



EUROMONTANA
European association of mountain areas

**IMPLEMENT THE CORK DECLARATION
SOLUTIONS FOR AND FROM MOUNTAIN AREAS**



Euromontana is the European Association for mountain areas. Founded in 1996, it assembles around 70 organisations from around 20 European countries in and out of the EU. Dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life of mountain people, Euromontana is working on different themes of crucial importance for mountain areas, such as climate change, innovation, mountain products, tourism, agriculture and forestry, transport, youth, etc. Euromontana is also officially supporting the intergroup RUMRA (Rural, Mountainous and Remote Areas) of the European Parliament. Euromontana participates in three different Civil Dialogue Groups on Rural Development, Quality and Promotion, and CAP and one of his members, Dominique Fayel, is currently the Chairmanship of the CDG on Rural Development in the name of Euromontana.

Contact:

Juanan Gutiérrez, President
president@euromontana.org

Marie Clotteau, Director
marie.clotteau@euromontana.org



CONTEXT

Euromontana members welcome the Cork Declaration of 6 September 2016. This bottom-up approach has now to be implemented by the stakeholders and also by the European Commission. This document presents **some contributions of mountain areas for the implementation of the Cork Declaration and suggests solutions that will benefit not only mountain areas but also all rural areas**. In addition, **we encourage the European Commission to transpose the Cork priorities into a real Agenda for rural areas** that Euromontana has advocated for several years with, notably, the members of the European Countryside Movement; the Members of the European Parliament of the RUMRA (Rural, Mountainous and Remote Areas) Intergroup and the Committee of the Regions.



PROMOTING RURAL PROSPERITY

WHAT DOES EUROMONTANA DO?

- Contributes with the **“Towards Mountains 2020”** document on the EU2020 Strategy by listing what mountain areas can deliver for the 11 thematic objectives of the Structural and Investment Funds.
- Supports the **RUMRA (Rural, Mountainous and Remote Areas) intergroup** of the European Parliament.
- Supports the delivery and maintenance of **high quality Services of General Interest** as developed on [our position paper](#).

WHAT CAN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DO?

- Ensure the maintenance and long-term funding of the **Services of General Interest** in all mountain areas, with particular regard to the more remote areas.
- **Search for and support of integrated territorial strategies for the delivery of Services of General Interest.**
- Maintain the **compensatory allowance scheme for areas with natural handicaps** for mountain areas which is vital to maintain agriculture and encourage production in mountain areas and avoid land abandonment.
- **Support sustainable and well-performing transport networks** (road, public transport, on-demand transport, electric vehicles) over the whole territory including cross-border commuting.
- **Ensure the access to forests and agriculture areas with appropriate transport means** in order to reduce the production costs of the resources (wood, non-wood forest products, agricultural products).
- **Push the roll-out of ultra-broad-band in rural areas including new technologies**, which should be first developed in these areas to give them a comparative advantage.
- **Support the diversification of the tourism sector** on the background of new consumer's needs, demographic change and climate change.



STRENGTHENING RURAL VALUE CHAINS

WHAT DOES EUROMONTANA DO?

- Follows and provides information on **implementation of the legislation on the optional quality term mountain** products at country, region and producer levels.
- **Develops a new [Charter on Mountain Quality Food Products](#)** to valorise and better recognise mountain products to augment Euromontana's Charter on Mountain Quality Products 2005 and to support the Delegated Act on the optional quality term for mountain products.
- **Shares good practices and communicate** about mountain products, such as with the project "[A New CAP – mountains of opportunities](#)" and the [European Mountain Convention in 2014 in Bilbao](#) and about

funding opportunities to strengthen mountain supply chains.

WHAT CAN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DO?

- Remind the Member States about the **obligation to adapt the delegated act** on mountain product.
- Explicitly integrate some **calls for mountain products** in the call for proposals of its promotion policy.
- Encourage the continuity of farming systems, such as traditional mountain agriculture, that deliver **ecosystem services**.
- Adopt a more holistic and participatory approach when dealing with mountain at wider level with rural areas, particularly by the creation of an **Agenda for EU mountainous regions as requested in an [EP Report on Cohesion policy in mountainous regions of the EU](#)**.



INVESTING IN RURAL VIABILITY AND VITALITY

WHAT DOES EUROMONTANA DO?

- Supports the development of High-Speed Broadband and trains the SMEs to better use the digital resources available, such as tourism operators in the [DANTE](#) project.
- Shares good practices on how to make mountain areas attractive for [young people](#), [working people](#) and [senior persons](#) in the [PADIMA](#) project.
- Participates in the ENRD Smart, Competitive Businesses Group.
- Encourages sustainable transport in rural and mountain areas with the [Move on Green Project](#).

WHAT CAN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DO?

- Disseminate the existing knowledge: for example, DG Growth has collected IT tools for tourism SMEs that could be shared with DG AGRI.
- Support **more access to finance for businesses** (including for small projects).
- Encourage **ambassadors of the regions**: identify and promote successful "regional ambassadors" in order to raise the confidence of young people in their capacity to have a successful life in mountain areas.
- Support sustainable transport options (public transport, on-demand transport, electric vehicles).



