



## Which future for pastoralism in Europe?

### The cohabitation with large carnivores and the attractiveness of the pastoral jobs in question

*Pastoralism is a traditional activity of extensive animal breeding, practiced in particular in the mountain regions. This form of breeding allows the development of territories with low agronomic value, difficult of access or not mechanisable, and thus helps to maintain an economic activity in these zones. Pastoralism also plays a key role in maintaining open landscapes, in the development of tourism, in the conservation of biodiversity, as well as the prevention of natural disasters.*

*However, the continuation of pastoral activity is facing various threats: difficulties related to the economic context, difficulties in finding sufficient land to maintain herds or for access to land in some regions, difficulties in effectively and consistently organising the pastureland of the herds in the context of the seasonal use of the land with strong environmental issues and the pressure exerted by other users of the pastureland; difficulties also related to climate change.*

*During the discussion workshop on 7 March 2018 in Moûtiers, France, two challenges of pastoralism were addressed, namely the cohabitation with large carnivores and how to maintain the attractiveness in pastoral jobs. This discussion workshop, reserved exclusively for Euromontana members, aimed to better understand the situation encountered by the different members, the stakes in the different territories and to have food for thought for the future.*

*Although individual positions are not always convergent, this workshop allowed fruitful exchanges, comprehensive listening and dialogue among the members from 11 countries and representing different types of organizations (researchers, farmers, environmental and regional development agencies, regions).*

*The purpose of this report is to summarize the interventions and exchanges that took place during this discussion workshop.*



## Table of Contents

I. How to improve the support of the agropastoral economy in mountain areas? The French case.....	2
II. Pastoralism and large carnivores: which cohabitation? .....	4
Pastoralism and large carnivores: which cohabitation? First feedback about Euromontana's survey .	4
Impact of wolves on livestock farming: a review in France .....	5
III. Generational renewal: how to make pastoral jobs more attractive? .....	9
Better training of shepherds .....	9
IV. Euromontana's messages and courses of action .....	11

### I. How to improve the support of the agropastoral economy in mountain areas? The French case

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With other French massifs, the SUACI Montagn'Alpes worked on a collective mobilisation project (with the chambers of agriculture, agricultural structures, pastoral services and committees of massifs) for rural development entitled "AgroPastoM" to improve the support for agropastoralism. **Anne Castex, director of SUACI Montagn'Alpes** explained how collective innovation is possible in mountain territories to support the agro-pastoral economy and how this innovation is organised in France through several working groups. (Presentations are available [here](#))

These groups made possible to formulate proposals shared by the different actors for the following themes:

**Governance.** Agropastoralism has been redefined as the agricultural production sector in which livestock farms combine two types of resources in varying proportions: spontaneous herbaceous vegetation and cultivated grasslands. In mountain areas, most activities fall within the concept of **agro-pastoralism**, except in winter when the animals are indoors. Cultivated areas (in a rent status) should be differentiated from the pastoral areas (public and private properties).

**Pastoral areas.** In France, 6 million hectares of permanent grassland and 1.8 million hectares of pastoral areas have been identified thanks to the graphic plot register in 2015. The results of pastoral surveys show that it is time to improve the way pastoralism is considered in the agricultural census to better identify all the pastoral areas.

**Means of production.** The farmers who practice pastoralism in France are often grouped into collective organisations or pastoral groups allowing collective management of both the territory and the administrative level. This working group analysed the eligible share of all pastoral areas to ensure their continued recognition, by recognising the food value of the areas and their eligibility under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It is also a question of securing and perpetuating the missions of pastoral services, especially pastoral animation.



**Public policies.** The management of support measures under the first pillar of the CAP for the collective summer pastures can sometimes prove to be complicated and this working group is trying to implement approaches and tools to alleviate these problems.

**Mountain products.** Products can notably be valorised through PDO (Protected Designation of Origin), PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) and Registered Designation of Origin schemes in mountain areas. Their specifications almost never regulate pastoral practices.

**Tourism.** This working group seeks innovative initiatives and develops tourism offers in summer pastures linked to pastoral activities.

The work carried out on these different themes resulted in the creation of a document of shared proposals to improve support for agropastoralism including proposals for each theme of the project presenting the findings, issues and proposals with two levels of detail: **the general idea and the possible tools.**

## KEY POINTS

- ▶ The role of pastoralism has been economically repositioned to reinforce farms by accentuating the better use of natural resources; it has been reinforced by synergies with mountain agriculture; and it has been able to renew itself thanks to the agro-pastoral activity, which brings new challenges and levers for action.
- ▶ Public policies are a fundamental support for pastoralism through the CAP measures on the one hand, but also the incentive to promote this traditional mode of production.
- ▶ The future of pastoralism is threatened by the abandonment of the activity and the large carnivores.



Anne Castex, director of SUACI Montagn'Alpes



## II. Pastoralism and large carnivores: which cohabitation?

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### Pastoralism and large carnivores: which cohabitation? First feedback about Euromontana's survey

**Lauren Mosdale**, Project Officer at Euromontana explained the survey about pastoralism in Europe carried out in the framework of the LIFE project [Oreka Mendian](#). (Presentation available [here](#))

To this end, an online survey was launched to take stock of existing situations in Europe and to map the public support for pastoralism. A specific part of the survey also dealt with large predators and the presentation focused on the preliminary results of Euromontana members' responses on this topic.

Lauren Mosdale recapped the number of predators in Europe, based on the latest official data published by the European Commission in 2012 to have a pan-European vision. In 2012, the European Commission reported 17 000 bears in Europe, 12 000 wolves, 9 000 lynxes and 1 300 wolverines. All the populations are growing except the lynx in some areas. Romania concentrates the biggest number of large carnivores on its territory.

