



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner László Andor
Head of Cabinet

Brussels, 19. 01. 2013
JP/amdl

Dear Ms Devaux,

Thank you for transmitting the open letter on the partnership principle in the Commission's proposal for a Common Provisions Regulation.

Please find attached the reply of Commissioners Andor and Hahn on behalf of the President and the college of Commissioners.

I would be grateful if you could circulate the Commission's reply to the signatories of the open letter.

Yours sincerely,

Anabela Gago

Ms Lise Devaux
WWF European Policy Office
168, avenue de Tervuren, Box 20
B-1150 Brussels

LÁSZLÓ ANDOR
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMISSION



JOHANNES HAHN
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 13. 01. 2013
JP/amdl

Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

Thank you for the open letter on the partnership principle in the Commission's proposal for a Common Provisions Regulation¹.

On behalf of the President and the College of Commissioners, we can assure you of the Commission's determination to defend the objectives of its original proposal on the partnership principle and the European Code of Conduct on Partnership (ECCP) throughout the negotiations. The Commission fully shares your view that good governance of the Partnership Contract and the Funds² programmes is key for their effective and efficient delivery and contribution to achieving the targets and objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy. This requires the involvement of all relevant stakeholders – public authorities, economic and social partners and civil society bodies – at all territorial levels.

In the Staff Working Document (SWD) on *'the partnership principle in the implementation of the CSF Funds – elements for a European Code of Conduct on Partnership'*³, the Commission services set out that the ECCP would lay down minimum requirements which are necessary to attain a high quality partnership in the preparation and implementation of the Funds while maintaining ample flexibility to Member States in the ways they organise the participation of the different partners. The SWD emphasises that the active and meaningful involvement of all relevant stakeholders - from the very early stages of programme design as well as during implementation, monitoring and evaluation - is crucial for successful implementation and describes how this goal can be achieved.

¹ COM(2011)615 final/2.

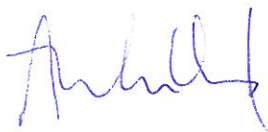
² i.e. the European Regional development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

³ SWD(2012)109 final.

As you may know, the trilogue discussions with the European Parliament and the Council have recently reached an agreement in principle on programming, including on the ECCP. We trust that the Commission, thanks to this progress, will be able to put forward the elements of the ECCP early this year. In this regard, the Commission notes the elements stressed in your letter. We fully share your views that partners should have sufficient means to strengthen their capacity and be able to actively participate in the committees.

On behalf of the College, we sincerely thank you for your commitment to be actively involved in the preparation and implementation of the Funds' programmes. We are confident that in the new programming period the reinforced partnership principle and the European Code of Conduct will support you in your efforts to successfully implement the Funds' programmes.

Yours sincerely,



László ANDOR



Johannes HAHN

Arco Latino
Assembly of the European Regions
Birdlife Europe
CAN-Europe
CECODHAS Housing Europe
CEE Bank watch Network
CEE web for Biodiversity
CEKOR- Center for Ecology and Sustainable Development
Center for Transport and Energy
Clean Air Action Group
CSEMETE (Conservationist and Environmental Association)
E3G
European Environmental Bureau
ECAS - European Citizen Action Service
EKO - Estonian Council of Environmental NGOs
Energy Cities
EREC – European renewable Energy Council
EUCIS-LLL
Euclid Network
European Anti Poverty Network
European Anti-Poverty Network-España
European Foundation Center
European Network for Social Integration Enterprises
European Public Health Alliance
European Roma Policy Coalition
European Women's Lobby
Friends of the Earth Czech Republic
Friends of the Earth Europe
Fundación Secretariado Gitano
ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability
L'Union Sociale pour l'Habitat
National Society of Conservationists (Friends of the Earth Hungary)
Polish Green Network
REVES – European Network of of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy
SF team for Sustainable Future
SOCIAL ECONOMY EUROPE
Social Platform
The Association of European Border Regions
The European Disability Forum
Transport & Environment
Wales Council for Voluntary Action
WWF European Policy Office