Workshop: FARMERS AND PROTECTED AREAS: HOW PROTECTED AREAS CAN PRESERVE VIBRANT RURAL TERRITORIES AND LIVING LANDSCAPE IN PARTNERSHIP, IN PARTICULAR WITH YOUNG FARMERS

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The process towards the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) post-2020...

...and the EUROPARC Federation’s contribution to the debate
The process towards the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) post-2020
The CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) is the set of EU rules aimed at the development of a uniform agricultural sector across the EU.

The Treaty on the European Union (art 39) specifies that the objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy shall be:

(a) to increase agricultural productivity…;
(b) to ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community…
(c) to stabilise markets;
(d) to assure the availability of supplies;
(e) to ensure that supplies reach consumers at reasonable prices.

+ Coherence with the overall objectives of the Union

+ Concerns about climate change and issues such as biodiversity loss, water and soil quality mean that agriculture also plays an increasingly important role in the sustainable management of natural resources.
The CAP annual budget is roughly €59 billion, to support measures through the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), notably:

- **Direct payments** to help stabilize farmers incomes (they include the greening measures: sustainable agricultural practices regarding soil quality, biodiversity and carbon sequestration)

- **Market measures** if normal market forces fail (it also includes promotion of EU farm products)

- **Rural development programmes** to invest in individual projects on farms or in other activities in rural areas, on the basis of economic, environmental or social priorities designed at national or regional level.
CAP’s STEPS until today:

- developed in the early sixties
- several waves of reforms
- latest reform in 2013 (program 2014-2020) - new CAP really started in 2015 and many of the rural development programmes came later
Many change from the last CAP reform:

• Agricultural prices fall and market uncertainty

• New international commitments: e.g. concerning climate change (COP21) and sustainable development (through the UN's Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs)

• Market, Trade negotiations (from multilateral to bilateral deals)

**Criticisms:**

• Complexity, ...

• Market, Support measures, ...

• Environment, health, organic, fairtrade, ...

• ...

Forward the CAP 2021-2027

- Public Consultation: 2 February – 2 May 2017

- **European Commission Communication** (orientation) The Future of Food and Farming – for a flexible, fair and sustainable Common Agricultural Policy, 29 November 2017
- **European Parliament Resolution** on the Future of Food and Farming, 30 May 2018
- **European Commission Legislative Proposals**, 1 June 2018

- Debates in EP, European Council and Member States, ongoing
- Legislative process toward approval or reject the proposal (before elections 2019?)
In parallel:

**Budget debate** (Multi-Annual Financial Framework – MFF)

**EU elections**: 2019

**National elections** in different key Member States: France, Netherlands, Germany, ...

**BREXIT** negotiations...
Nine objectives of the new CAP proposal:
Structure:

maintain the current structure of the CAP in two pillars

with annual measures of general application in **Pillar I (direct payments)**

complemented by measures reflecting the national and regional specificities under a multi-annual programming approach in **Pillar II (rural development)**
New delivery model:

**Increased subsidiarity for Member States**: the new CAP will point to an increased flexibility for Member States in implementing the policy so that Member States can better tailor implementing measures under both Pillars to their realities and farmers' concrete circumstances.

**Setting targets at EU level**: clear identification of the objectives which the policy has to achieve: these objectives shall be established at EU level.
Available budget:

Commission *proposal* on the multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027:

**a significant part of the EU budget should continue to be dedicated to agriculture**

it is *proposed* that the CAP should focus on its core activities with EUR 286.2 billion allocated to the EAGF and EUR 78.8 billion for the EAFRD.
Some points of the debate, important for us:

• The CAP reform, and agriculture in general, is not a specific matter only of farmers, but concerns many other sectors, and consumers and public (involvement in the decision process)

• Rural development means not only agricultural development. (Committee of Regions report; Cork’s declaration 2016 A Better Life in Rural Areas)

• Subsidiarity: risks of competitions among Member States, weak “Common” policy, more bureaucracy, less control of objectives and performance in achieving the EU targets

• How are really guaranteed the environmental targets in the new CAP?

• Direct payments versus Rural development
EC website
Future of the common agricultural policy:
(Info, legislative proposals, factsheets, etc.)

EUROPARC FEDERATION

and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) post-2020
Healthy and competitive agriculture needs a healthy environment and nature resources as provided by Protected Areas.

European Protected Areas are National and Regional Parks, Nature and Biosphere Reserves, Marine and Landscape Protected Areas, Periurban Parks, Natura 2000 sites, and other categories of legally designated areas with the common aim of protecting Europe’s unique variety of wildlife, habitats and landscapes.

Position Paper
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European Protected Areas & Sustainable Agriculture

Working in Partnership for Biodiversity and Rural Development

A contribution to the debate on the EU Common Agricultural Policy Reform

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Farmers and Protected Areas can be allies, working for common solutions.

We must learn from the best practise available in effective partnerships, apply and adapt these models, develop tools to replicate and implement these successful approaches across the European Union.

EUROPARC seeks agricultural policies, which can be defined as:

**Good for People, Good for Nature**

because they ensure a good, secure supply of food, because they respect and protect the environment and natural resources, because they provide a fair income to the farmer.
The role of Protected Areas and Natura 2000 Sites in rural development needs to be valorised by the new CAP.

Through their support to sustainable agriculture and sustainable tourism, Protected Areas work actively and concretely against land abandonment and depopulation of rural areas.
Key points of the EUROPARC Position on Protected Areas and CAP post-2020:

• The key role Protected Areas play, involving their working in partnership with farmers, claims their eligibility as beneficiaries of specific funds for rural development.

• Farmers have to be remunerated, for providing the society not only food but also a variety of ecosystem services in terms of health, landscape and nature resources.
• The new CAP should pay **specific attention** to farmers acting within or close to Protected Areas and Natura 2000 Sites

• ... guarantee available **funds, simplification** of the procedures, **accessibility** on the funds, ... **results** of the actions **and coherence with wider EU policies**

• Protected Areas are committed to improve **partnership** with farmers for developing common solutions and creating mutual benefits. These **efforts have to be awarded by EU and national and regional authorities at financial, legal and political level**
• ...support to **transitions towards organic and sustainable farming**

• Protected Areas and Natura 2000 Sites can be the laboratories to experiment **“innovation”**

• **role of the European Union** to maintain a **coherent policy** on sustainable agriculture across all Member States, as well as to guarantee the coherence with other European policies and with the Natura 2000 network
EUROPARC Toolbox “Sustainable Agriculture”:

(News, PAs case studies, information…)

www.europarc.org/toolbox/sustainable-agriculture

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Thank you

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