**New Rural Development Plans and the Environment: THE HIDDEN TRUTH**

8 February 2016  9:00 - 18:00 (followed by a cocktail)
European Economic and Social Committee, Rue Van Maerlant 2, Brussels, Belgium

Interpretation: (DE, FR, EN)
Moderator: Ed Bray, Journalist, AGRAFacts

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### Morning Session

9:00 Coffee and registration

9:30-10:10 PART 1: Taking stock

Welcome and Introductory remarks
Luca Jahier, President of Group III , EESC
Pieter de Pous, EEB policy director

Opening statement: State of the environment and the role of agriculture
Daniel Calleja Crespo, Director General for the Environment

Q&A

10:10-11:10 PART 2: Greening and Pillar 2 in motion

Greening as the baseline: does it help or hinder Pillar 2 ambition?
Pierre Bascou, Director, European Commission, DG AGRI

Reactions:
Kaley Hart (IEEP) and Faustine Bas-Defossez, (EEB)

Q&A

***Coffee break: 11:10- 11:20***

11:20- 12:20 PART 3: How is Rural Development implementation affecting biodiversity?

Facing the truth behind the numbers: official figures versus the reality
Trees Robijns, BirdLife Europe

Panel discussion
Claudia Olazabal, European Commission, DG ENVI, Cécile Fèvre, MEDDE, Marie-Catherine Schultz, FNE and Rudolf Schmid, Austrian Farmer

Q&A

***Lunch 12:20– 13:50***

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### Afternoon Session

13:50-17:40 PART 4: How much will be spent and on what?
Quantity versus quality: A closer look at Pillar 2 spending

13:50-14:50: Water
Claire McCamphill, European Commission, DG ENVI, and Angelo Innamorati, European Commission, DG AGRI
Reaction from Patricia Urgé, FNE Rhône Alpes, Sarah Mukherjee, EUREAU, François Rihouet, French Young Farmer

Q&A

14:50-15:45: Air quality
Roald Wolters, European Commission, DG ENVI and Angelo Innamorati, European Commission, DG AGRI
Reaction from Christer Agren, Air & climate Secretariat (NGO) and Andreas Gattinger, FiBL

Q&A

***Coffee break: 15:45-15:55***

15:55- 16:55: Renewable energy and climate change
Gregory Tsouris, European Commission DG CLIMA
Reaction from Linde Zuidema, FERN, Joseph Wolfers, FNE PACA, Michael Tersbøl, Danish Organic Farmer

Q&A

16:55- 17:40: Animal welfare
Pilar Gumma, European Commission, DG AGRI, and Andrea Gavinielli, European Commission, DG SANTE, (tbc)
Reaction from Olga Kikou, CIWF and Neil Darwent, Free Range Dairy Farmer

Q&A

17:40: 18:00  PART 5: Concluding remarks and next steps
Mihail Dumitru, European Commission, DG AGRI, Deputy Director on Rural Development
Ariel Brunner, BirdLife Europe

***Cocktail 18:00-19:00***