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**To:**  
**PREPARE - Partnership for Rural Europe**

**Attn. Mr. Michael Dower**  
**Joint Coordinator European Rural Parliament /**  
**Coordinator PREPARE**

Regional Rural Development  
Standing Working Group in South-  
Eastern Europe (SWG)

**Re: 2<sup>nd</sup> European Rural Parliament Gathering in Austria**

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Dear Mr. Dower,

On behalf of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in SEE, the SWG Secretariat and my behalf, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the excellent organization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Rural Parliament 2015 Gathering, held in Schärding, Austria in the period 04<sup>th</sup> – 06<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.

The Gathering was of a great importance regarding the support to the efforts made by rural communities throughout Europe related to reflection of their interests into national and European policies, strengthening their position in society, as well as promotion of common understanding, solidarity, exchange of good practice and cooperation in order to improve their well-being.

I believe that the outcome of the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Rural Parliament 2015 Gathering – the European Rural Manifesto 2015 will be used as a good basis to impact all relevant actors - European institutions and national and regional governments, in their successive networking, advocacy and other activities related to the approach for rural communities and formulation of rural development policies.

Sincere regards,

Boban Ilic  
SWG Secretary General

