

Procedure file

Basic information	
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2018/2720(RSP)
Resolution on addressing the specific needs of rural, mountainous and remote areas	Procedure completed
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
	 Regional Development	 MIHAYLOVA Iskra	26/04/2018
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Agriculture and Rural Development	HOGAN Phil	

Key events			
01/10/2018	Debate in Parliament		
03/10/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
03/10/2018	Decision by Parliament	T8-0374/2018	Summary
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 132-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	REGI/8/13035

Documentation gateway				
Motion for a resolution		B8-0399/2018	01/10/2018	EP

Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T8-0374/2018	03/10/2018	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2018)795	22/02/2019	EC	

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

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.