



CORK 2.0

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

5-6 SEPTEMBER 2016



DRAFT PROGRAMME

VERSION: 11/07/2016

MONDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2016

13:30 *Registration*
Welcome Coffee at the project market place

14:30 **Plenary Session**

Chair: Heino von Meyer, OECD

- **Phil Hogan**, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
 - **Czesław Adam Siekierski**, President of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, European Parliament
 - **Gabriela Matečná**, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Slovakia
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15:30 -18:15 **Work in parallel sessions**

PARALLEL SESSION 1 **Jobs, Growth and Investment in the agri-food supply chain and the wider rural economy**

Investments play a pivotal role in the sustainability of the agri-food chain. The capacity to provide or catalyse such investments is a key challenge for the CAP in view of the Commission priority of Jobs, Growth and Investments. This workshop will look at sustainable solutions for competitive and economically viable agriculture and rural areas. Particular attention needs to be given to issues such as increased competition on global markets, better risk management, quality requirements, enhancing cooperation, and developing new business models and value chains – bioeconomy and circular economy.

PARALLEL SESSION 2 **Rural Environment, Climate & Water**

The CAP is the key EU instrument to encourage sustainable resource management and the delivery of public goods related to the environment and climate. This workshop will look at the challenges related to issues such as sustainable intensification, emission mitigation, sustainable water management (quantity and quality) and a more result-oriented delivery towards biodiversity, soil and water objectives.

PARALLEL SESSION 3 **Targeting innovation to farmers' needs**

Agri-food is likely to benefit from breakthrough innovation in several areas in the coming decades. Challenges like climate change, an increasingly competitive international environment, and continued changes in the organisation of the supply chain require innovation. Opportunities offered by developments in ICT, breeding, and new markets hold promises for an innovative agriculture sector but would need to be further developed to take into account different types of farmers' needs. To meet these challenges and grasp the opportunities offered by innovation, farmers need to become knowledge workers. This workshop will address innovation needs and discuss policy answers regarding knowledge creation, transfer and sharing.

**PARALLEL
SESSION 4** **Rural Viability**

Demographic changes bring new opportunities but also challenges to the wider rural economy. Rural exodus reduces skills and knowledge needed to promote rural entrepreneurship. In some areas, this is further exacerbated by a lack of basic services. At the same time, rural areas can benefit from an influx of highly skilled urban dwellers. Broadband and ICT developments are breaking down many boundaries and rural areas must pick up on this trend and promote smart solutions and benefit from the growth in the digital economy. Improving rural-urban linkages could promote rural competitiveness and reduce the rural-urban drift of the population. A more integrated approach at regional level between villages and urban centres coupled with a better management of the rural-urban interactions can increase growth opportunities, job creation and quality of life. Rural areas also offer solutions for new societal challenges such as for instance the need to integrate migrants and refugees. Some rural areas have successfully turned this challenge into an opportunity, adding new skills and critical mass for the provision of basic services.

19:00 *Cocktail and walking dinner at the University College Cork*
Key-note speech by **Gunter Pauli**, Author of the Blue Economy

TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2016

09:00 **Parallel sessions continued**

10:30-11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 **Panel on innovative and alternative delivery mechanisms**

- **Doug O'Brien**, Senior Policy Advisor for Rural Affairs with the White House Domestic Policy Council
 - **Werner Schmidt**, Director Environment and Regional Development, European Investment Bank
 - **Janez Potočnik**, Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel (IRP), United Nations Environment Programme
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12:30 *Lunch*

14:00 **Plenary: reporting from the groups.**

15:30 *Coffee break*

16:00 **Presentation of a new Cork Declaration**

- Remarks by **Dr Franz Fischler**
 - Remarks and Closing by **Commissioner Phil Hogan**
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17:00 *End*
Press conference
