



Purple

Peri-Urban Regions Platform Europe

PRESS RELEASE

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The contribution of peri-urban regions to the sustainable growth of Europe's cities demonstrated to the EP Urban Intergroup



Michel GREGOIRE

"Long term sustainability in all its aspects - economic, social and environmental - is a shared challenge for Europe's cities together with their peri-urban neighbouring areas" insisted **Michel GREGOIRE**, new President of PURPLE, the voice of the peri-urban regions in Europe, opening the hearing organised on 9 November under the auspices of the Urban Intergroup of the European Parliament as part of the Randstad Region Week in Brussels.

A few weeks after the EU "Budget Review" and at the eve of the presentation, by the European Commission, of the 5th Cohesion Report launching the debate about the EU regional policy after 2013, **Asje Van DIJK** (Randstad region - Member of the Executive Board, Province of Zuid-Holland) and **Philip ATKINS** (West Midlands - Leader of Staffordshire County Council) presented several convincing cases studies on behalf of the PURPLE regions. Both of them clearly showed that peri-urban territories provide vital resources which support Europe's urban populations and enhance the quality of life of city dwellers.

"Policy makers need to avoid "sectorisation" and find ways to create links and relations between cities and their surrounding areas - whatever we call them" reacted **Jan OLBRYCHT**, President of the URBAN Intergroup.

"This discussion clearly demonstrated that the sustainable growth of Europe's cities cannot be realised fully without the contribution of their neighbouring peri-urban areas" concluded **Lambert Van NISTELROOIJ**, Vice-President of the URBAN Intergroup. He advised the PURPLE network *"to come up with ideas for new solutions for a framework of funding and support better able to respond to complex regional situations"*.

"I trust the Urban Intergroup members will "think peri-urban" in their ongoing work on future EU policies - we are here to help!" confirmed **Michel GREGOIRE**.



Asje Van DIJK and L. Van NISTELROOIJ

PURPLE 15 member Regions: Catalonia, Dublin, Flanders, Frankfurt Rhein-Main, Ile-de-France, Mazovia, MHAL (Maastricht/Heerlen, Hasselt, Aachen, and Liège), Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Randstad, Rhône-Alpes, South-East England, Southern Moravia, Stockholm, West Midlands, ZealandDenmark

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