



Presentatie Europees Plattelands Parlement  
Venhorst, 18-21 oktober 2017

# Introduction

- Koos Mirck; Dutch organisation for Small Villages LVKK
- 35 % Population (6,5 million) in rural area
- 2000 non-governmental organisations in the villages
- First Rural Parliament in 2005

# Why a Parliament

Imported from Sweden

Why ...

- To give opportunity for the people of the rural area to rise their voice and to talk with policy-makers about things the inhabitants think they are important for the future of the rural area.

## Facts

- One day event. Every two years
- Four to eight Members of Parliament
- Complaining; waiting for action of the Government
- Also Regional Rural Parliament

# AIMS

- Signals and trends from the rural area to Government and important organisations
- Influence national Government to the benefit of the rural area
- Exchange of knowledge and experiences
- Meeting each other and Network
- Research of trends and find solutions for new challenges
- Encourage the inhabitants to take their responsibility

## RESULTS

- Recommendations; send to Parliament and Government
- Talks with Members of Parliament and Government
- Signals: support us by find solutions ourselves

## THEMES of the last editions

- Population decline and ageing; changing needs for the future of the village
- Sustainability
- Mobility
- Public facilities (health care, education)
- Economic vitality, work and houses for younger people
- New ways of working together
- Re-allocation of former farmhouses, schools, churches
- The organisation model of the coöperation

# Proactive

- Saying what's not good and complaining TO
- Thinking and acting to solve problems and beat challenges
  
- Statements TO
- Dialogue



## Important trends in Dutch policy

1. Decentralization of functions and task of Government
2. Proclamation of the 'Doe – Democracy'

National Government less important ??

## Three levels of Government

- Municipality (388) Board (B&W) Elected 'Gemeenteraad'
- Province (12) Board (GS) Elected 'Provinciale Staten'
- National (1) Board (Regering) Elected Parliament

## Levels of Government (2)

- Legislation
- Implementation
- Realisation

## Results of the trends of Dutch policy

- Less generic regulation; to deal with municipality government; more responsive
- Positive for the civilian initiative
- New relationship civilians/ municipality government/ public administration

## Results of the trends in Dutch policy (2)

- Civilians are in a good shape for solving problems and face the challenges
- Each inhabitant contribute to society
- Government is there to support; regie and direction is by the inhabitants
- Once again: new relationship civilians/ municipality government/ public administration

## Last Rural Parliament

- Festival; workshops; lectures; less MP; more Mayor and Alderman
- National Rural Parliament: Less important ?? Legislation !!
- New Government: Government Statement: Right to Challenge

## Conclusions

- Plattelands Parlement as part of the movement of the rural area is now part of the movement of the participative democracy
- To regain the ownership of responsibility of our lives and the well-being of the rural area