Basic information

2018/2720(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on addressing the specific needs of rural, mountainous and remote areas **Subject** 3.10.01.02 Rural development, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) 3.10.01.06 Less-favoured agricultural areas	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	REGI Regional Development	MIHAYLOVA Iskra (ALDE)	26/04/2018
European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**	
	Agriculture and Rural Development	HOGAN Phil	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
01/10/2018	Debate in Parliament		
03/10/2018	Decision by Parliament	T8-0374/2018	Summary
03/10/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
03/10/2018	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2018/2720(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	REGI/8/13035

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B8-0399/2018	01/10/2018	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0374/2018	03/10/2018	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2018)795	22/02/2019	

Resolution on addressing the specific needs of rural, mountainous and remote areas

2018/2720(RSP) - 03/10/2018 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution tabled by the Committee on Regional Development on addressing the specific needs of rural, mountainous and remote areas.

It stressed the importance of rural, mountainous and remote areas for **balanced territorial development** in Europe and the need to strengthen them by addressing their specific needs through EU policies. Members noted that such areas constitute 80 % of EU territory, and are home to 57 % of its population but that GDP per capita in non-urbanised areas is 70 % of the EU average, while urban residents enjoy a GDP per capita as high as 123 % of the EU average. They also pointed out that the unemployment rate in non-urbanised areas increased from 7 % to 10.4 % between 2008 and 2012.

Parliament called for the **EU Agenda for Rural, Mountainous and Remote Areas** to promote socioeconomic development, economic growth and diversification, social wellbeing, protection of nature, and cooperation and interconnection with urban areas in order to foster cohesion and prevent the risk of territorial fragmentation. This EU Agenda should incorporate a **strategic framework** for the development of rural, mountainous and remote areas, coordinated with strategies aimed at lagging and peripheral regions, in order to meet the objectives of rural proofing, smart villages, access to public services, digitalisation, training and innovation. Members noted that a quarter of the population of rural, mountainous and remote areas has no access to the internet.

Furthermore, Parliament encouraged rural areas to develop smart villages, developing new opportunities, such as decentralised services, energy solutions, and digital technologies and innovations, and urged the establishment of a **Smart Villages Pact**.

Members recommended that the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) spending, which contributes significantly to economic and social cohesion, continue to be **linked with cohesion policy** so that regions can draw from different EU sources in order to optimise funding opportunities and invest in rural areas. Parliament also called on the Commission to include in the future legislative proposals provisions addressing the specificities of these areas and to provide for adequate funding from the European Structural and Investment Funds, for cohesion policy post 2020.

Lastly, the resolution stressed the need to support the further development of **rural tourism** and mountain agri-tourism while preserving the specificities of these areas, for example traditions and traditional local products.