



# Key messages from EU Council Conclusions on the rural vision

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# CC on LTVRA: setting the scene...



- ▶ Adopted by the AGRIFISH Council on 20 November 2023 and welcomed by the GAC-cohesion on 30 November 2023.
- ▶ Feeding by political discussions under the Council and the outcomes of high-level meetings (Sigüenza and Uppsala).
- ▶ Setting out the Council position on the long-term vision on Rural Areas (LTVRA) and complementing other EU institutions' positions on this issue (EP, CoR, EESC).
- ▶ Provides political guidance and recommendations on the future of EU rural areas and how EU policies and instruments should contribute to the objectives of the rural vision.

# CC LTVRA: EU Funding for rural areas (1/3)



- ▶ Need to facilitate and optimize the use of EU instruments and policies for supporting rural areas.
- ▶ EU, national and local funding for rural areas should reflect the pivotal role these areas play in meeting economic, social and environmental challenges, considering the current geopolitical situation.
- ▶ All relevant EU policies should be involved and contribute with appropriate resources to support rural areas.
- ▶ Particularly CAP, cohesion funds, and national recovery and resilience plans.

# CC LTVRA: EU Funding for rural areas (2/3)



- ▶ One example: Spanish plan on 130 measures to tackle rural depopulation, involving CAP, Cohesion and Spanish RRP funding resources (connectivity, investments in the agrifood sector (irrigation), renewable energy, basic services, etc).
- ▶ Need to simplify procedures and requirements for rural beneficiaries, with limited administrative capacities.
- ▶ Promoting the involvement of the private sector with the use of financial instruments.
- ▶ One example: CAP (Spanish IFGC) and Spanish RRP (Línea Agroinnpulso)

# CC LTVRA: EU Funding for rural areas (3/3)



- ▶ Need to move forward with complementarities and synergies among EU funds, avoiding overlapping and “silo” approaches.
- ▶ Need to further enhance the territorial development of rural areas, contributing to the objectives of the LTVRA.
- ▶ Promoting this coherence and synergies should be taken into consideration when designing the implementation of EU policies.
- ▶ Invitation to the Commission to set up a monitoring instrument to assess EU funding supporting rural areas through all relevant EU policies.
- ▶ Supporting the establishment, at the beginning of each programming period, of a procedure to ensure complementarity and coherence among EU fund without increasing administrative burden and costs.

# Looking ahead....

- ▶ Upcoming toolkit of EU funding for rural areas, with resources and recommendations to assist rural actors in accessing EU funds effectively.
- ▶ Forthcoming public report on the LTVRA (2024), including orientations for enhanced support action and financing for rural areas and options to ensure further synergies, coherence, and consistency of EU policies affecting rural areas.
- ▶ Future development of regulatory frameworks for EU funds in the next programming period post-2027.
- ▶ Future European Rural Strategy, with a comprehensive and flexible approach to address the challenges of rural areas and maximize their opportunities.



# THANK YOU

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