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Resolution for the NSC and BSC Executive Committee

The future of the cohesion policy and the CAP 2014 and beyond

The regions are facing major challenges in the years to come. Our common challenges are globalisation, climate change and demography. All of them are connected to the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas and the continued discussion of sustainable development. The cohesion policy 2014-2020 and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) must reflect and consider these challenges.

The future program period should focus on economic growth, competition, innovation and sustainable development so they become an investment in regional development. It is our opinion that these keywords also should apply to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Regions have a responsibility for implementing the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas and it is a necessity to strengthen the regional level by giving appropriate tools of development and enhancing their influence in order to face the future challenges.

The members of the CPMR believe:

- It is important to start open and transparent discussions about the new program period and especially urging the regions to take an active part in these discussions.
- The CAP requires re-examination to ensure that it provides the necessary support to aid the transition of the agricultural sector into a modern industry which is less dependent on subsidisation.
- All future funding should have a clear focus towards economic growth and employment with sustainable development as a core value.
- The regions should play a key role in the allocation of the funds.
- The future cohesion policy should stronger connect the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas and have a long perspective, beyond 2020 in order to achieve the goals of the agendas. However, a long-term policy must also be periodically reviewed to assess its success.

The CPMR regions believe that the success of the post 2014 program period depends on a number of factors.

- The health check of the CAP is the first step towards a modern budget of the EU which supports modernisation of the agricultural sector.
- Innovation, competition and development should characterize the future cohesion policy and also be the basis of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). This would mean that a stronger

emphasis should be put on the objectives of the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas.

- The future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) should focus more on rural area development and relevant regional objectives, with the overall aim of creating a profitable and sustainable rural economy. Special attention should be given to regions with geographical and demographic constraints which affect their competitiveness. Rural development programs are a growth factor and can help regions that are less favoured to be more competitive. The effective integration of the agricultural sector into rural development in general should be a key feature of future rural development policies.
- Enterprises in the agricultural sector are of importance since they can support local and regional production. A revised European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) should emphasise this kind of entrepreneurship.
- Energy from the agricultural sector can make a significant contribution to the future sustainable European energy system, this would give less dependency on imported energy. The origin issue is connected to both climate change and food safety. Food mileage on provisions could also be an instrument to reduce climate change and enhance food safety. It is important to achieve a sustainable balance between food and fuel production, which takes account of global demand and the environmental impacts of transportation.
- Production in the agricultural sector should be ecologically and economically sustainable and driven by demand by the consumers. The new program should consider global safety of provisions. The future CAP should be decoupled from production and a better focus on the rural area development would gain a greater support among the citizens of Europe.