



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate H. General aspects of rural development and research
Director

Brussels,
Ares (2016) 496589 ML map

INVITATION

to the Workshop

“Financing opportunities for projects in agriculture and rural areas - The Investment Plan for Europe”

23 February 2016, Brussels (Thon Hotel)

Dear Madam, Sir,

I would like to invite you to a workshop on “Financing opportunities for projects in agriculture and rural areas - The Investment Plan for Europe” organised by the European Commission’s Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) with the support of the European Network for Rural Development Contact Point (ENRD CP).

The workshop will deal with core elements of the “Investment Plan for Europe” which was initiated by the European Commission at the end of 2014 and is now rapidly taking shape. The first projects have now been approved under the **European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)**. The EFSI is supported by the **European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH)** and the **European Investment Project Portal (EIPP)**, which will be launched early in 2016. This “three-pack” offers great opportunities for boosting competitiveness, growth and jobs in the agricultural sector and in rural areas.

The aim of the workshop is to ensure that rural areas and agri-food businesses really benefit from these opportunities. It offers a unique chance to receive the most recent, first-hand information on the evolving EFSI implementation system, to raise questions, and to identify investment options and potential partners related to the development of rural areas, the agri-business sector and research and innovation.

The workshop will bring together the following actors: EAFRD Managing Authorities and National Rural Networks (NRNs), National Promotional Banks (NPBs), Agricultural banks, including cooperative and rural banks, and other credit institutions, European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI) stakeholders, Stakeholders represented in the Civil Dialogue Groups, Corporates and branch/ sectoral organisations.

The event will take place on **23 February 2016** in **Brussels** (Thon Hotel).

To ensure the best working conditions, **participation will have to be limited** and preference will be given to **early registrations** while at the same time trying to ensure a balanced distribution by Member States and stakeholder groups.

Attendance is free of charge but participants will need to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements, and there will be no reimbursement of expenses. Please note that the working language is English.

Interested stakeholders are invited to **register through the following [link](#) as soon as possible and not later than 8 February 2016.**

Final confirmation of participation will be sent no later than 10 February 2016.



Aldo LONGO

Annex: Draft agenda of the conference