



## **COMMON PROPOSALS ON MOUNTAIN FARMING AND THE FUTURE OF THE CAP AFTER 2013**

**by Euromontana and the representatives  
of various Alpine territories**

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*This document is the first result of an on-going work aiming at elaborating a detailed common position on mountain farming in the future CAP.*

*Euromontana is the European multi-sectoral association of mountain areas and represents around 70 members in 15 countries.*

*The regions which have participated to this first discussion are some of those who have taken part in the elaboration of the declarations of Krün and Alpbach on the future of mountain farming. More work will be carried out throughout 2011.*

Euromontana, the Alpine provinces of Bavaria, Trentino, Val d'Aoste, South-Tyrol and Tyrol and the Assembly of Pays de Savoie :

- Recall their commitment to a **strong agricultural and rural development policy**, with a significant budget allocation, in order to:
  - maintain the capacity of production throughout the European Union to provide safe, diverse and quality food, in a sustainable way;
  - ensure the provision of public goods;
  - ensure balanced territorial development.
  
- Support a **common agricultural policy based on**:
  - **An encouraging framework of production** with:
    - the consolidation of market measures and safety nets;
    - long-term commitments (minimum 7 years);
    - a CAP accessible to all producers, including small-scale farmers, small businesses and pluri-active farmers, taking into account the traditional farming methods applied by mountain farmers especially in animal husbandry and the crucial importance of pastoral land;
  
  - **Support to production and income via direct payments** (1<sup>st</sup> pillar) with:
    - a decoupled basic income payment that takes into account employment, is digressive and capped in order to provide strong support to small-scale farmers whose role is fundamental for the economic balance of mountain territories;
    - a complementary direct payment rewarding the provision of environmental public goods, especially through support to grazing land and pastoral surfaces (including collective grazing land) and which would not be restricted to compensation of on-costs generated by a change of practices;
    - an additional support in favour of all agricultural production in the areas facing natural constraints;
    - a top – up payment on the basic allowance in recognition of the difficult conditions and the particular performances of small-scale mountain farms;
    - the maintenance of coupled support to allow the specific problems of some sectors and regions to be taken into account; it should notably be possible to give a coupled premium for ruminants husbandry, in order to ensure efficient grassland management in the future.
    - the simplification of the CAP, especially of cross compliance rules, offering to farmers a set of clear rules;
  
  - **Specific support to mountain farmers via LFA payments**: the existing 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar compensatory allowances should be maintained and strengthened; the maximum amount that can be paid per hectare should be increased to better compensate specific disadvantages; subsidiarity and flexibility in the implementation of this measure should remain; enhanced preferential co-financing rates should be available for the Member States which have the lowest financial capacity;

- **A specific package of measures for mountain areas should be proposed in addition in the 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar.** The idea would not be to have a distinct pillar but rather simply to ensure, given the importance of agriculture in mountain territories and as **rural development measures are being developed**, that mountain farmers specific needs are satisfied. Those measures should include:
  - support to producers' organisations and the structuring of mountain quality food supply chains, building on the opportunity offered by the definition of an optional quality term for mountain products in the quality package:
    - development of business and marketing skills of producers and supply-chain actors;
    - support to better horizontal and vertical coordination of supply-chain actors;
    - support to marketing and promotion of the products (eligible measures should include for example support to market studies, investments, advertising (for quality brands with EU-protection as well as for own-labels of producer organisations), marketing and public relations (also related staff costs), setting-up of sales points, co-branding with retailers, transnational cooperation;
    - support to organic production in mountain areas, because mountains are very sensitive ecological areas;
    - support to collection of mountain products and to investments in collective collecting and processing facilities; these kinds of support could be coupled, when relevant, with an obligation to pick up the products from agricultural producers in mountain areas in the future;
  - increased aid and rate of EU co-financing for setting-up in mountain areas;
  - investment support, with higher payment rates due to mountain extra-costs, for: livestock buildings, machinery and facilities adapted to mountain farming;
  - agri-environmental measures to complement direct payments rewarding provision of public goods, adapted to mountain areas, (including the possibility to set up agri-environmental payment for alpine pastures, for terraces, for mowing on steep slopes...);
  - support to investments necessary for the use of pastoral areas and to the projects of valorization of pastoral resources (diversification, marketing, links with tourism...);
  - support to preservation and development of the genetic performance of local breeds and of ancient varieties;
  - facilitation of the creation and consolidation of institutions specialised in research and development on rural areas, on farm and rural innovation;
  - maintenance or creation of networks of farm advisors and specialised trainers in capacity to provide technical, economic and environmental advice to the diversity of existing farms and especially for small diversified farms;
- **An increase of the rural development budget**, since the second pillar of the CAP is considered a very efficient tool for the development of mountain agriculture and communities.
- **Recognition of the imperative of an integrated approach to mountain territorial development**, taking into account the intense inter-relations between agriculture and other economic sectors in mountain areas, the crucial importance of mountain forests and of forestry in these areas, and the need to coordinate the different European policies impacting mountain development.