Third annual EU conference on EAFRD financial instruments for agriculture and rural development in 2014-2020

Paris, Tuesday, 10 October 2017

Programme
Background of the conference
The European Commission, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), supported by the European Investment Bank (fi-compass), welcomes you to the Third annual EU conference on financial instruments under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), 10 October 2017 in Paris.

The conference will be opened by Mr Phil Hogan, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development. He will be joined by Mr Pim van Ballekom, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), Mr Pier Luigi Gilibert, Chief Executive of the European Investment Fund (EIF), Ms Carole Delga, President of the Occitanie region, France, and by Ms Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, Director-General for the Economic and Environmental Performance of Enterprises, Ministry for Agriculture, France.

Following the high-level opening statements, further distinguished speakers will present key topics related to the design and implementation of financial instruments under the EAFRD in five sessions.

In this conference, participants will get an overview on:

- how EAFRD financial instruments have progressed so far in different EU Member States and regions,
- what support options are available for agriculture and rural development, based on the example of France,
- how the EAFRD can be better used to improve growth and productivity, sharing experiences on the use of EAFRD for financial instruments in France,
- in which way other EU Member States are using or planning to use EAFRD financial instruments for agriculture and rural development and why,
- EU Member States’ perspectives on the development of their agricultural and agri-food economies through EAFRD financial instruments.

Participants will hear concrete examples of the design and implementation of financial instruments in agriculture and rural development supported by the EAFRD. They will also learn from experiences of the banking sector as well as the European Investment Bank Group (EIB Group) in realising financial instruments on the ground.

This must-attend conference follows the previous annual fi-compass conferences dedicated to EAFRD financial instruments that took place in Dublin (2015) and Brussels (2016) as well as a series of six macro-regional conferences that took place in Vienna (2015), Riga (2015), Madrid (2016), Rome (2016), Warsaw (2016) and Tallinn (2017).
Objectives

The conference will:

• present recent developments and progress made in EU Member States regarding the design and implementation of financial instruments under the EAFRD,
• stimulate exchange and discussion on advantages, features, and the general suitability of financial instruments in delivering Rural Development Programme (RDP) objectives,
• inform stakeholders about the fi-compass advisory platform support to Member States and managing authorities and about further support available from cooperation between the European Commission and EIB Group for agriculture and rural development.

Venue

Paris Marriott Champs Elysees Hotel
70 Av. des Champs-Élysées, 75008 Paris, France

> How to get there

Language

Simultaneous translation to/from FR, EN, DE, IT and ES will be ensured for speakers and participants.

Registration

Please register online via www.fi-compass.eu. The deadline for registration is Friday, 6 October 2017. Places for up to 300 participants are available. On-site registration is not possible.

Costs

Registration is free. Participants are expected to finance their own travel and accommodation costs. In case of unforeseen circumstances such as force majeure or low participant numbers, the event might be moved to a different date or cancelled. In this case, registered participants will be informed immediately via email. The reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses or work hours lost will not be possible.
Agenda
Paris, 10 October 2017 (Tuesday)
Venue: Paris Marriott Champs Elysees Hotel, 70 Av. des Champs-Élysées, 75008 Paris, France
Moderator: Ms Katrina Sichel, fi-compass expert

07:30 Doors open, registration and coffee

09:00 Welcomes and introductions
Opening statement from Mr Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
Host welcome and policy statements from Ms Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, Director-General for the Economic and Environmental Performance of Enterprises, Ministry for Agriculture, France
Ms Carole Delga, President, Occitanie region, France
Introductory opening statements from Mr Pim van Ballekom, Vice-President, European Investment Bank
Mr Pier Luigi Gilibert, Chief Executive, European Investment Fund

10:15 Farm unions’ views on access to capital for agriculture and farm investment needs in the EU
Mr Jean-Louis Cazaubon, Vice-chair of the COPA-COGECA Working Party on Rural Development
Mr Dominique Fayel, Board member, Fédération Nationale des Syndicats d’Exploitant Agricoles (FNSEA)
Followed by Q&A

10:45 Coffee and networking

11:30 EAFRD financial instruments in France
EAFRD Guarantee Fund in the Occitanie region, France
Mr Stéphane Molinier, Chief Executive Officer, Occitanie region, France
Ms Cindy Schultz, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Agri-Food and Forestry, Occitanie region, France
Mr Nicolas Mestres, Head of Unit, Agricultural Market, Banque Populaire du Sud, France
Occitanie’s Farm business entrepreneurs – success stories video
Starting with EAFRD financial instruments
Ms Camille Massol, Project Manager, Directorate of Agriculture, Agro-food and Sea, Nouvelle-Aquitaine region, France
Followed by Q&A and a discussion

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Experiences of EAFRD managing authorities in preparing or using financial instruments
Financial instruments within the EAFRD in Estonia – case study video
Multi-regional EAFRD Guarantee Fund in Italy
Prof. Gianluca Nardone, Head of Managing Authority of the Regional Rural Development Programme Puglia, Puglia region, Italy

(continued overleaf)
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Preparing for EAFRD financial instruments: lessons learned and policy vision
- Ms Adela Stefan, Head of Coordination and Evaluation Unit, Managing Authority for the National Rural Development Programme, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Romania
- Mr Krešimir Ivančić, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Croatia
- Mr Konstantinos Apostolopoulos, Head of Evaluation and Institutional Support Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Greece

Followed by Q&A and discussions

15:30 Coffee and networking

15:50 EFSI for agriculture and rural development
- Mr Benjamin Angel, Director Treasury and Financial Operations, DG Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission

Combination of EAFRD resources with EFSI and other sources of finance: opportunities offered by the EIB Group
- Mr Simon Barnes, Director of Advisory Services Department, European Investment Bank
- Mr Hubert Cottogni, Director of Mandate Management, European Investment Fund

Followed by Q&A and discussions

16:45 Financing agriculture in France
- Mr Jean-Christophe Roubin, Director of Agriculture, Crédit Agricole
- Mr Michel Cottet, General Director, SIAGI, France

Followed by Q&A and discussions

17:30 Closing remarks
- Ms Josefine Loriz-Hoffmann, Director, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
The proceedings of the fi-compass conference in Paris will be graphically recorded

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