

Newsletter

European coordination

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<http://www.FIMARC.org>

World Assembly in Senegal

The World Assembly of the FIMARC will be take place early November at Senegal and we are ready to participate. Each global meeting is a important moment in the life of the FIMARC and is a platform for exchange of experiences, reflections and analyses of the situation of the rural movements all over the world, through their representatives.

This year under the theme: **"Let's move together in solidarity and harmony to create a fair, dignified rural world respectful of all forms of life"**, we will try to meet the general objective which is to maintain rural populations in their living environment and to allow them to live in dignity.

The FIMARC encourages its organizations and movements to develop guidance and activities for a sustainable rural development through education and the promotion of peasant agriculture in order to create a living rural world. His main areas of work and action are designed and programmed by the various continental movements, taking into account the realities of social, cultural, economic of each of the regions and countries where we are present.

With this project, the FIMARC proposes the following main objectives for the next 4 years:

- To strengthen the critical conscience within the movements on the socio-economic and agriculture problems existing on the different continents.
- To organize and mobilize rural population to amplify their voices in favor of rights to land, water and seeds.
- To maintain more people in rural areas and in agriculture.
- To position the FIMARC as an organization of international movement to strengthen the capabilities of its members in rural areas.
- To deepen the understanding of national leaders on the United Nations Declaration on the rights of farmers and to create synergies and actions to obtain the support of national Governments.
- To improve the educational practices in the rural movements.
- To exchange on the perspectives, experiences and challenges of agricultural and rural life in the North and in the South.
- To encourage the continental coordination's and to ensure global coordination more effective.

In a very short time, we will begin to work in Senegal, then in our respective country with ambition that **"With the movements of the FIMARC, we dare to build another rural world! »**

DESERTIFICATION in rural Spain

We have already written about this topic in a previous letter (Newsletter N ° 24). This article stressed the seriousness of the problem and the plight of the Spanish rural world which could be compared with that of other European countries. In the Christian Spain Rural movement, we considered this serious enough situation to dedicate two years of our most important campaign "the day of the rural world". In 2017, we approached this issue under the slogan: "Everyone leaves, with all that was taken", insisting on the fact the people and services leave small towns and rural areas, and that the population became more and more reduced. In May 2018, we dealt with the same subject, with another slogan: "Living in the villages, living in the country". We have developed a positive approach showing the positive aspects of life in rural areas, proximity to the people, solidarity between neighbors, quality of life in the country, our rivers, our environment, the enjoyment of the direct contact with nature.

And just as we have previously criticized the lack of available services in rural areas, we want, in this letter, to state the implementation of many initiatives taken by public and private organizations to prevent this desertification. The society, public institutions, social organizations, collectives of all kinds are being awoken to stem the depopulation of rural areas and develop possibilities for a new life to the population with the creation of new projects and opportunities to improve the resources of small municipalities.

Thus, public organizations, such as the Ebro Hydrographic Confederation, the Government of Aragon, the Ministry of Education, trade unions CCOO, the UGT, UAGA and associations and social groups are the initiators of the restoration of desertified sites, while other associations of new inhabitants or former inhabitants have made the bet to restore various public facilities in places in the process of desertification. These facilities are used to provide new training to young people and adults in the course of the year. Many of these activities are related to the restoration of buildings, to organic farming, to the restoration of almost lost traditions, to the silvicultural treatments and animal farming.

With the improvement of the access to the cities and the strengthening of the infrastructure, the owners of abandoned houses and farms for years are encouraged to rehabilitate them for give life to these depopulated cities, which was previously regarded as impossible. It is rewarding to lend our support to these initiatives and to promote a living rural world, offering perspectives for the future, and encourage others to participate in this struggle, because our rural world is not forgotten.

END OF THE PRORURE PROGRAM I

After two years of activity, the PRORURE I program is completed. In a final meeting, the delegates of the nine countries were received by some representatives of the COMECE (European Episcopal Conference) to share our impressions and concerns about the religion and social problems that affect our rural environment.

We were also greeted by members of the European Parliament and the European Commission to whom we addressed our questions and with which we could exchange our impressions. They also provided a lot of information on their respective committees: agriculture, rural development, environment and health, education and culture, and climate action.

Both of them presented us the lines of their committees and the areas in which we can find the support of the European Union. We have expressed our concerns, our problems, concerns and doubts that they tried to respond sympathetically.

It was a very interesting experience and we proved once again that the union made the force. Representatives of a single country should not have been received by as much politicians and officials of the European Commission, while with 50 representatives from 9 countries of the European Union, we have been received, they listened to us and we were able to share our opinions in different areas and speak them directly about our problems.

This has been an excellent program which, in addition to present the activities of our own Movimiento Cristiano Rural and those of other movements participating, we opened the horizon on the problems of the rural world in other European countries. The exchange of information on the problems encountered in each country, the solutions that we tried to bring them, the support received from other members of the program and the coexistence with representatives of other countries have marked these two years by a very positive, both at the organizational level that staff of the participants.

The delegates of the PRORURE program to the European Parliament representatives

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