



Promising speech from Mariann Fisher Boel on 31st March

Mariann Fischer Boel was speaking on Tuesday 31st of March at a **Multi-country forum on Mountain agriculture organised in the Representation of Bayern**, Germany, by 5 regions from the Arge Alp (Baden Württemberg, Bayern, Trento, Tirol, Sudtiro), to which we were participating. Her speech, which we attach, is quite promising and shows a **significant progress in the recognition of the importance of agriculture in mountain areas**, and of its essential character for the economy, the population, the culture and the environment of these areas. Above all recognition of the public goods that it produces has made a huge progress that we could hope would lead to better remuneration.

As strong moments of the speech, the Commissioner:

- confirmed the announces made in Prague indicating that a reflection will certainly be launched on a European framework for protection of mountain quality food products. According to what was said in Prague and to the orientation of the Green Paper, it would for the moment quite certainly be by defining a “reserved term”: this meets (at least partially) what Euromontana has been asking for many years and especially in the framework of the consultation on the Green paper and, with this final year of research on EuroMARC, we are in a good position to contribute to the design of that protection framework,
- indicated that mountains could occupy a dedicated place in post-2013 Rural development policy, through maybe a specific axis, maybe a tool box, or something similar.

She also very much insisted on the key role provision of public goods would certainly play in the future CAP, even mentioning that direct payments could be more closely linked to provision of public goods in the future.

Finally, she very much stressed that this year was the relevant moment to contribute with realistic, concrete and well-argued proposals and that the window of opportunities to influence the post 2013 policies was now. She insisted that she would pay a lot of attention to all contributions that would be provided in the coming months.