PRESERVING THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

WHAT DOES EUROMONTANA DO?

- **Supports better and more ecosystem services** provided by farmers and forestry owners, through the H2020 project [PEGASUS](#).
- **Encourages the discussion and exchange of information between different types of actors: farmers, environmentalists, researchers, local and regional authorities.**

WHAT CAN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DO?

- Appreciate the **ecosystem services** provided by mountain farmers and forestry owners, and better compensate these ecosystem services, which contribute to the well-being of society as a whole.
- Support a **more coherent policy mix to trigger action** by land managers.
- Identify ways to ensure **long-term provision** of ecosystem services within multifunctional economies, secure environmental quality, sustain cultural heritage and improve the well-being of mountain people.



MANAGING NATURAL RESOURCES

WHAT DOES EUROMONTANA DO?

- **Supports and maintains pastoral activities** in mountain areas through the study "[Challenges of pastoralism](#)" for the French Ministry of Agriculture.
- Restores and maintains a favourable conservation status for mountain grassland habitats through the **adequate management of grazing livestock** through the Life Project OREKA MENDIAN.
- Organises a [workshop on Circular economy in mountain forest supply chain](#).

WHAT CAN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DO?

- **Support the maintenance of biodiversity** in general and, in particular, the diversity of mountain production systems and the genetic diversity of breeds and varieties. This diversity, gives value to all mountain areas through farming, especially those with the greatest challenges.
- Encourage the preservation of **ecological continuity** between reservoirs of biodiversity and protected areas, through the maintenance and construction of natural corridors between Natura 2000 areas and existing protected areas, including across national borders.



ENCOURAGING CLIMATE ACTION

WHAT DOES EUROMONTANA DO?

- Supports adaptation and mitigation measures in mountain areas with the organisation of the [European Mountain Convention in Bragança in 2016](#) (See the [Declaration of Bragança: "Face the challenge of Climate Change: adaptation for future generations"](#)).
- Shares [good practices on adaptation measures](#) for agriculture and forestry, sustainable energy and water, biodiversity and protected areas, tourism, transport and ICT and management of natural hazards.

WHAT CAN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DO?

- **Take into account territorial specificities** and

recognize the key role played by mountain areas in climate regulation.

- **Monitor mountain ecosystems.**
- **Accompany the change in the long-term** by providing financial resources and knowledge for climate change adaptation.
- **Redirect research and innovation towards adaptation processes** in mountain areas and, above all, to propose new paths and tools to adapt to climate change.
- **Strengthen regional production chains** in agriculture, forestry, and industry to avoid unnecessary transport of goods and in so doing to strengthen the regional added value.



BOOSTING KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

WHAT DOES EUROMONTANA DO?

- Supports the [Strategic Research Agenda: Mountains for Europe's future](#).
- Shares **good practices and facilitate transfer of knowledge between its wide range of members:** from researchers to farmers; from environmentalists to local and regional authorities; from enterprises to training institutes.
- Advances **understanding of social innovation and innovative governance** in agriculture, forestry and rural development through the H2020 project [SIMRA](#) (Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas).
- Participates in the EIP-AGRI and ENRD networks, es-

pecially in the **subgroup on innovation.**

- Submits proposals for thematic networks on innovation in mountain areas.

WHAT CAN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DO?

- Include in the 2018-2020 H2020 calls under H2020 **some specific topics on interdisciplinary research on mountains** that could offer insights and solutions to pressing challenges currently facing Europe.
- **Create regional centres of excellence** with activities targeting the specific potential of mountain areas.



ENHANCING RURAL GOVERNANCE

WHAT DOES EUROMONTANA DO?

- Communicates and disseminates to our members good practices, new findings and discussions of the Civil Dialogue Groups, ENRD work and EIP-AGRI work.
- **Improves territorial governance** by establishing, promoting, monitoring, evaluating and comparing effects of Social Innovation in rural areas in the [SIMRA](#) project.
- Develops close links with **Local Action Groups**

WHAT CAN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DO?

- Better integrate the **diversity of rural areas** taking into account place-based development.
- Continue **supporting integrated territorial approaches** at intermunicipal level (CCLD, formerly LEADER-approach).
- Deliver **technical and administrative support to the macroregional strategies**.
- Encourage a constructive dialogue **between rural and urban areas**.



ADVANCING POLICY DELIVERY & SIMPLIFICATION / IMPROVING PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

WHAT CAN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DO?

- **Give priority to access to high speed broadband** by favouring remote areas where public incentives should be stronger than in densely populated areas.
- **Decrease red-tape and unnecessary administrative burden**, including for the territorial cooperation programmes (Interreg).
- Reduce **complicated set of regulations**.
- **Enhance capacity building, knowledge development – “soft” infrastructure support**.
- **Give more flexibility for the state aid rules when supporting Services of General interest**.



EUROMONTANA
2 Place Du Champ De Mars
B-1050 Bruxelles
Belgium
Tel : +32 (0) 2 280 42 83
info@euromontana.org