



## COMMITMENT TO THE RURAL PACT for public authorities

The **regional government of Asturias (Spain)**, represented by Marcelino Marcos Líndez, Ministry of Rural Environment and Agrarian Policy wishes to submit a commitment to the Rural Pact to advance towards the **10 shared goals of the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas**. These objectives summarise the common aspirations of EU rural communities and stakeholders in rural areas by 2040.

The regional government of Asturias thus would like to formally commit to the Rural Pact by engaging to work towards:

- **Implementing the Asturian Rural Pact as the main strategic framework for rural policy until 2030.** This Pact has been conceived as a coherent and transversal strategy aligned with the region's key challenges, including, demography, climate change, territorial cohesion, the energy transition, food sovereignty and digitalisation. The approach of the Asturian Rural Pact also responds to the principles of the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas, combining productive, territorial, demographic, environmental, and public service policies.

The Asturian Rural Pact will:

- Be implemented through a **coordinated, place-based and participatory approach** that strengthens territorial cohesion, addresses demographic challenges and ensures equal opportunities in rural and coastal areas.
- **Support a competitive, resilient and family-based livestock sector**, with a particular focus on extensive systems, by reinforcing Common Agricultural Policy support, improving animal health and biosecurity, promoting local breeds and pastoral systems, and ensuring effective generational renewal.
- **Promote a modern, innovative and sustainable agricultural sector**, enhancing the viability of farms, encouraging digitalisation and professionalisation, facilitating access for new entrants and strengthening adaptation to climate and environmental challenges.
- **Strengthen agri-food value chains and increase value added in rural areas**, by supporting local processing, quality schemes, short supply chains and the promotion of high-quality regional products, improving the position of producers within the food chain.
- **Advance sustainable forest management as a key driver of rural development**, biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation and wildfire prevention, while supporting active management, the forest-based economy and collective governance of forest resources.

- **Promote a fair, sustainable and future-oriented maritime fisheries sector**, supporting small-scale fisheries, coastal communities, employment and generational renewal, and ensuring its integration within broader territorial and rural development policies.
- **Develop effective rural governance and rural proofing approaches**, supported by improved data systems, administrative simplification, digital public services and structured, permanent dialogue with local authorities, rural stakeholders and sectoral organisations.

The Pact incorporates more than 120 measures organised into six blocks: livestock and agricultural health; agriculture, agro-industry, and rural development; forest management; agricultural planning; maritime fishing; and essential public services. Among its commitments, EUR 499 million will be allocated between 2026 and 2029 to the viability of the livestock sector, EUR 60 million to animal health, and EUR 15 million to grazing.

The Asturian Rural Pact also recognises that the future of rural areas in Asturias does not depend solely on the evolution of the livestock, agricultural, forestry, or fishing sectors. It is equally shaped by access to essential public services, the quality of infrastructure, mobility, and digital connectivity, and, ultimately, by the real possibility for people to develop their life projects on an equal footing with their urban counterparts. In this sense, the Pact acknowledges and addresses the social and territorial dimensions of rural Asturias.

The implementation of the Asturian Rural Pact will be monitored by a bottom-up governance body bringing together public authorities, rural stakeholders, business representatives and other sectoral actors.

The Asturian Rural Pact builds on existing initiatives for rural areas already in place:

### 1. **Law on demographic revitalisation**

It constitutes a regulatory framework directly linked to the objectives of the Asturian Rural Pact. It aims to address ageing, low birth rates, rural depopulation and territorial imbalances through coordinated public action. This law reinforces the holistic approach of the Pact by incorporating objectives such as:

- Ensuring the provision of services to the population, particularly in rural areas;
- Attracting new residents, retaining existing population, and encouraging return;
- Contributing to the social, economic, demographic, and territorial rebalancing of Asturias; and
- Promoting a new model of regional development based on sustainability, innovation, the conservation of natural and cultural resources, and the valorisation of local potential.

In addition, the law includes provisions directly linked to rural areas, such as support for the agricultural, livestock, fisheries and forestry sectors; support for local production and local consumption; generational renewal in rural areas; access to land; and the promotion of bioeconomy.

## 2. Demographic Plan of the Principality of Asturias (2017-2027)

It provides a framework for comprehensive planning, serving as the analytical framework for demography in Asturias. It shows that the challenge is not only population decline, but also the territorial dimension, which affects access to services, economic opportunities and quality of life in rural towns and villages. The forthcoming '**Demographic Revitalisation Strategy**' will represent the next step in this framework.

## 3. Support for LEADER

Asturias has eleven LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) for the period 2023-2027, responsible for implementing community-led local development strategies. They are recognised as a national and European reference: during the 2014-2020 period, more than EUR 70 million were allocated to support 2 200 projects. LEADER represents 25% of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) in Asturias, placing the region in a prominent position in Spain and Europe.

In addition, Asturias has placed LEADER as a centrepiece for the development of rural areas and a key contributor to achieving the long-term vision for EU's rural areas. In 2025, a call was published with EUR 11.4 million to promote the economic development of the rural environment, with funding aimed at business projects, job creation and strengthening competitiveness.

## 4. Centre for Territorial and Rural Innovation

CTIC RuralTech applies technology and territorial intelligence to rural areas. The collaboration between the Ministry of Rural Environment and CTIC RuralTech has allowed the development of projects such as sensor networks to prevent fires, improve agricultural productivity, anticipate pests or measure environmental parameters in the territory. It is a key initiative to contribute to the innovation ambitions of the long-term vision for EU's rural areas.



**Mr Marcelino Marcos Líndez**

Minister of Rural Environment and Agrarian Policy of Asturias

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This document is hereby issued on 6 May 2026, recognising the commitment of the Ministry of Rural Environment and Agrarian Policy of Asturias, Spain, to the EU rural vision and its objectives.