



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 5<sup>th</sup> 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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