



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

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European Parliament
November 2012
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EUROPEAN FORUM ON
NATURE CONSERVATION
AND PASTORALISM



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...

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The European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP) is a Europe-wide network which raises awareness of the importance of **low-intensity farming for nature conservation** and aims to improve the way public policies respond to the needs of these farming systems.

The maintenance of '**High Nature Value**' farming systems (**HNV farmland**) - now a central aim of the EU Common Agricultural Policy - raises huge challenges.

The Forum believes that securing a sustainable future for HNV farmland requires addressing a wide range of socio-economic and cultural questions, going far beyond traditional agri-environment policy.

EFNCP is the only organisation which regularly brings together

- **farmers,**



FROM THE FORUM ...

- ▶ Available now: - A comprehensive document on the characteristics of High-Nature-Value farming systems ... (10 Mar 2009)
- ▶ EU Commission: GREEN PAPER on agricultural product quality ... - a response from EFNCP (01 Jan 2009)
- ▶ Scottish Government consultation on the Less favoured Area Support Scheme - Joint response of SCF and EFNCP, PDF-Document (29 Dec 2008)
- ▶ HNV farming - Explaining the concept and interpreting EU and national policy commitments - PDF-Document (13 Oct 2008)
- ▶ CAP Health Check Consultation - a response from EFNCP (15.01.2008) - PDF-Document (23 Sep 2008)

Done

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Examples of what EFNCP is doing....

- petition on permanent pastures and CAP eligibility: supported by 80+ organisations !!!



Pour soutenir les éleveurs qui gèrent les paysages pastoraux européens, changeons les règles sur les pâturages permanents dans la PAC

Février 2012



Book on HNV farming in 35 countries...

