New CAP – better or worse?

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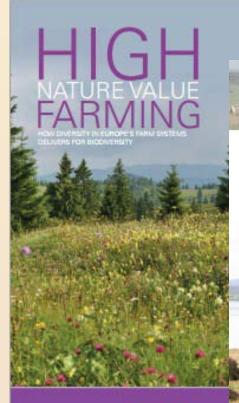
Brussels – 17 November 2015



The premise of last CAP reform

- Public money for public goods
- Budget versus delivery:
 - 2: sustainable growth of natural resources
- Lift the baseline
- Context
 - EU biodiversity strategy target 3 agriculture
 - first time co-decision with 28Member States





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CAP reform 2013

last chance to stop the decline of Europe's High Nature Value farming?





nature's y









EU Common Agricultural Policy

EU agricultura fails on biodiv

Extra steps by Member State to protect farmed and grassl

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n December 2013, the European Union (EU) enacted the reformed Commor Agricultural Policy (CAP) for 2014-2020, allocating almost 40% of the EU' budget and influencing managemen of half of its terrestrial area. Many EU politicians are announcing the new CAP a "greener," but the new environmental pre scriptions are so diluted



Vergroening Europa is farce

Europese lidstaten kiezen weg van de minste weerstand om subsidies binnen te slepen

Susi Zijderveld: dol op haperende zoals de NS

vandaag



igher environmental impact policies and directives [supsterials (SM) part A]. Recogof the CAP for biodiversity. ersity Strategy for 2020 sets maximise areas [...] covered -related measures under the CAP reform does not fulfill

N OF AMBITION. When the mission launched the latest 2010, it outlined three main d security, environment and , and maintaining the terriand diversity of rural areas ldress the second challenge. payments to farmers ("Pillar ome conditional on compliee "greening measures": eslogical Focus Areas (EFAs) ned area, maintaining existt grassland, and growing a hree different crops on any ha of arable land. Yet after tiation (10), these measures oughly 50% of EU farmland, ers are exempt from deploy-

ag.org on September 29, 2014

What it meant for wooded pastures

- More openness to woody pastures in the rules
- But:
 - Trees are still not seen as fundamental part of the productive system
 - rules are poorly conceived, not based on good science or on farming realities, complex, not fully clear, contradictory...
 - problems with the way some Member States and auditors interpret the rules.
- System could lead to failure of policy objectives for large areas of farmland, many farmers, and EU environmental priorities.

Can the policy still do it?





How can we improve the system?

- 1. Evaluation of the CAP eligibility rules for permanent pastures
 - Effects of the CAP rules on the ground
 - Coherence between CAP and other (environmental) policies
 - Study options for improvement: e.g. harmonize rules between different policies (CAP, B&HD) in Natura 2000 farmed areas
- 2. All wooded pastures in active use should be eligible for direct payments
 - Trees and shrubs are not a priori "non-productive"
 - Recognise forage value of fallen fruits and leaves, and other agronomic functions of trees and shrubs
 - Activity to be a determining criterion for eligibility. MS should define acceptable levels of activity (maintenance, production)
 - Grazing should be recognized as an option for "maintenance of the agricultural area" as it can be important from an environmental perspective



Improving the system – part 2

2. Eligibility (continuation)

- Removal of concepts that cannot be practically defined/checked, such as a "grazable tree for its full area"
- No arbitrary tree/shrub limit should be set if there is an acceptable level of farming taking place
- No requirement for pro-rata reductions except for features that clearly are not part of the forage system
- Auditors change their thinking: a lot of trees and shrubs does not mean less/not eligible per definition
- Do not favour afforestation of pasture above continuation of grazing on wooded pasture land



Improving the system – part 3

- 3. Rural Development Programmes as extra support system
 - Agri-Environment Climate measures should be used much more actively in these areas especially in Southern Member States
 - RDP support for afforestation on grassland should not be more attractive than incentives to continue farming wood pastures
- 4. Consider a fundamental revision of the 2 pillar system as per our original NGO proposal



Thank you!



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