

WELCOME

ERP Follow-Up Meeting



Putting Rural Civil Society in Position

23 June 2026 | 11:00–15:00 CET

📍 Scotland House, Brussels

**European Rural Parliament
Follow-Up Event**



The European Rural Parliament Steering Group.
In co-operation with the Scottish Government.

Theona Morrison





98% of Scotland's landmass is rural with more than 90 inhabited islands. Rural and island communities hold an extraordinary wealth of knowledge, resources, innovation and potential.

Our own **Scottish Rural & Islands Parliament**, held every two years, gives platform to the expertise that exists within rural and island communities and enterprises. It connects communities with one another to share learning. It also connects them with the Scottish Government to shape policy on themes including economic development, climate resilience, changing population demographics, poverty, food, energy and water security.

This approach reflects a growing global consensus. Both the IPCC (1) and IPBES (2) for example, have highlighted that climate and biodiversity **goals cannot be achieved without community-rooted and indigenous knowledge, alongside investment in community-led solutions**. The same principle applies across the major challenges facing societies today.

(1) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(2) Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services



No country can address today's challenges alone.

The 6th European Rural Parliament in Inverurie was an opportunity for Scotland to inspire Europe, to learn from our European neighbours, and to help build a European rural movement - **an international mechanism to enable collaboration and policy co-production between rural communities, national governments and European institutions**.

Scottish Rural Action, Aberdeenshire Council, the Scottish Government, the European Rural Community Alliance (ERCA), PREPARE Partnership for Rural Europe, the European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD), and Rural Youth Europe worked to bring together 400 delegates from 40 countries, and to deliver Europe's largest participative democratic assembly, including:

- The European Rural Youth Parliament
- The Michael Dower Awards
- A deliberation approach rooted in the culture, heritage and traditions of participating countries



The **Declaration of Inverurie** sets out a vision for genuine partnership between communities and policymakers in building a fairer, greener and more resilient Europe.

Rural and island communities commit to:

- Safeguarding cultural heritage while driving innovation;
- Strengthening social enterprises and local economies that create wealth and employment;
- Equipping people with the skills needed for digital and green transitions; and
- Deepening solidarity between villages, regions and nations.

The Declaration calls on policymakers to:

- Apply rural proofing across all policies and regulations, underpinned by the Right to Stay and the Right to Mobility;
- Turn the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas and Rural Pact into action, supported by flexible, long-term funding for programmes such as LEADER and CLLD;
- Embrace participation from both EU and neighbouring countries; and
- Ensure rural voices are embedded throughout policymaking, from consultation to implementation and evaluation.



We are young, we are old.
We are one and must be bold.
Learning from the past, building for the future,
we pass it on.
We are one, hear our song.

Tha sinn òg, tha sinn sean.
Tha sinn nar n-aon agus feumaidh sinn a bhith dàna.
Ag ionnsachadh bhon àm a dh'fhalbh, a' togail airson an ama ri teachd,
tha sinn ga thoirt seachad.
Tha sinn nar n-aon, èist ris an òran againn.

European Rural Parliament



European Leader Association
for Rural Development
Brussels, www.elard.eu



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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