



“The impact of the CAP reform on biodiversity”
« L’impact de la réforme de la PAC sur la biodiversité »
„Die Auswirkungen der GAP-Reform auf die Biodiversität“

Minutes – Procès verbal – Protokoll

Strasbourg, 7.7.2010

EP Strasbourg - Room/Salle/Raum SDM - S7 15h30 - 17h00

1. Opening remarks / Mots de bienvenue / Begrüßung

- *Véronique MATHIEU*, MEP, President of the Intergroup

Véronique MATHIEU welcomes all participants and underlines the relevance of this meeting in the European Parliament which will have to adopt the Lyon report dealing with the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) reform the next day. Explaining the reason for this theme she emphasizes the need to manage species and also habitats as well as the fact that agriculture has an impact on those natural assets. The CAP reform is important also because of its implications on the EU budget. She announces the arrival of the European Commissioner for Agriculture, Dacian CIOLOȘ who will be interested in all opinions and she finally thanks FACE & ELO for the organisation of the meeting.

- *Luis Manuel CAPOULOS SANTOS*, MEP, Former Minister for Agriculture of Portugal

He introduces all speakers and states that we cannot talk about the CAP without mentioning biodiversity and especially the operators of the biodiversity. Those operators are also hunters and they play an important role for biodiversity.

2. Interventions/ Presentations/ Präsentationen

- *Corrado PIRZIO-BIROLI*, President of ELO

Corrado PIRZIO-BIROLI supports the idea that the plunder of nature can only be avoided through robust collective action. This action depends on governance. A common EU approach is justified because environmental services have cross-boundary effects. Agriculture, food, environment, trade and also cohesion policy are EU –competences. He stresses that the EU must strike the right balance between “romantic environmentalists”, who define natural resources as “preservation” and “human environmentalists”, which put more emphasis on food than on environment. Food production must become more sustainable, environmentally as well as economically and socially, if Europe wants to continue adding to world security. He underlines that we should stop simply speaking of preserving biodiversity in rural areas but that we would need to produce it. Not conservation, but production of biodiversity is the new name of the game. Land managers should live from their work and from the





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price of their produce. So, they would be insured against excessive price fluctuations and get conditions for fairer competition on the market.

Corrado PIRZIO- BIROLI emphasizes that in Europe we would consistently underestimate the scale of eco-system services, and ignore the scale of the policy response required. But he states that things were changing and refers to the joint position between ELO and Bird Life International; to the joint participation of ELO, FACE and IUCN on the Promotion of Natura 2000 and to several topics dealt with the RISE foundation.

With regard to biodiversity, he notes that it is the indispensable guarantor of the continued provision of ecosystem services upon which we depend – food security, climate regulation, pollination, water resources, water quality and other vital services. An investment into rural ecology does not always need to involve additional public payments insofar as food production is completely replaced by biodiversity and the latter is paid for. But public support is necessary when there is loss of earnings. He recalls that Article 3 of the Lisbon Treaty establishes that the general objectives of the EU are to achieve a sustainable balance between economy, ecology and the social dimension. Therefore the CAP shall become an outstanding instrument to that effect. The next CAP reform must better promote biodiversity through specific measures, like, total decoupling of support from production, inclusion of more environmental laws in the cross-compliance rules, stronger rural development policies and a closer link between payments and service provisions.

He underlines that environmental regulations alone cannot save the ecosystem. They would be costly and farmers would need incentives to produce cleaner air, soil, and water, whether they come through green markets, preferably, or public support. For as long as large environmental markets are not established, public payments will remain the most important tools to deliver public goods. The first pillar of the CAP will remain a necessary basic payment for biodiversity accounting for about ¼ of EU average farm income. Pillar 2 is also important and could be more closely targeted to ecosystem improvement through support for High Value Nature areas and other public goods.

To conclude, he suggests as President of ELO that the debate on the CAP reform should focus on the purpose of reform and the kind of measures needed in the most cost effective, least bureaucratic, simplest and securely funded way. In this regard, the European Parliament is best suited to build an understanding between budget imperatives, agricultural realities and environmental challenges.

