

Honourable delegates,

Welcome to the committee on Environment, Public Health, and Food Safety. We will be meeting in Sønderborg, Denmark to attend the MEP BSR session this fall. My name is Sanni Pahta and I am currently studying my last year of the International Baccalaureate program in Espoo, Finland. I have actively participated in Finland's national MEP and attended the MEP BSR session in Iława, Poland in the spring of 2018 as a delegate. It is my honour to be your Committee President in Denmark, and I look forward to meeting you all there and hearing your ideas. I am sure we will have a very fruitful and educating five days.



In our committee, we will be addressing the following issue:

The question of smart growth in small towns and rural communities. Many rural communities and small towns are facing challenges, including rapid growth at metropolitan areas, declining rural populations, loss of study- and workplaces e.g. What strategies can be used to protect and preserve the environment and at the same time create growth and development?

Rural development is an important but challenging issue to broach, as rural communities and small towns are faced with increasing problems due to accelerating urbanisation of larger cities and communities. Not only do we have to think of how the EU can promote and help smart growth in rural areas, but we have to find ways in which it can be achieved whilst still protecting and preserving the environment. But, however challenging our issue may be, I am confident that you will be able to form a coherent and strong resolution after active group work and discussion.

Below, I have attached two links to aid you in your preparations for the upcoming MEP BSR session. However, I urge you to conduct your own research as to be thoroughly prepared to begin actively working when in Denmark. I also suggest taking notes and preparing ideas in advance, so that you are comfortable and ready to participate in committee work. As part of your research, I encourage you to read up on your own country's rural development programs so that you can be prepared to discuss them once we meet.

I wish you all a good summer and look forwards to seeing you in Denmark. It is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to take part in motivated group-work, to practice argumentative speech and to meet new people from around the Baltic Sea region.

If any issues or questions happen to arise, please, don't hesitate to contact me:
sanni.pahta@gmail.com

Sanni Pahta
Committee President of ENVI

Links:

https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/common/rdp-list_en.pdf (contains helpful statistics and diagrams of current and future rural development programs in the EU)

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/EU_Rural_Development_Policy (contains helpful basic information of EU rural development programs, I suggest taking a look at the “external links” at the bottom of the page)