



Purple **PRESS RELEASE**

The peri-urban Regions are key to the success of the future European agricultural Policy

On the 22nd of May 2008, only two days after the European Commission's proposals in the context of "Health Check" of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) the **PURPLE** network, the voice of peri-urban Regions in Europe, will present its position on the future of EU agriculture.

In the **PURPLE** Regions, agriculture continues to play a major role, representing highly modern and efficient enterprises producing for world markets whilst others fulfil a crucial mission in maintaining landscapes and offering local products for nearby city populations. These peri-urban areas meet particular challenges for their agriculture and it is then crucial to recognise the specific peri-urban agenda in the European regulations on agriculture and rural development.

During this event, Mariann Fisher Boel, the European Commissioner in charge of Agriculture and Rural development, as well as politicians and experts from the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, NGOs, the academic sector and other stakeholders will not only discuss the challenges confronted by the peri-urban zones but also the opportunities they can offer to face the economic, social, agricultural and environmental challenges of today's society.

The time has come, at the European level, to think beyond the rural-urban divide and to recognise that the spectrum of change from rural to urban is fragmented, multidimensional and ever evolving. Peri-urban Regions, at the interface between urban and rural trends, are key to the equilibrium of the EU territory as a whole and to the well-being of its citizens.

With the organisation of this event in the Committee of the Regions in Brussels, the **PURPLE** network wants to contribute to the discussions on the European Agricultural Policy...and its vital peri-urban dimension.

PURPLE 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, Stockholm and West Midlands

Programme of the conference: <http://www.purple-eu.org/en/A-common-page/Calendar/General-Assembly-and-PURPLE-event>

PURPLE web site: <http://www.purple-eu.org>

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