▪ Jochen BORCHERT, DJV-President, former Minister for Agriculture in Germany

First of all, Jochen BORCHERT explains that the European Union is about to negotiate a financial plan for several years. Therefore the European Member States, organizations and associations are invited to submit comments regarding the development on the Common Agricultural Policy. Because of the general economic situation the budget is limited. All areas must be verified and all the consequences of predicted changes should be taken into account. These include climate change, the loss of biodiversity and global food supply. As President of the DJV (Deutscher Jagdschutzverband) he expresses that hunting is the sustainable use of natural resources. Hunting laws vary from one country to another. Agriculture has to use the same resources in a manageable way.





He explains that this has an influence on hunting as well underlining if there is a change in agricultural structures, if there is intensive farming, this will reduce the number of wild life, plants, species - so a reduction in biodiversity. At the end it will reduce the recreational area. Furthermore de also advises that in Europe agriculture has many missions, from food consumption to food production resources. That could be replaced by others and the management of the territory has to be organized in such a way that it will take into account the interests of different parties. He explains that this should be the objective of the CAP.

Sustainable management of the land can only be achieved if there is public service, BORCHERT says. For hunters the CAP 2013 is the basis to foster biodiversity. The hunting association agrees that there should be productive agriculture and that there is a need to support agriculture and also farmers. They will make contributions to help foster biodiversity. Hunters have to promote biodiversity together with the farmers. Also the CAP should be clearly focusing more on the multifunctional aspects of agriculture.

According to Jochen BORCHERT, the developments of the CAP will be expected to provide for the strengthening and promotion of biodiversity. To be funded efficiently, measures have to be flexible, there must be different types of measures that can be transposed easily. All measures are to be connected within the agricultural policy which provides financial compensation for income losses in agriculture. Measures therefore must be sufficiently affordable, flexible, versatile, easy to use and less bureaucratic.

Further in his explanation, he dwells on the question of the most important measures there are for hunters. In the framework of the second pillar, biodiversity has to be promoted in an environmental network and also to create interdependencies between the different biotopes and the use of different margins along the farmland in order to be able to take concrete measures. This should be sufficiently funded, so that it will be interesting also from an economic point of view and not just as from an environmental point of view. When it comes to intensive farming, biodiversity has to be promoted and it's only at such price that it will be possible to fund these measures. Farmers in the end must have an appropriate level of income from their farms. When action comes from economic incentives, they will encounter an acceptance within the agricultural sector.

Regarding co-funding, he argues, that co-funding – funding from the European Union and from other sources - should be placed on a broader basis. Co-funding should go hand in hand with other measures and funds coming from third parties, or from communities. The application of funds should be made more flexible. The possibility of creating a diverse crop rotation, to reduce monocultures should be encouraged. Requests for funding in the 1st and 2nd pillar should be simplified. Measures in the 2nd pillar show the financial weakness and the high bureaucratic barriers for the applicants. If the European agricultural policy imposes margins to be declared separately, farmers will not accept to do so. Thus, there will be a risk of errors in the declaration which could disrupt payments to farmers.

In his conclusion, Jochen BORCHERT states that all who are involved in this case have to give advice to the farmers and that we have to advise them on the measures to be taken to protect the environment. There is a need for public funding for public services for as long as we do not have markets for them. This can be done in a very limited way. We have to promote biodiversity when it comes to the CAP, especially when it comes to farmland. Priorities have to be defined for areas and for services.





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▪ Mark TITTERIGTON, Project Operation Pollinator, Syngenta

Mark TITTERIGTON asks why an agribusiness like Syngenta was interested in spending over 3 Million Euros on biodiversity initiatives like operation pollinator. For Syngenta, the sustainability of their business is inextricably linked to the sustainability of agriculture. Without sustainable agriculture, Syngenta's business simply can not prosper. Over 80% of European crop types depend on pollinators to increase fields and the quality of fruits and vegetables. Putting a value on their worth was difficult, but some estimated that they contribute over 5 billion dollars annually to the EU economy, and are far greater if we took into account the global economy.

