

## **Luxembourg's Rural Development programme for 2014-2020 approved by the European Commission**

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Luxembourg was formally adopted by the European Commission on 1 July 2015, outlining the Grand Duchy's priorities for using the EUR 368 million of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (EUR 100.6 million from the EU budget and EUR 267.4 million of national co-funding).

[Luxembourg's RDP](#) puts particular emphasis on actions related to restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems. Almost 28% of the agricultural land is expected to come under management contracts supporting better water management, nearly 11% of the agricultural land will be under contracts to improve soil management, and over 90% of the agricultural land will come under management contracts supporting biodiversity. To improve the competitiveness of farmers, 21% farms will receive support to restructure or modernise their farms and 7% farms will be granted business start-up aid. To contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, the programme aims for 30% of livestock units to benefit from investments in livestock management to reduce emissions. To promote social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas, 29% of the rural population will be covered by local development strategies.

Welcoming the decision, EU Agriculture and Rural Development Commissioner Phil Hogan said: *"One of the great strengths of our Rural Development concept is that we have core priorities, but it is up to each Member State or region to design a programme which suits its situation and challenges. This programme puts particular emphasis on actions to restore preserve and enhance ecosystems. It is important in a country which has more than 80% of its territory classified as rural. I am confident that this new RDP will allow these rural areas to prosper and contribute to EU rural development policy objectives."*

### **Background**

Support for [Rural Development](#) is the so-called 2nd Pillar of the [Common Agricultural Policy](#), providing Member States with an envelope of EU funding to manage nationally or regionally under multi-annual, co-funded programmes. In total, 118 programmes are foreseen in all 28 Member States, backed by [€ 99.6 billion](#) of EU funding over the period 2014-2020 through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), with these measures co-funded by additional national, regional and private finance. The new [Rural Development Regulation](#) for the 2014-2020 period addresses six economic, environmental and social priorities, and programmes contain clear targets setting out what is to be achieved. Moreover, in order to coordinate actions better and maximise synergies with the other European Structural & Investment Funds ([ESIF](#)), a [Partnership Agreement](#) has been agreed with each Member State highlighting its broad strategy for EU-funded structural investment.