

## ZINCK Caroline

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**From:** Richard Kitt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 July 2014 11:59  
**To:** Euro-Ombudsman  
**Subject:** Commission advisory groups  
**Attachments:** Keymer-Groups (30.6.2014).doc

Dear Ms O'Reilly

I attach a copy of a letter sent from the Leader of the UK Delegation of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) to the Secretary-General of the European Commission, concerning the exclusion of local authority representatives from DG AGRI advisory groups.

We understand that you are currently reviewing this matter and we invite you to take this letter into account, and the CoR resolution to which it refers.

**Richard Kitt**  
**Secretary, UK Delegation to CoR**

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Ms Catherine Day  
Secretary-General, European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels

30 June 2014

Dear Secretary-General

### **COMMISSION ADVISORY GROUPS**

On behalf of the UK Delegation to the Committee of the Regions, I should like to draw your attention to the adoption of an amendment in last week's plenary session, in which the CoR calls for local authorities and their representative associations at national or European level to be restored to the advisory groups operated by DG AGRI.

I understand that in the past, technical advisers from pan-European associations of local government (eg CEMR) have often attended advisory group meetings to contribute the views of Europe's 100,000+ municipalities and regions. This enables the local sector to better understand Commission proposals and executive decisions; identify and resolve potential issues with implementation; and contribute to future Commission thinking.

We regret the current approach of DG AGRI, which we believe is against the subsidiary and partnership principles enshrined in the new Rural and Cohesion regulations and the Code of Conduct on Partnership, and moreover is a barrier to smart lawmaking.

We therefore hope that you can assure us that this practice will be reversed and will not be extended to groups operated by other Directorates.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Gordon Keymer  
Leader, UK Delegation to CoR

cc Emily O'Reilly, EU Ombudsman  
cc Shan Morgan, UK Permanent Representation