



FACE position on the CAP reform “Strengthening wildlife and biodiversity in the CAP!”

Foreword

During the last century, the majority of the European agricultural landscape has become more and more intensively managed. As a result, wildlife has decreased in abundance and bio-diversity has been lost. The recreational and aesthetic values of the agricultural landscape have also decreased. At the same time, abandonment of agricultural land poses similar threats elsewhere.

FACE commits to a strong EU Agricultural Policy and recognizes the important role of agriculture and farmers, within both society and landscape management. The CAP should, however, focus more clearly on the multi-functionality of agriculture. All suggested measures should include financial compensation for potential losses in revenue for farmers. When it is to look at the CAP budget we should take into consideration that any strengthening of biodiversity contributes to the general acceptance of agriculture within the society.

“Strengthening and support for biodiversity within the scope of the CAP!”

- CAP measures should be sufficiently funded, flexible, diversified and easy to apply and less bureaucratic.
- European hunters are allies of the European Farmers in the countryside. The further development of CAP after 2013 must promote and improve the demands of the multifunctionality of agriculture as well as the general public’s understanding of the requirements of agricultural policy.
- All stakeholders in the agricultural landscape would benefit from a CAP reform focused on conserving and restoring biodiversity in a more varied European agricultural landscape.

Measures in order to maintain biodiversity

- In the area of the second Pillar, the Agro-environmental measures must enjoy first priority with a clear focus on biological diversity.
- Promotion of ecological networks and establishment of a functioning regional biotope network.
- Promotion of field boundaries, habitat strips and meadows, but with the option to carry out measures of care and even commercial use.
- Conservation and promotion of existing natural habitats by means of cartographical mapping. In case of non-compliance with the conservation requirements, cutbacks of single payments are to be applied (cross compliance relevant).
- Level of financial assistance must create financial incentives for farmers and remain interesting to farmers even under changed market situations (and to therefore ensure long term approach of measures).
- Promotion of varied rotation of crops in order to reduce monocultures.
- Applications for financial assistance need to be simplified and unified. Implementation of current measures in Pillar II show financial weaknesses and high bureaucratic obstacles.
- Member States’ advisory systems should become obligatory. Farmers should be offered advisory services regarding issues of nature conservation. Establishment of advisory networks should be eligible for support.
- Level of financial assistance should be adapted to each location to enable the establishment of agro-environmental measures also in areas of intensive agriculture.