He says that the pollinator populations are under threat, the causes of this are multiple and they often related to authorising sides, breeding areas, pure management practises and a so called hunger gap. Resources and nutrition are hard to come by for the pollinator. Much of our food depends on the ecosystem services provided by pollinator insects. The challenge therefore is to find ways to combined technology, practices and expertise. Over 570 growers and farmers, representing more than 1000 hectares of managed margin's, joined the project between 2005 and 2008. More than 1400 farmers, across 12 different European countries, covering almost than 2000 hectares, joined the new operation pollinator. With their help and the support of stakeholders and with the farmers, they are on the way to achieve their targets getting 10 000 ha on managed field margins' for cultivation by 2014.

Marc TITTERIGTON explains that more and more operations pollinators are now becoming part of Syngenta's commercial offer to farmers across Europe. They are working to show how important initiatives like these are to farm businesses and the sustainability of agriculture as a whole. He explains the content of the project. The first step, he says, is always to establish the baseline through an addition of all the biodiversity insect species present in the area. They support the field mix, the soil type and the climatic conditions, to maximise the sort of pollen nectar which are available for the pollinators on the farm. In all cases they use native plant species from local and arable sorts and work with the farmer or with the grower to establish the margin and provide ongoing advice and support for these margins. In addition, to that they make flanking measures, such as education and training days. In the short term, he estimated that this initiative will help create habitat and nutrition for pollinators and also have an impact on their numbers. In the long term these practises have a positive impact more broadly on the environment and biodiversity.

After the policy debate on the EU level concerning the CAP reform, Syngenta is looking closely on how the public goods agenda might be of use to them. To use public money to award farmers and growers for the environmental services, which they provide for the benefit of society, and for which the market does not pay, seems eminently ally sensible to them. They want to offer some guiding principles. Activities need to be simple and easy to execute for the farmer or the grower, they are part of the public goods agenda. They must have a demonstrable, a measurable impact on the environment and on biodiversity. Additional support on the EU level and the member states at the regional level may help them to reach their tipping point faster. Assistance with the clear identification of fiscal report available to support these types of initiatives will help to sensitise farmers and growers.

In his conclusions, he explains again that this project is very close to his heart, because it demonstrates how to combine existing productive and competitive agriculture with good





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environmental management. We need to encourage decision-makers in Europe to work with all stakeholders at the EU and the member states.

- Dacian CIOLOS, EU Commissioner for Agriculture

At the beginning, Dacian CIOLOS recalls that the CAP has had a considerable role in the past few years. It was and it is still a pillar in the European construction. It contributed a lot to the piece of mind as for food products on our markets. Agriculture is an economic sector, but it is quite apart from all the other economic sectors, because it works with living matter. We use the earth and biodiversity as one production item but we are realising more and more, that those productions items are not reproduced infinitely without any help if we don't protect those products. There has been a development in the past fifty years on the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP). Regarding competitiveness within agriculture, he argues that there can't be a competitiveness which is only judged outside the context of trying to preserve our natural resources, conserve our nature, and conserve the reproduction of our natural resources. This conflict is not valid any more. We shouldn't talk about biodiversity and environment as affecting the competitiveness of our farmers. Europe has chosen an agricultural model that has developed conserving those two objectives, because we cannot abandon one or the other. In Europe, we cannot separate these two items: Food is the major product of our agriculture. This is the key item in the debate of the future of agriculture policy.

Furthermore, he states that air, soil and water are resources, which cannot reproduce infinitely. To keep them and to look after them is our main issue. However, we have to realise that fields and forests are means of production for the farmer but they don't belong only to the farmers but to the all society. If agriculture is an economic sector; it also has to be seen as a sector that complied with non economic expectations from society. It brings some public products, which are not really integrated into the commodities market. Those products have to be taken into account - otherwise we will always have conflict when preserving the resources, managing biodiversity and giving revenues to farmers. The CAP in the future will have to protect those two aspects. On the one hand, production which is given a good value on the market and paid for by the consumer and on the other hand, products which are not provided by the market, but they have to be paid, because of services they provide for the environment.

