of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC)
- **Federico Minozzi**, EUROPARC Federation, Brussels Office

15:00 – 15:15 Keynote Speech: “Rural development through sustainable management of mountain and forest areas in SEE”
Katerina Spasovska, Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group of South Eastern Europe (SWG RRD)

15:15 – 15:45 Green Mountain and Euromontana – Joint initiative for the creation of a “**Focus Group on Sustainable Mountain Development in South Eastern Europe**”

- **Antonio Pettinari**, President of the Province of Macerata
- **Juan Andrés Gutierrez**, President of Euromontana
- Official signature of a Memorandum of Understanding
- Invitation to other organisations to join the SEE Mountain Focus Group

15:45 – 16:00 Conclusions

Cocktail to celebrate the inauguration of the SEE Mountain Focus Group

Interpretation service will be provided in EN/FR/IT