



The Association of German Nature Parks
and the
EUROPARC Federation
are pleased to invite you to the



First European Summit of Regional Nature Parks

“Regional Nature Parks – strong partners for nature conservation and sustainable rural development”

on Wednesday, **21 June 2017 from 18:00 to 21:00**
in the

Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union
Rue Montoyer 47, 1000 Brussels



As integrated protected areas, Regional Nature Parks connect nature conservation with sustainable development of rural areas, and use an integrated and multi-stakeholder approach to do so. There are over 900 Regional Nature Parks in Europe, covering 8% of the total surface area of the EU-28, Switzerland and Norway.

The First European Summit of Regional Nature Parks is dedicated to answering the question of how Regional Nature Parks can be more effectively used to achieve the EU's objectives in the fields of nature conservation and sustainable development, by bringing together experts from the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions and the European Parliament.

We are looking forward to welcoming you!



Supported by:



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety



based on a decision of the German Bundestag

First European Summit Meeting of Regional Nature Parks in Brussels

Programme

18:00 Reception and refreshments in the lobby

18:30 Welcome addresses:

Rainer STEFFENS, Director of the Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union

Ignace SCHOPS, President of the EUROPARC Federation

Daniel CALLEJA CRESPO, Director-General for Environment, European Commission

Dr. Christiane PAULUS, Deputy Director General for Nature Conservation, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

18:50 Presentation of the study on European Regional Nature Parks

Association of German Nature Parks: Ulrich Köster, Director; Katharina Denking, Project Coordinator

19:05 Moderated panel discussion on the topic "How can Regional Nature Parks be better integrated into EU politics?"

Panellists:

- Daniel CALLEJA CRESPO, Director-General for Environment, European Commission
- Martin SCHEELE, Head of Unit, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
- Member of the European Parliament (tbc)
- Member of the Committee of the Regions (tbc)
- Ignace SCHOPS, President of the EUROPARC Federation

19:45 Signing of a declaration by representatives of European Regional Nature Parks

20:00 Closing remarks

Moderated by: Monika Hoegen, Communication for development

Followed by a reception with tasting of regional park specialities

[To facilitate better planning, we invite you to register using this link.](#)

Contact

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