He also explains that we have to stop thinking that there are two pillars in the CAP, one good pillar and one bad pillar. They should stand side by side. Biodiversity, natural resources, soil, water are elements to support biodiversity but their also means for producing food. Farmers have to integrate all those services in their economic judgment on their farms. CAP has to support their agricultural systems by stimulating, motivating, giving incentives to the farmers.

In his conclusion, , Dacian CIOLOS explains that farmers and hunters can work together on one common ground, if there is a good management of their environmental basis. The use of the products on the fields and the culling from the hunters, all has its use. These aspects have to be taken into account for a good harmonious agricultural and environmental development in the sustainable development programs. We need to integrate hunters' preoccupation to better manage biodiversity in different regions. Some environmental measures are already in place in the CAP. Supporting better sustainability for biodiversity has to be in the first and also in the second pillar. There are some activities which are in the first pillar that concern biodiversity as maintenance of a good management,

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the capacity of regeneration of natural resources. These are measures which can be analysed and the results can be measured yearly. In the first pillar there are also environmental measures that can be implemented in a wider range and able to involve and develop the productions techniques which are used by farmers. When new techniques are being developed, we realised that it creates a public stimulation and motivation for innovation.

According to Commissioner CIOLOȘ biodiversity is certainly not a luxury item. The good management of natural resources is not anymore to be seen as a luxury for European development. The good management of biodiversity can not be put as one value, a bonus above good economic performance. The agricultural sector is a sector where this issue is totally obvious, more than in any other sector. He says that we have to maintain this diversity of production systems, because this diversity of production systems in agriculture can contribute to maintaining the sustainability of biodiversity and therefore we need to have a Common agriculture policy in the future, so that we can have a good overview of this diversity of agriculture and maintain this diversity. The CAP has to be as simple as possible and easy to understand. It is an instrument that enables us to manage our agricultural estates. It should be concentrated in one model - that would be the most producing models in the all EU countries.

3. Next meeting – Prochaine réunion – Nächste Sitzung

No discussion on this item.

4. Questions & Answers- Questions & Réponses – Fragen & Antworten

Christa KLAAS says that the necessities of having forestry and agriculture and hunting are living together in harmony have been discussed highlighting what the Commissioner said, that diversity and agriculture diversity are necessary. One first pillar is needed, but also the second pillar to be confronted with the challenges of the future. Referring to Mr BORCHERT who said that we should reduce bureaucracy and the Commissioner who said that it is maybe a German problem, she would like to have more information about this. Regarding the different rules imposed on hunting they are in fact the ways of the hunters for too many wild boars, too many deer in the countryside. She adds that we have to except in fact that those territories, which are managed in the respect of cross compliance to have sustainable hunting grounds that they have to remain open, so we do not have diverging policies within the European Union and we need to reconcile agriculture and hunting in Europe.

Markus PIEPER as Member of the Bureau of the Sustainable Hunting Intergroup joins the point of Mrs. KLAAS pointing out that there should not be too much bureaucracy in rules; different routes for in the ways of hunters have to be protected. He is also very much in favour of the second pillar, because if we only do one pillar and we try to protect biodiversity only through the first pillar, that is in fact going to open up to unfairness and is going to be too much bureaucracy. Both pillars have to be kept, where in the second pillar it needs to be assured that we do not try to define absolutely all the different areas, which are less favoured areas, because the ground is not good for agriculture and has to be devoted only to hunting; We will have to get very careful about that, because the farmers are not going to get their subsidies. So if we want to have incentives for biodiversity, you have to have some premiums and objectives, which are making the work worse while and not just have aid for some agriculture, which works in less favoured areas.

