



Mr Jean-Claude Juncker  
European Commission  
200, rue de la Loi ; BE – 1049 Brussels

Brussels, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Dear President,

The Rural Coalition<sup>1</sup> would like to congratulate you on your appointment and that of your new team. We fully share your view about the importance of a dynamic countryside to achieve the agenda for “Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change”, taking into account that that over 77 percent of the EU’s territory is classified as rural and is home to around half of its population.

This Coalition has high expectations that the “cluster system” you have adopted for the Commission will help to improve the coordination and enhance the coherence of policies that regulate and influence the EU Countryside.

The contribution of rural areas to the major priorities set for the next five years such as growth and jobs are dependent on the competitiveness, rejuvenation and vitality of the sectors and business operating in the rural areas and on the resources available to them.

The Rural Coalition also welcomes the appointment of a first Vice-President for better regulation and the inclusion of “Sustainable Development” in his competences. Reducing red-tape is important for an effective and efficient implementation of EU polices. We particularly look forward to the efforts of Commissioner Hogan in the area of simplification for rural development instruments within the CAP.

We understand that Commissioner for Trade, Ms Malmström, will be steered and coordinated by two Vice-Presidents and that she is to work closely with two other Commissioners. We are concerned about the lack of any specific reference to Agriculture. The need for Commissioner Hogan’s input in Mogherini and Malmström’s work needs to be emphasised, particularly as agriculture trade talks play a crucial role for the sector and are often very technical.

We are also interested in assessing the state of play of the Circular Economy package as stated in the mission letter addressed to Commissioner Vella. The Rural Coalition promotes resource efficiency and considers that the contribution of the agriculture and forestry sectors should be better integrated into discussions on circular economy.

We look forward to contributing to more competitive and sustainable rural areas by helping the Commission to identify solutions and create the right conditions for these.

Yours faithfully,

Aljoscha Requardt  
Secretary General of CEPF

Kleopatra Sidiropoulou  
Secretary General of CEJA

Pekka Pesonen  
Secretary General of Copa-Cogeca

Thierry de l'Escaille  
Secretary General of ELO

Filippo Segato  
Secretary General of FACE

Jean-Luc Mériaux  
Secretary General of UECBV

*1. The Rural Coalition aims to promote and defend the importance of rural areas and their stakeholders, including farmers, foresters, landowners and land managers, agricultural and forestry workers, hunters and tourism operators. As manages of three-quarters of EU land, our members are the key drivers of the rural economy.*