

Speakers and contributions

(on 18 January 2002 - incomplete list)

European institutions

Michel Barnier, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, EC
Nikoforos Sivenas, Director for Rural Development, DG Agri, EC
Luciano Caveri, Italian Member of the European Parliament
Carlos Carnero, Spanish Member of the European Parliament
Dimitrios Katyforis, Greek Member of the European Parliament
Michl Ebner, Italian Member of the European Parliament

National and regional authorities

Mária Kadleciková, Deputy Prime Minister, Slovakia
Akis Tsohatzopoulos, Minister for Development, Greece [to be confirmed]
Ministers for Environment and Rural Affairs; EU-Structural Funds, Scotland UK
Jesus Maria Alonso Vallejo, Director for Planification and Community policies, Department of Agriculture of the Basque Government, Spain
Kapta Pancheva, Head of International affairs, Ministry for Regional Development, Bulgaria [to be confirmed]
Dimitrios Kossyvakis, Member of the National Parliament, Greece
David Green, Convener of The Highland Council, Scotland-UK
Radu Rey, Director of the National Agency for Mountain areas - Ministry for Agriculture, Romania
David B Henderson-Howat, Chief Conservator for Scotland, Forestry Commission, UK
and representatives from : the Autonomous Province of Trento and the Province of Torino, Italy

Institutes and Universities

Laurent Van Depoele (Former Director for Rural Development in DG Agri), Leuven University
Martin Price, Centre for mountain studies, Perth College, Scotland-UK
Prof. Gilles Bazin, National Institute for Agronomic Research, France
Bob Crabtree, Economics Consultant and Andrew Copus, University of Aberdeen, Scotland-UK and contributions by :
Nordregio, Research Centre for Spatial Planning and Regional Development, Norway / Sweden / Finland
Euriles, European islands system of links and exchanges
ISARA-Lyon, Agricultural Institute of Rhône Alpes, France
The Faculty of Forestry of the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina
Agrocert, Agency for the certification in agriculture, Greece
The Mountain Institute of Cristian-Sibiu, Romania

Further information on the Programme and how to reserve a place, plus details of travel and accommodation in Inverness may be found via www.hie.co.uk/mountainconvention

Acknowledgements



FIRST
ANNOUNCEMENT

Agricultural organisations

Massimo Pacetti, President of the Italian Confederation of Farmers, Italy
Iain MacAskill, Chairman of the Crofters Commission, Scotland-UK
Rupert Huber, President of the working Group on "Mountains and less favoured areas" of the COPA/COGECA
Gérard Bedos, President of the SUAIA-Pyrénées, France
Firmino Cordeiro, President of AJAP, Association of Young Farmers from Portugal [to be confirmed]
and contributions by
FNSEA, National Federation of Farmers Unions, France
FAER, Foundation for the Promotion of Food and Agriculture, Romania
SUACI, Agricultural Service for Northern Alps, France
COPAMAC-SIDAM, Agricultural Service for Massif Central, France
FAMD, Federation of Mountain Farmers from Dorna, Romania

International Organisations

Mario Pezzini, OECD
FAO (to be confirmed)

Development or environmental agencies

Sandy Cumming, Executive Director, HIE, Scotland UK
Iain Jardine, Chief Executive of Scottish Natural Heritage, Scotland
Regional Agency for Environment, Pyrénées - France
CEFIDEC, Innovation and Training Centre of the Carpathes, Romania

Mountain associations

Frank Gaskell, President of Euromontana
Jean-Claude Monin, President of the European Observatory for Mountain Forests
AEM, European Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Areas
SAB, Swiss Group for Mountain areas
ANEM, French Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Areas
Makmontana, Association for the development of Mountain areas, Macedonia-Fyrom
FFEM, French Federation for Mountain Economy

3rd EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN CONVENTION INVERNESS (SCOTLAND) 16-18 May 2002

Our mountains - A Future Strength of European Rural Development



and in partnership with:



The Third European Mountain Convention

Background and Context

Euromontana

Euromontana is organising the Third European Mountain Convention.

Euromontana is the European association for the co-operation between mountain areas. It promotes rural sustainable development at the European level. Its projects operate on the basis of a network of member organisations (mountain associations, agricultural organisations, research institutes, communities...) throughout Western, Central and Eastern Europe.