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Robert STURDY as Vice-Chairman of the international trade Committee asks the Commissioner about his opinion on the Commission having just decided to entering negotiations with MERCURSUR, which will dominate agriculture over the next few years. His second question is to Marc TITTERINGTON explaining that on his farm they have field margins all the way round. As they become older field margins, there is a huge cost to the farmer for putting these, and you don't do it for free, we loose it for productions consequences. There is a cost to the farmer; We do it, because we gain on hunting; We are saying weeds are coming in, which we cannot control; He asks if we shouldn't we relax on the way in which we manage these field margins; so we can help to bring them back not to mention the huge increase in some birds, which we had on the field margins?

Martin HÄUSLING as Coordinator of the Greens in the Agriculture Committee thanks the Commissioner to make the audience understand that biodiversity is not just a jewel in the crown of the second pillar, but biodiversity really is something that should be within the first pillar and should be a basis for subsidies policy; He didn't understand the distinction Mr. BORCHERT gave finally in his speech, because one border is covered by flowers is not going to protect biodiversity. Biodiversity also has to been seen in the first pillar for subsidies in the future and also, when you are talking about common agriculture policy, you have to make sure, to really wonder what we want to subsidies or not. And we really have to be very sure about the repercussion that this might have in the rest of the world. And if, indeed our proteins are coming from Latin-America that means getting a loss of biodiversity there which will have to be taken into account as well. So we will have to think about rotating cultures in Europe, and I refuse that we say, that agriculture should be protecting biodiversity only when it is worth while for the farmer. No, but it is absolutely essential for the existence of the sustainability of agriculture that by maintaining the genetic resources you will be guaranteeing the future of food, agricultural production in the future and we already have seen huge losses of genetic resources in the world and we cannot just ban them so easily. So we have to have a very good agricultural policy set up. I beg you please that you also anchor biodiversity into the first pillar and not only in the second pillar. And for co financing as an issue for a quiet few member states and biodiversity is one of the free conditions for the future common agriculture policy.

Roger HELMER points on Mr. PIRZIO-BIROLI comments about making the system less bureaucratic and simpler. How can you talk about being less bureaucratic and simpler when at the same time you wish to apply to carbon trade measures to agriculture, and you want new and additional cross compliance requirements? Some of my best friends are farmers and I do now how they want to react to these proposals. You also call for no cuts in the CAP budget. Let's bear in mind that both, citizens and national governments allow the European Union being forced to tighten their bells, to cut their expenditure. So I don't agree in this parliament should be sitting here saying in the great change in the European expenditure should be dealt within that way. We all have to reduce expenditure. Now in general speaking, it is a bad thing for a major industry, to be depended on tax – payer's subsidy in a long term. And let not kill us self's, this money goes to farmers – this money goes straight to the system, into the pocket of supermarkets, like TASCOS. My last point and this is a very important question, we have heard all sorts of high flowing incentives and plans. Nobody is mentioned to which extent they have been discussed with farmers, with agriculture industry, whether the farmers have the opportunity to have an input to these plans and discuss ways of promoting biodiversity within a available budgets. I would like to hear that.





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Corrado PIRZIO-BIROLI answers that we have land, capital and work. Those are the different factors. This is what you find in books on economy. And there is another factor for output. That is productivity or efficiency of natural resources. So we should not just think about capital and work but also about efficiency, productivity of those natural resources. They have their part to play, and this is why I'm insisting on it, as a fervour factor. He said that in the European commission there a generally few hunters. When I was there, I was the only chief of staff, who was a hunter. And the only Commissioner, who was a hunter, was from France. But the questions are that we don't have generally many hunters in the European Commission. So I think it is essential that hunting is taken into account in the policies, but is not put in charge of the Commission. That would be the last thing to do, because then a lot of other interests would come in. And the Commissioners are not particularly experts in hunting, so it could become a problem. According to him, hunting should be dealt with at regional level. People know how to organise things on this part. But taken into consideration in the overall policies of agriculture, of environment and so on in a new way – and I think we are on a good road for that.

