



DRAFT PROGRAMME
European Alliance Group seminar
EU policies for island, mountain and rural areas
Ajaccio (Corsica) on Monday 3 April 2017

In the context of the EU objective of ensuring territorial economic and social cohesion and balanced development across all EU regions, the treaties recognise special attention to territories with structural geographic and demographic handicaps such as island, mountain and rural areas. However, regional disparities are increasing and current support mechanisms do not fully take into account their specificities. The objective of the seminar will be to provide a better understanding of constraints faced by island, mountain and rural areas and will seek to put forward recommendations for future EU policies to improve the state of cohesion in these areas.

- 10 a.m. Introduction and moderator:
Stanislaw Szwabski, President of the European Alliance Group
- Welcoming address: **Gilles Simeoni, President of the Executive Council of Corsica**
- 10.30 a.m. Territorial cohesion and future EU policies: vision from the CPMR
Patrick Anvroin, Director, Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR)
- EU policy to achieve territorial cohesion in areas with geographical handicaps: the case of Sardinia island
Filippo Spanu, Regional Ministry for General Affairs, Sardinia Regional Government
- Developing policies to foster Entrepreneurship in Islands
Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis, Member of the Executive Council of the Territorial community of Corsica
- Developing development strategies for rural, island and Irish speaking areas of Ireland,
Stiofán Ó Cualáin, CEO, Údarás na Gaeltachta
- Future cohesion policy: what future for mountain areas
Jean-Felix Acquaviva, European Association of Elected representatives from Mountain Regions
- The importance of indicators for insular, mountainous and remote territories – the Shetland experience
Cllr Gary Robinson, Leader Shetland Islands Council
- Discussion with participants*
- 12.30 p.m. Closing statement and adoption of the Ajaccio declaration: "EU policies for the island, mountain and rural areas"
- 1 p.m. End of the seminar & lunch**