ECR Localism Summit 2019

7 June 2019 – The Netherlands

8.45 a.m. – 9.15 a.m.	**Coffee and Registration**
9.15 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.	**Opening speeches**

- **Rob Jonkman**, *Alderman in Opsterland, the Netherlands and ECR CoR Group President*
- **Arno Brok**, *King's Commissioner in Fryslân, the Netherlands*

9.30 a.m. – 10.20 a.m.	**Panel I – Bridging the urban – rural divide**

The traditional distinction between rural and urban areas is to some extent blurred, mainly due to the rapid expansion of peri-urban areas, where the space around city centers merges with rural landscape. This create complex rural-urban linkages. A truly integrated, cooperation-based approach to development (as opposed to separate rural and urban policies) can be more efficient in confronting common challenges such as energy and climate change, demography and access to public services. But where differences remain, a localist approach may be more appropriate. The EU aim to bridge the rural-urban divide by dedicating approximately one third of its budget to achieving the goal of economic, social and territorial cohesion. This panel will evaluate whether this money is spent wisely and in line with the principle of subsidiarity.

Key-note: **Nicolaas Beets**, *Dutch Special Envoy for the Urban Agenda*

Moderator: **Pavel Branda**, *Vice-Mayor of Rádlo municipality in th Czech Republic and ECR CoR Member*

Speakers:

- **Roberto Ciambetti**, *President of the Regional Council of Veneto, Italy and ECR CoR Member*
- **Benoit Esmanne**, *Policy officer, DG AGRI, European Commission*
- **Ellen van Selm**, *Mayor of the municipality of Opsterland and President of the P10, the association of the largest rural municipalities in the Netherlands*

10.20 a.m. – 11.10 a.m.	**Panel II - Sustainable cities, regions and municipalities**

While the colour of the Netherlands is orange, Holland is famous for its investment in green technologies and sustainability. This panel will look at best practice in terms of the sustainability of Dutch and European rural areas, cities and regions. The main challenges to be discussed include a clean energy supply, climate change, water management and prevention of natural disasters. Too often policies affecting these areas are designed at EU or national level, whereas it is the local or regional government that is required to implement them on the ground. It is also too often that we see these problems being tackled through state intervention rather than through market solutions. This panel will demonstrate that they see localism as the main tool to incentivise sustainability and environmentalism.

*Key-note: **Oldřich Vlasák**, Councillor in the city of Hradec Kralove in the Czech Republic and ECR CoR Vice-President*

*Moderator:**Tjisse Stelpstra**, Member of the Council of the Province of Drenthe in the Netherlands and ECR CoR Member*

Speakers:

- **Hein Pieper**, *Dijkgraaf and Vice-President of the Dutch regional water authorities*
- **Linda Robinson**, *Member of Wychavon Council in the UK and ECR CoR Member*
- **John Vernooij**, *CEO of Omrin*

11.10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	**Coffee break**
11.30 a.m. – 12.20 p.m.	**Panel III - Smart Cities and Villages**

The 4th industrial revolution is impacting all aspects of our lives, including the way that public services are delivered at local and regional level. Promoting smart cities and villages has become a mainstream concept in public discourse, in recognition of the tremendous benefits expected in urban and rural areas. Progress in this domain is bound to be the source of future benchmarking of quality of life between one city or region and another. But are the existing technologies mature enough to enable prompt "smartification"? Are the local and regional governments ready to sustain such investments? This panel will focus on understanding best practices enabling public - private synergies at all levels of governance. Furthermore, it will seek to provide a thorough analysis of the technological and wider societal challenges ahead.

*Key-note: **Peter van Dalen**, Member of the ECR Group in the European Parliament*

*Moderator: **David Simmonds**, Deputy Leader of London Borough of Hillingdon, Deputy Chairman of the Local Government Association and ECR CoR Member*

Speakers:

***Robert Godek**, Member of Strzyżów District Council in Poland and ECR CoR Group Member*

- **André van de Nadort**, *Mayor of the Municipality of Weststellingwerf in the Netherlands and CoR Member*
- **Johannes Lankester**, *Coordinator of the Sustainable Villages Network, the Netherlands*

12.20 p.m. – 12.30 p.m.	**Concluding remarks**
12.30 p.m.	**Picture with all the participants**
12. 45 p.m.	**Lunch in Town hall**