Mairead McGUINNESS asks to make a controversial point to those who preach biodiversity. I think you have to realize having made a very bad job, because we are still talking about the problem of biodiversity loss. She would accept Roger HELMER's comments, that there has not been proper engagement with the people who deliver biodiversity and this are the farmers on the ground. She adds the point that we have reduced production certainly on beef in the European Union; we should have seen biodiversity gain, if we say that intense of agriculture has been damaged by biodiversity. I support Robert STURDY's questions on MERCURSUR. If Europe nowadays looks on its own biodiversity and environmental agenda, outside of the context of trade agreements we are looking ridiculous to our own producers and indeed the rest of the world doesn't understand how we can operate on this spaces; And I know the Commissioner tried very hard to give the agriculture agenda on this. Biodiversity is not just a problem on the European Union, it is a much broader issue and we need global engagement on this. I'm interested that there is a private sector engagement in a public issue and I think we need more of public private partnerships to encourage biodiversity. But if I were a farmer, struggling with farming, I just want to know is there a future for me as a farmer and those that come from the market or from the public side? Unfortunately farmers would say it has to come from both. And very finally the retail sector on how they look on transparency along the food price chain. This is a good first step and perhaps with our farming agriculture policy we may finally make some progress.

Commissioner Dacian CIOLOS recalls that we have to simplify bureaucracy. When we carry out reforms we tend to increase rather than reduce. We can have rules that are much simpler. It is different from the Council, where we have 27 Member States now and in our Parliament we have over seven hundred. They two can convert. If things are simple, if the goals are clear, then the mechanism can be simple as well. It should not only come from the community legislation, but also in the way, in which this is applied, implemented in the different member states or regions. When the Commission explained that we should leave some margin of appreciations, it is lean on to the Member States. This means than that the whole thing might be more complicated in practise than it may be in the process. We will have to think it and oversee how we can help Member States, so that the whole thing will not be to complex. We have to work on this during the reform and also after the reform.





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Regarding Trade Agreements he pointed out that we have not started negotiations but were on a stand by, because actually that was launched ready few years ago. When you launch something, it does not mean we know when it will end and under which conditions. The priority is, that there should not be no more contradiction between the kind of agriculture we want and the trade we want. We want commercial agreements. Regarding the future for farmers! He explained that when it comes to biodiversity and different rules that were set up, for some types of farmers it's a problem, when they have a unilateral approach. When it comes to biodiversity, biodiversity is not to be seen as luxury. But in ten years, twenty, thirty years a time, what will happened with polluted soil, regeneration or organic matter; problems when it comes to water, air quality? How can you say that a regional product is of good quality, if you cannot have good production conditions? Biodiversity is something that is going to be internalizing in the production process. We have to know what the economic pressure is. We need a significant budget for this reform, if we want to attain the goals; we need ambitions because if we don't have ambitions we don't have a budget. We have to reconcile the tools and we can't change things over night. Regarding climate he announced that climate is integrated as well which you will see in the November communication.

Jochen BORCHERT concludes that we want an agriculture that respects an environment that is internationally competitive. The integration of the environment in our policy is vital, we will even increase the costs and reduce the income; the farmer has to survive on the market, when the production costs increase, when the income goes down, when subsidies are not paid, then we, the farmers, need help. We have to maintain biodiversity in general; the birds and habitat directives are necessary, because there are based on the experience we made. This has to be implemented in practice.

Presence

Speakers:

Dacian CIOLOS, (Agriculture Commissioner)

Corrado PIRZIO-BIROLI, (ELO)

Jochen BORCHERT , (DJV)

Mark TITTERINGTON, (SYNGENTA, Operation Pollinator)

MEPs:

Véronique MATHIEU (FR), Intergroup President

Luis Manuel CAPOULAS SANTOS (PT), Intergroup Vice-President

Robert STURDY (UK), Intergroup Co-President

Markus PIEPER (DE), Intergroup Secretary General





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Intergroup/Intergroupe/Intergruppe at the European Parliament

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