



The Venhorst Declaration



European Rural Parliament

The European Rural Parliament seeks to express the voice of rural Europe, to articulate the concerns of rural people and to promote self-help and action by the rural people, in partnership with civil society and governments. We wish to enable rural people to play their full role in addressing the great economic and political challenges which are currently affecting Europe. We also wish to assist the European institutions in their work to face these challenges, to enable them to connect with the concerns, the aspirations and the energies of European citizens.

The European Rural Parliament has been developed since 2013. It is the initiative of three, pan-European, non-governmental organisations:

ERCA European Rural Community Alliance

PREPARE Partnership for Rural Europe

ELARD European LEADER Association for Rural Development



Together with our National Partner organisations in 40 European countries we are working to build a strong network of organisations based in the rural communities of Europe and working for their long term future. This unique network enables collective action and a strong voice for the rural communities of Europe. The Rural Parliament is an on-going process which provides the framework for this work. It is a two-year cycle, with the biennial gathering marking the high-point in ongoing pan-European activity on the most important issues for rural communities.

The First European Rural Parliament was held in Brussels November 2013, with 150 participants from 50 countries. It laid the foundation of a multi-national network, which has steadily expanded to embrace people and organisations in over 40 European countries.

The Second European Rural Parliament was held at Schärding in Austria in November 2015, with 240 participants from 40 European countries. This event was the climax of a series of national programmes in 36 European countries, each of which gathered the voice of rural people by organising an 'upward cascade of ideas'. These ideas were synthesised into the report 'ALL Europe shall live' and formed the basis for the European Rural Manifesto adopted at Schärding.

In October 2017, 250 participants from 40 European countries gathered in Venhorst (The Netherlands) for the third European Rural Parliament.

As a result of this four-day parliament the ERP-Manifesto was updated and this 'Venhorst Declaration' was written and approved.



GEMEENTE BOEKEL

Provincie Noord-Brabant


European Rural Parliament 2017 in Venhorst
Participating countries





European Rural Parliament²⁰¹⁷

Venhorst



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