

Rural areas and communities in the post-2027 EU budget and policies

5 November 2025

Brussels, Belgium (Pullman Brussels Centre Midi)

Agenda

Timing (CET)	Agenda items
09.30 – 09.50	Welcome and introduction to the day > Welcoming words Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, Director for Strategy and Policy Analysis, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission > Introduction to the day Urszula Budzich-Tabor, Rural Pact Support Office
09.50 – 11.10	New EU policy framework post-2027: what implications for rural areas? > European Commission proposals post-2027 and support foreseen for rural areas Fabio Cossu, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission > Main messages emerging from the Rural Pact Conference Karen Keaveney, University College Dublin and Rural Pact Coordination Group > Main messages from the 6th European Rural Parliament (ERP Declaration of Inverurie) Tom Jones, European Rural Communities' Alliance > Keynote speaker: Opportunities and risks for rural areas Kai Böhme, Spatial Foresight > Initial reactions from the European Parliament Daniel Buda, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, European Parliament
11.10 – 11.40	Coffee break

11.40 – 12.30

Making post-2027 EU policies fit for purpose for rural people

- > **Engaging with rural communities: How can the new policies deliver positive results in rural areas?**

Stakeholder panel with:

- **Radim Sršeň**, European Committee of the Regions
- **Lidija Pavić-Rogošić**, European Economic and Social Committee
- **Marianne Selkäinaho**, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
- **Piotr Sadłocha**, European LEADER Association for Rural Development
- **Michael Schmitz**, Council of European Municipalities and Regions

12.30 – 13.00

Making the Rural Pact a reality in Member States and regions to maximise rural communities' benefits of the post-2027 policy framework

- > **Recognising the actions of Member States and regions for the Rural Vision**
Mario Milouchev, Director, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
- > **Contributions from Member States and regions taking action for an integrated approach to rural development**
 - **Radim Sršeň**, Deputy Minister for Regional Development, Czechia
 - **Szymon Ogłaza**, Marshal of Opole Region, Poland
 - **José Luis Martínez Guijarro**, Vice-President of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain
 - **Òscar Ordeig Molist**, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food of Catalonia, Spain

13.00 – 14.15

Lunch Break

14.15 – 15.30

Engaging in dialogue on the place of rural areas in post-2027 EU policies

Interactive session: Group discussions to build recommendations and identify actions that community members can take to participate and strengthen the voice of rural communities in the policy dialogue about the post-2027 proposals:

- In which way should the legislative proposals for the post-2027 EU budget and policies evolve to ensure rural issues are adequately addressed in future EU policies?
- How can the Rural Pact support policymakers and stakeholders in ensuring the voice of rural areas is heard in the policy debate at EU, national and regional levels?

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 – 17.00

Co-creating conclusions and proposals

- > Report back of outcomes from group discussions
- > Key takeaways for action
Edina Ocsko, Vice-Chair, Rural Pact Coordination Group

Closing remarks

- > **Next steps**
Rural Pact Support Office
- > **Closing words**
Peter Berkowitz, Director, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

