



The European Commissioner for Agriculture received by Sustainable Hunting Intergroup on "The impact of the CAP reform on Biodiversity"

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

EU Agricultural Commissioner Dacian CIOLOȘ and former German Agriculture Minister Jochen BORCHERT as well as Corrado PIRZIO-BIROLI, former head of the cabinet of Franz Fischler, have contributed to the very rich discussion on "The impact of CAP reform on Biodiversity", held at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 7 July.

At the initiative of this event, Véronique MATHIEU, MEP and President the Intergroup, and Luis Manuel CAPOULAS SANTOS, MEP and Vice-President of the Intergroup, wanted to gather high level speakers to discuss the preservation of biodiversity in the framework of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

For Agricultural Commissioner Dacian CIOLOȘ, the Common Agriculture Policy is a key competence for Europe. A common policy could better take into consideration biodiversity requirements. According to him, production has to be valorised by the market, otherwise compensated. He said that distribution would also be possible including biodiversity; it is not a luxury for European politics but a necessity. One has to consider however technical development possibilities and geographical requirements.

Jochen BORCHERT, the former German Agriculture Minister and current President of the German Hunting Association, was outspoken for a multifunctional agriculture. The public goods provided by agriculture must be financed. Hunters can contribute to the social acceptance of agriculture and form natural alliances as actors in rural areas. He stressed that further development of the Common Agricultural Policy should also provide for biodiversity and create financial compensation for agriculture. Flexibility, application and reducing red tape are key factors for it.

Newly elected ELO President Corrado PIRZIO-BIROLI explained that environmental regulations alone cannot save the ecosystems. They are costly; farmers need incentives to produce cleaner air, soil, and water, whether they come through green markets preferably, or public support. He estimated that "Not conservation, but production of biodiversity is the new name of the game" for rural area. The next CAP reform must better promote biodiversity. Measures helpful in this respect can be: total decoupling rules, a stronger rural development policy, in particular 2 axis supports, and a closer link between payments and services provisions.

Mark TITTERIGTON, Head of Syngenta's EU Office in Brussels, presented the Operation Pollinator project. He explained that by proactively managing field margins for the provision of nutrition & habitat for pollinating insects, this initiative is demonstrating the happy co-existence of productive and competitive agriculture with good environmental management. It is exactly the kind of approach we need to promote in Europe.

Many MEPs, of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development in particular, have facilitated a constructive dialogue with speakers, demonstrating their interest in maintaining the species and spaces, a deep interest which is shared by the actors in the world of hunting.

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FACE (Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the E.U.) hosts the Secretariat of the Intergroup which is run in conjunction with ELO (European Landowners Organisation) for cross cutting issues on Agriculture and Forestry.

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FACE acts in the interest of over 7,000,000 European hunters in 36 European countries, promotes hunting in accordance with the principle of wise and sustainable use of natural resources. Its objectives are the conservation and management of wildlife, the protection, creation and restoration of habitats, and the use of biodiversity as a tool for rural development. Since 1987, FACE is a member of the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

ELO provides support to the Intergroup **Hunting, Biodiversity, Countryside Activities & Forestry**. ELO is a unique federation of 67 national associations across the EU27 which represents the interests of landowners, land managers and rural entrepreneurs at the European political level. ELO is the only organisation able to stand for all rural entrepreneurs. Its purpose is to promote a dynamic, prosperous and sustainable countryside based on high environmental standards, economic viability and social fabric.
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Both organisations are partners of the IUCN Countdown 2010 initiative.

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