



Purple

PRESS RELEASE

Peri-Urban Regions Platform Europe

8 July 2010

The potential of Europe's peri-urban agriculture acknowledged by EU Institutions

The **PURPLE** network, the voice of peri-urban Regions in Europe, welcomes the fact that both the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions have recognised the vital importance of agriculture in Europe's peri-urban areas.

Indeed, in its report on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy after 2013¹ adopted today, the European Parliament draws attention to ***“the particular role played by farmers in peri-urban areas, where there can be intensive pressures on rural and agricultural resources”*** and ***“stresses that this production of food and public goods near urban populations should be maintained”***.

In its own-initiative opinion² adopted last month, the Committee of the Regions also considered ***“that an overhaul of the Common Agricultural Policy is essential [...] to mitigate the current and future developments and their negative impact on Europe's people and on rural areas, including peri-urban areas”*** and ***“that the Common Agricultural Policy after 2013 must rebalance its support in favour of employment and of maintaining an agricultural presence in vulnerable areas, including peri-urban territories”***.

Mrs Lenie Dwarshuis-van de Beek³, President of **PURPLE**, reacted to this institutional recognition of the potential of Europe's peri-urban agriculture: ***“I trust that the European Commission will take these important opinions into account when drafting its proposal for the CAP post 2013 since peri-urban regions have a real potential to contribute to Europe's long term agricultural matrix. I'm confident, as Dacian Cioloş, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural development himself stated in a number of recent speeches⁴ that tools that meets the needs of peri-urban regions are not necessarily the same as those suited for other territories”***.

PURPLE 14 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, West Midlands and ZealandDenmark

Contact: Hilary Lawson, **PURPLE** secretary - info@purple-eu.org

www.purple-eu.org

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A7-2010-0204+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

² https://toad.cor.europa.eu/ViewDoc.aspx?doc=%5c%5cisis%5cdfs%5cesp_public%5ccdr%5cnat-v%5cdossiers%5cnat-v-003%5cEN%5cCDR127-2010_REV1_PAC_EN.doc

³ Member of the Executive Board of the Dutch province of Zuid-Holland

⁴ Referring to Dacian Cioloş' speeches in the European Parliament (12 April 2010), the Committee of the Regions (14 April 2010) and the European Economic and Social Committee (28 April 2010). See:

- <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/10/150&format=PDF&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> ;

- <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/10/159&format=PDF&aged=0&language=FR&guiLanguage=en> ;

- <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/10/192&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN>

