



European Committee  
of the Regions

Commission for  
Natural Resources

NAT

# NAT Seminar

Encouraging urban-rural cooperation  
in inventing new sustainable food systems

Nantes, FRANCE  
16 April 2018





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## **Encouraging urban-rural cooperation in inventing new sustainable food systems**

**Description:** Consumers want to choose what they eat, and know and understand where it comes from and how it is produced. The distance that has gradually developed between urban and rural areas presents an obstacle to a new European food pact. The solution lies not in fully autonomous cities that are cut off from rural areas, but in dialogue and cooperation between people and between localities. Developing urban agriculture, bringing together farmers and city-dwellers, developing local supply chains, promoting the quality of regional products – including processed products – and guaranteeing the traceability, taste, safety and environmental quality of food in all cases: these are all topical issues throughout Europe. Initiatives are emerging all over Europe that further the development of new sustainable food systems. This applies in particular to the Nantes metropolitan region. By studying innovative experiments, this conference aims to consider how urban-rural cooperation on food can be integrated into future European agricultural policies.

**8.30 a.m. Registration and coffee**

**9 a.m. Welcome and introduction**

**Johanna ROLLAND**, Mayor of Nantes and President of the Nantes metropolitan region (FR/PES)

**Phil HOGAN**, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development - video message

**Ossi MARTIKAINEN**, European Committee of the Regions (FI/ALDE),  
Chair of the CoR's NAT Commission

**9.30 a.m. Session 1: urban agriculture: role of cities in the development of more sustainable food systems**

Moderator: **Enda STENSON** (IE/EA), Member of the CoR's NAT Commission

Speakers:

**Jean-Claude LEMASSON**, Vice-President of the Nantes metropolitan region, responsible for peri-urban agriculture and urban trees, Mayor of Saint-Aignan de Grand Lieu (FR/PES)

*Presentation of the Nantes metropolitan region's agri-urban strategy*

**Betina BERGMANN MADSEN**, Purchasing Manager of the city of Copenhagen, specialised in the supply of organic and sustainable food, Member of the European Commission's expert group

*Presentation of the Copenhagen sustainable food strategies*

**Marta PÉREZ-SOBA**, Joint Research Centre

*Urban agriculture: What did we learn from mapping green infrastructure in 22 European cities?*

**Olivier DURAND**, organic market gardener in Les Sorinières, involved in several agri-urban projects in the Nantes metropolitan region

*Reflections on urban farming projects drawing on examples from Nantes*

Discussion

**11 a.m. Coffee break**

**11.15 a.m. Session 2: urban-rural partnerships on food: what new supply chains and food systems for a win-win situation in Europe?**

Moderator: **Adam BANASZAK** (PL/ECR), Member of the CoR's NAT Commission

Speakers:

**Guillaume GAROT**, Member of the French parliament for Mayenne, President of the National Food Council, former minister delegate for the agri-food sector (FR/PES)

*Issues related to urban-rural partnerships on food*

**Lydie BERNARD**, Vice-President of the Pays de la Loire region, responsible for agriculture, agri-food, forestry, fisheries and the sea (FR/ALDE)

*Guidelines of the Pays de la Loire region to strengthen links between town and country with regard to agriculture and food*

**Christiane KIRKETERP DE VIRON**, European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development

*What role for urban-rural partnerships in the CAP post 2020?*

**Manuel PLEGUEZUELO ALONSO**, Director-General responsible for the European Union, external action and cooperation, Murcia region (ES/EPP)

*Policies implemented by Murcia region in relation to urban-rural partnerships for sustainable food*

**Claire LAVAUUR**, Director and Co-manager, Coopérative d'installation en agriculture paysanne (CIAP 44 – cooperative for setting up as a smallholder)

*How to set up more farm businesses that meet citizens' expectations, both in terms of the environment and in terms of quality and health?*

Discussion

**12.45 p.m. Conclusions and closure of the debate**

**Christophe CLERGEAU**, First Vice-Chair of the CoR's NAT Commission, Member of the Pays de la Loire regional council (FR/PES)

**Ossi MARTIKAINEN**, Chair of the CoR's NAT Commission of the European Committee of the Regions (FI/ALDE)

**1 p.m. Lunch break**

**2.30 p.m. Parallel study visits**

- 1) Visit of an urban agriculture project: presentation of the Cantine du Voyage and its garden (Nantes)
- 2) Visit linked to the topic of urban-rural partnership: meeting with the Federation of Maraîchers Nantais and presentation of their experimental farm (Pont-Saint-Martin)

**Interpreting:**

Subject to confirmation, interpreting will be provided during the seminar in the following languages:

Languages in which participants may speak: 6 languages – DE, EN, FR, IT, PL, FI

Languages into which discussions will be interpreted: 4 languages – DE, EN, FR, PL




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