



Agriculture ■ Rural Development ■ Environment

➤ N°.2 ■ March 2012 ■ Newsletter of the NAT Section ■ www.eesc.europa.eu/nat

ADOPTED OPINIONS
MARCH 2012

Opinions that were adopted during the last NAT Section meeting

- **Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy**
➤ <http://bit.ly/HIACad>
- **Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe**
➤ <http://bit.ly/H7iUMJ>
- **Removal of fins of sharks**
➤ <http://bit.ly/GYzATj>
- **Greenhouse gas emissions**
➤ <http://bit.ly/HjxQ7V>

“AGRICULTURE AND CRAFTS”
INTERVIEW

Three questions to Adalbert Kienle, Rapporteur for the opinion NAT/530

CHECK OUT OUR PREVIOUS INTERVIEWS ON GMO AND FOOD AID

➤ <http://bit.ly/GZXK4s>

The EESC's NAT/530 opinion seeks to provide food for thought and to stimulate public debate **on how to encourage sustainable and inclusive growth in rural areas**. We interviewed the rapporteur, Adalbert Kienle.

The European Union's rural areas are experiencing a deep economic, demographic and social crisis to which Europe must provide answers. Is that the key message of your opinion?

There's no doubt that the economic and financial crisis is aggravating an already difficult situation in many rural regions, but my opinion is not intended to paint a depressing picture. On the contrary – I see every chance for positive, smart measures being made available in the new 2014-2020 funding period through the Common Agricultural Policy and the Structural Funds. These should be seized with both hands and I want to use close cooperation between agriculture and crafts as an example to illustrate this.

Why are rural areas so important for the EU? How do you expect European civil society to contribute?

Agriculture and crafts shape the rural economy; they supply villages and small towns and contribute to the life of the community. But they have a huge amount of untapped potential for creating added value when it comes to shared "qualitative growth" – provided we can achieve better, integrated cooperation and coordination between sectors.

Obviously, there's nothing new in the idea of autonomous regional development and helping regions to help themselves. But the new approaches in the Common Agricultural Policy and the Structural Funds could give it a significant boost. We at the EESC are calling on the political institutions and authorities to be bold in implementing these measures. **Whether regional crafts and agriculture, or tourism and trade, are ultimately successful depends crucially on the stance of civil society – you can't have regionalism without public dialogue**

■ **The full interview can be read here:**

➤ <http://bit.ly/HhWyDZ>

DOCUMENTS & INFOS

▪ Mario Campi - "The Common Agricultural Policy - 50 years... and a lifetime ahead?"

➔ <http://bit.ly/HsQjhi>

▪ Fondation Robert Schuman- "The CAP in quest of legitimacy"

➔ <http://bit.ly/HrWhjW>

▪ INEA Brussels Liaison Office - Newsletter

➔ <http://bit.ly/H3xdxQ>

DO YOU KNOW THAT...

NAT Section has created a Permanent Study Group on Food Security. The Group will meet for the first time on 17 April.

European agriculture is about food security for citizens and a fair income and decent living for farmers. This is what society expects from agriculture: secure sources of food supplies.

Many citizens believe that the EU should not seek to feed the world, but rather should assist developing countries to feed their populations themselves. The instability in agricultural markets, the threatening effects of global warming, the anticipated increase in the world's population and the implications of biofuels production have made food security a permanent item on the political agenda of the world leaders. **All these various policies affecting food security sometimes pull in different directions.**

For these reasons the EESC would devote more continuous and greater attention to food security issues than in the past, and in particular, there will be a permanent body that follows the subject with an all-encompassing approach.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PACKAGE

Priority of the Danish Presidency

Following a request of the Danish presidency the EESC decided to elaborate two exploratory opinions on a 7th Environmental Action Programme (EAP) and on Promotion of sustainable production and consumption in the EU. Both will be discussed during the next NAT Section meeting, on 10 April.

The Danish government will bring both opinions into ongoing discussions of the EU Environmental Ministers on the 7th EAP.

■ NAT/537 - Promotion of sustainable production and consumption in the EU

➔ <http://bit.ly/Ho8o10>

■ NAT/538 - 7th Environmental Action Programme, follow-up to the 6th EAP

➔ <http://bit.ly/HrhWcS>

UPCOMING EVENTS

10 APR 2012

MEETING OF THE NAT SECTION

17 APR 2012

PERMANENT STUDY GROUP

1st meeting of the Permanent Study Group on Food Security

24 APR 2012

CONFERENCE

Cooperatives practices in food chain (in partnership with COGECA and EUROCOOP)

➔ <http://bit.ly/GX7dFc>

3 MAY 2012

SDO MEETING

Sustainable Development Observatory

3-5 MAY 2012

CONFERENCE (JURMALA– KAUNAS)

Latvian/Lithuanian Conference on implications of CAP inequality – consequences and opportunities

11 MAY 2012

MEETING OF THE NAT SECTION

11 MAY 2012

PUBLIC HEARING

Role of women in agriculture and rural areas

12 MAY 2012

EESC OPEN DOORS DAY

Special Focus: Green Europe & Rio+20

➔ <http://europa.eu/festivalofeurope/>

PAST EVENTS

14 MAR 2012

MEETING OF THE NAT SECTION

20-21 MAR 2012

CONFERENCE

CAP 50th Anniversary Conference

➔ <http://bit.ly/wQQAyw>

PLENARY SESSION

Find the summary of the opinion adopted during the last Plenary Session

➔ <http://bit.ly/Hlwm0C>

The NAT Section on the EESC-website

➔ <http://eesc.europa.eu/nat>

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