



Intergroup

Mountains, Islands, Sparsely Populated Regions

Brussels 24th of February 2010

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT Room: **A3F383**
From 13H - 14H

Press release

Kick off meeting of Intergroup « Mountains, Islands, Sparsely Populated Regions : Group 174»

Following the official approval of the parliamentary intergroup dedicated to specific territories, a first meeting took place on 24th of February at the European Parliament (EP). At this occasion, participants could discuss activities of the Intergroup, debate about its future functioning and define its priorities.

The meeting was initiated by the President of the Intergroup Boguslaw Sonik (EPP-ED), as well as the Vice President in charge of mountain issues Jean-Pierre Audy (EPP-ED) and the Vice President in charge of island issues Alyn Smith (Green/EFA). Other MEPs could join the meeting and express their support and their interest in the future cooperation with the Intergroup, such as MEPs representing France - François Alfonsi (Green/EFA), Michel Dantin (EPP-ED) and Maurice Ponga (EPP-ED), Italy - Herbert Dorfmann (EPP-ED), Pier Antonio Panzeri (EPP-ED) and Giancarlo Scotta (EDF), Spain - Rosa Estaras Ferragut (EPP-ED), Veronica Lope Fontagné (EPP-ED) and Teresa Riera Madurell (S&D), Poland - Elzbieta Lukacijewska (EPP-ED) and Malta - Eduard Scicluna (S&D).

The meeting was co-chaired by Nicolas Evrard, Secretary-General of the European Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Regions (AEM). Other associations involved in the Intergroup, such as Euromontana, the Island Commission of CPMR, Insuleur (Insular Chambers of Commerce and Industry) and the Northern Sparsely Populated Areas network could suggest some interesting propositions and priority guidelines. Following the agreement between associations, AEM will be in charge of the executive secretary and facilitate communication, coordinate the Intergroup's activities and raise strategic and political initiatives.

The Intergroup aims to contribute to current political debates and to come up with common positions on future of strategic European policies (EU 2020 strategy – green growth, cohesion policy, CAP, climate and energy package, budget reform etc.). In order to optimize these objectives, a reference MEP should be designated in each parliamentary committee in order to ensure coherent voting and support amendments.



ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENT
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PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN PARLAIMINT NA ĦEORPA PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EIROPAS PARLAMENTS
EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS EURÓPAI PARLAMENT IL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW EUROPEES PARLEMENT
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The Intergroup will develop a global analysis on Multilevel Governance, according to the need of innovative management and cooperation tools, adapted to regional and local realities, such as macroregional strategies and policies for mountain massifs. Contributions and analysis from national, regional and local actors will be naturally taken into account, as a result of the subsidiarity principle.

Furthermore, extra costs resulting from permanent natural handicaps (article 174 of the Lisbon Treaty) will remain important, especially concerning the budget reform and competition policy (through the proportionality principle).

According to the necessity of more territorial statistic indicators, Jean Didier Hache (Executive Secretary of CPMR Island Commission) presented a critical note on the Working paper of DG REGIO on “Territories with specific geographical features”. This critical draft shared by associations, reacts to DG REGIO preoccupying analysis on specific territories which excludes a large part of them.

Moreover, the involved MEPs and associations strongly welcome the creation of an “inter-services group” within the European Commission, as announced by Patrick Salez from DG REGIO. This initiative should encourage a constructive exchange and an integrated approach to the territorial cohesion objective. Territorial associations (AEM, CPRM) hope that such initiative could make emerge one of their long-time objective: a new European territorial governance.

All previous ideas and suggestions was largely approved by the MEPs and will be shaped throughout further monthly meetings. AEM will keep an active and interactive coordination of the Intergroup, thanks to specifically dedicated communication tools, such as Internet website and a logo representing “the Intergroup 174”.