Hay meadows in decline -
what should the EU do about it?

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Hay meadows fit well with EU2020 priorities

• Biodiversity targets mean that we MUST halt hay-meadow decline:
  1) habitats and species targets
  2) ecosystem services targets
  3) Biodiversity measures in agriculture policy targets

• Resource efficiency

• Low-carbon economy

• Inclusive jobs, including marginalised communities
Instruments for delivering EU2020 for hay meadows – CAP Pillar 2 is the KEY

• Pillar 1 greening proposals have NOTHING to offer hay meadows and HNV farming systems.

• But Pillar 2 has an explicit Priority 4 (a):

  “restoring and preserving biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas and high nature value farming, and the state of European landscapes”
Relevant CAP Pillar 2 instruments

- Agri-environment and Natura 2000 payments
- Areas with Natural Constraints payments
- Farm investment aids
- Farm advisory services
- Local co-operation projects
- LEADER
- RDP sub-programmes for HNV farming
- Etc.
So the EU has agreed the aims and provides the instruments – but are countries delivering?

- Romania – ambitious scheme for HNV grasslands, but needs extending and better adaptation for hay meadows
- England – long history of agri-environment schemes, and of transferring funds from Pillar 1 to finance them
- Agri-environment schemes are essential but not enough – we need measures to support the farming systems and economy
- And it is LOCAL PROJECTS that make the crucial difference – they multiply the benefits of top-down schemes
2 speed EU

• Some countries are lagging far behind in using the tools provided by the EU to pursue EU priorities
• E.g. Spain has vast areas of HNV farming and hay meadows, but has VERY LIMITED agri-environment schemes for them
• The EU institutions and governance systems do not ensure consistent effort to deliver EU priorities, or best practice
• This situation makes a mockery of EU goals and institutions
How can we ensure that the EU provides effective support for hay meadows and HNV farming post-2013?

• Continue to transfer funds from Pillar 1 to agri-environment
• Agri-environment schemes better adapted and supported by other measures, including local projects funded by Pillar 2
• Rigorous ex ante evaluations for Priority 4 (Natura 2000 and HNV farming), and measures that are a SUFFICIENT RESPONSE to the identified needs
• Will the EU institutions insist on this rigorous approach from all Member States??
How will we know if we are succeeding?

• We need monitoring systems using sample surveys of:
  – Extent and condition of hay meadows
  – Farming systems and practices

• All countries should be doing this under the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF) for Pillar 2, but most are NOT doing it

• From 2013, the indicators apply to the whole CAP, so it becomes even more important that they are implemented

• Will the EU institutions make it happen??
What EFNCP is doing about it...
Examples of what EFNCP is doing....

• petition on permanent pastures and CAP eligibility: supported by 80+ organisations !!!
Book on HNV farming in 35 countries...