

Fostering the economic and social development of Villages in close proximity to Cities

EA GROUP SEMINAR

"Fostering the economic and social development of villages in close proximity to cities"

12 September 2025, 10h00 – 13h00

Casa Timiș - Sala de Conferințe, Florica Romalo 4, Chițorani

AGENDA

1. Opening Statements

- **Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis**, President of the European Alliance Group in the Committee of the Regions and President of the Corsican Assembly
- **Cosmina-Ramona Pandele**, Member of the European Alliance Group and Mayor of Berceni Commune, Prahova County

Keynote speeches:

- **Attila-Zoltán Cseke**, Minister for Development, Public Works and Administration
- **Adina-Ioana Vălean**, Member of the European Parliament and Ex-Commissioner for Transport
- **Sebastian Burduja**, Former Minister of Energy and Honorary Adviser to the Prime Minister

2. Session 1: Bridging urban-rural divides: challenges and opportunities for villages near cities

The session will explore the specific development challenges faced by villages located in the orbit of urban centres, such as land use pressures, infrastructure needs, demographic shifts, and access to services. The participants can also discuss how proximity to cities can be an asset for local economic growth, employment, and improved quality of life.

Moderator: **Marie-Antoinette Maupertuis**, European Alliance Group President

Statements by

- **Ramona CHIRIAC**, Head of the European Commission representation in Romania
- **Virgiliu-Daniel Nanu** — President of the Prahova County
- **Kieran McCarthy**, CoR Rapporteur on the Urban Agenda, Small Cities and the New European Bauhaus

Debate with participants

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3. Session 2: Practical solutions for economic growth, social services and quality of life

Focusing on concrete examples and good practices, this session will present policies and initiatives that have successfully strengthened local economies, supported SMEs and farming, improved public services, and enhanced the liveability of peri-urban villages, while preserving local identity and community cohesion.

Moderator: **Cosmina-Ramona Pandele; Mayor of Berceni Commune, Prahova County**

Statements by

- **Daniel Nicodim; Prefect of Prahova**
- **Marc Hendrickx, Member of the Flemish Parliament**
- **Local investor / ACoR representative (tbc)**

Debate with participants

4. Adoption of the Berceni declaration: "Fostering the economic and social development of villages in close proximity to cities"

5. Concluding remarks

- **Tadeusz Truskolaski**, first vice president of the European Alliance Group in the Committee of the Regions and mayor of Bialystok, Poland