Euromontana has a long history. It was created at the initiative of FAO in 1956 as an informal "European Conference for the economic, social and environmental problems of mountain areas". Since its legal constitution in 1996, Euromontana has developed intensively its expertise on European mountain rural development by means of studies, operational projects and regular exchanges between mountain representatives and experts. Its contributions in the field of rural development are now widely recognised in Europe.

The challenges of the Third European Mountain Convention

Previous European Mountain Conventions in **Ljubljana, Slovenia (1998)** and **Trento, Italy (2000)**, gathered mountain representatives from all over Europe to take stock of the **current European issues** related to mountain development and identify **common recommendations and strategies**.

In addition to this the 3rd European Mountain Convention will :

- ◆ ensure efficient communication and awareness raising within the framework of the **International Year of the Mountains**,

- ◆ launch the preparation of strong contributions towards **the coming developments of the European Union** - its unprecedented enlargement and the related reforms of the regional and agricultural policies in **2006**.

Partnerships

Major agencies and institutions involved in rural development in Scotland **Highlands & Islands Enterprise, the Crofters Commission, Scottish Natural Heritage, The Highland Council, the Forestry Commission** have committed themselves not only to host the event and ensure it achieve its goals, but also offer a unique appreciation of Scottish mountain environments and culture.

The European Observatory for Mountain Forests will ensure that the forestry aspects of rural development are highlighted at different stages of the programme and, in collaboration with the UK Forestry Commission, will organise a training session on Saturday 18 May including field visits.

The Friends of the Mountains group of the European Parliament is involved in the preparation of a special round table on Friday 17 May.

Several **member organisations** of Euromontana will disseminate information about the Third European Mountain Convention in their country.

Our mountains - A Future Strength of European rural Development

Mountain areas are known for their permanent geographical handicaps, which have consequences for their development. Nevertheless the vision of the Third European mountain Convention is of mountain areas succeeding in developing their potentials and overcoming their natural handicaps, so that their unique assets can be secured for the benefit of Europe.

The programme will comprise the following sessions and events :

New intelligence of mountain areas in 2002

Describing the real conditions of mountain areas with scientific, economic and statistical data has always been a key challenge at the European level. In anticipation of the EU study to be completed in March 2003, this session will present the results of a pilot statistical study of all Europe's mountains, and will consider other complementary analysis of mountain conditions. The way other territorial entities (islands, sparsely populated areas) are described in Europe will also be presented.

Potentials to develop

The Third European Mountain Convention will concentrate on the potential of mountain areas to achieve rural sustainable development. Some of these opportunities will be investigated in the form of workshops : quality products, forests and renewable resources, cultural identity, social capital and intraregional co-operation, and the positive externalities of mountain land use.

The conclusions of these workshops will be reported in a plenary session and their combined outcome should highlight the driving forces of future mountain rural development and provide the first recommendations to support this development.

A vision for the European Mountains in 2020

Before opening a debate on the political issues, the Third European Mountain Convention will invite decision-makers and experts at a round table to imagine what European mountain areas could and should be in 2020, and how to achieve this vision.

The political issues

The Third European Mountain Convention will examine some key political issues in Europe and their related impact in the current EU countries, the future members and other European countries which develop their co-operation with the Union.

◆ The EU-Regional policy

- *Enlargement and territorial cohesion policy : situation and prospects*
- *The options for a new regional policy and the projected impact in mountain regions, in Western and Eastern European Countries (Developments and trends from the Second Cohesion Report, the territorial priority for areas with permanent handicaps)*
- *The general consideration of territorial issues within the Community institutions*

◆ The EU-Agricultural policy

- *General overview on the developments of the CAP and rural development within the CAP*
- *The mid-term review of the CAP and the objectives for the reform of 2006*
- *The situation in the CEEC and the expected agricultural impact of the enlargement*
- *The WTO negotiations and their effect on the developments of the CAP*

◆ Environmental common policy and the role of national policies

Mountain areas deliver important aspects of EU environmental policies. The implications of this for regional development and the need for co-ordination with other policy fields will be discussed.

EVENTS

- ◆ **Forestry training session** including field visits to Forests and forestry in mountain rural development

- ◆ **MEPs round table**

VISITS

Field visits will be organised on Saturday 18 May 2002 including visits to eco-tourism facilities in Mountain communities