Regarding the survey data, the survey received a total of 63 responses up until the 5<sup>th</sup> of February. 12 members of Euromontana had responded at that time (18%), mostly French, and this survey is more representative of the situation in the Alps and the Pyrenees.

85% of Euromontana members who responded consider that the human-large carnivore coexistence is conflictual and 54% believe that the situation has deteriorated over the past 5 years. More broadly, there is a real trend among all responses to say that the situation has worsened.

The three best known protection measures for all respondents are the guarding dogs, the permanent human presence in the herd and electric fencing. 22/63 answers consider that 4 or more measures are used simultaneously in their region.

After initial quantitative observations about the status of large carnivore populations and the protection measures implemented, the survey sought to identify the different opinions within the network. About large carnivores, the members of Euromontana agree that there is currently a lack of communication between farmers, policy makers and environmentalists; that guarding dogs represent a threat for the multifunctional use of the mountain, and finally that breeders must be compensated for the losses caused by large carnivores' attacks.

Certain other questions in the survey highlighted differences of opinion sometimes due to a lack of visibility of studies on the subject or to different political visions, such as for the conditionality of aid to farmers with predated herds. However, it is interesting to note that the differences of opinion are not necessarily sectoral, for example the responses of the environmental organisations and those of the agricultural sector are not necessarily uniform, particularly on the question of aid conditionality.

The Member States set up different compensation systems for farmers' losses. French farmers receive compensation for their direct losses if they implement at least two protective measures. Bulgarian and Slovenian breeders receive a payment per hectare in compensation for the extra work done to protect their herds, conditional on the implementation of a measure (often the guarding dog). Sweden has replaced its old compensation system and has introduced a conservation performance reward system, where the amount allocated to the farmer is proportional to the wolverine reproduction rate.

Finally, the questionnaire shows that Euromontana's future courses of action lies first in sharing good practices, in supporting/participating/organising workshops at regional level (rather than European), as well as in more communication and information activities.

## KEY POINTS

- ▶ The conflicts linked to the presence of large carnivores vary greatly from one European country to another depending on the population of large carnivores, the type of pastoralism practised, and the regulatory framework applied.
- ▶ On the subject of large carnivores, there are some convergent opinions within Euromontana regarding the current lack of communication between farmers, policy makers and environmentalists, also regarding the threat that guarding dogs pose to the multifunctional use of the mountain, and finally on the fact that breeders must be compensated for the losses caused by attacks.
- ▶ The course of action for Euromontana suggested by the survey falls within the scope of collecting good practices and disseminating information.

## Impact of wolves on livestock farming: a review in France

**Laurent Garde, Deputy Director of CERPAM** (*Centre d'Etudes et de Réalisations Pastorales Alpes-Méditerranée* – in English, Centre for Alpine-Mediterranean studies and pastoral projects) presented the situation of the wolf in France and assessed the protection measures currently implemented, without success, on the territory. (Presentation available [here](#))

According to the most recent official estimations, there are 400 to 500 wolves in France in 2018. In 2017, there were 82 areas of permanent presence and 55 packs in the French Alps (all the packs being identified in France). These figures are the result of the dynamics of a specie which is in no way threatened.

### What protection should herds adopt against wolves?

Three types of herd protection can be considered: **passive protection**; **semi-active protection** and **active protection**.

Passive protection consists in **not letting wolves in to attack herds**, thanks to 'waterproof' barriers such as buildings. However, this protection is not realistic because it condemns full livestock farming, which is totally the opposite of pastoralism. However, passive protection is officially recommended by the European authorities in charge of protecting large predators.

In the **semi-active protection**, it is a question of **emitting stimuli modifying the behaviour of the wolf** thanks to the guarding dogs, the electrified fences and the presence of the unarmed man. The most important measure is the implementation of dogs, as this is the only real dissuasive instrument. The semi-active protection always associates another means of protection to reinforce the work of the dogs, whether it is the human presence or the use of electrified fences, according to the time of the day and the visibility of the place. The latter protection regime is implemented on a large scale in France.

The wolf arrived in 1992 to the French Alps and since then, the number of protective measures implemented has been constantly increasing. Currently, in the French Alps, there are a total of 3 600 sheep farms, with 750 000 sheep on pasture. 1 943 of these farms are protected, using 3000 guarding dogs, with a total financial cost of 24.5 Million € /year, divided between 20.5 Million € paid by the State (via the CAP in particular) and 4 Million € by breeders.

### What is the current assessment?

In the French Alps, 2% of the sheep population is directly victim of wolf attacks, representing 16 000 animals lost in 2017 (not counting missing animals), 10 548 animals were compensated for a total amount of 3 million €.

In 2005, there was a massive mobilization to implement protection measures that worked for a few years by reducing animal losses and the number of animals compensated between 2005 and 2009. However, the situation in France is deteriorating again despite increasing herd protection. The ratio of the number of sheep killed by each wolf is very high, **each wolf kills 33 sheep each year**, and these figures are increasing. **These figures indicate a decline in the effectiveness of herd protection.**

Moreover, **95% of attacks affect protected herds** (dogs, nets, reinforced guarding). Attacks are also multiplying during the day. In comparison with 2010, the figures for 2015 show that **attacks are now as numerous by day as by night.**

### Why do protection efforts remain powerless in France?

There are two opposing schools of thought as to why effective herd protection is not widely available in a large breeding area: either farmers are not doing enough effort to protect herds, or wolves' ability to adapt to herd protection systems is too quick.

For several reasons for the failure of herd protection were put forward by Laurent Garde:

1. The **current grazing method** is to divide herds into lots. The breeders make several groups of animals, multiplying the need for protection by the dispersion of the herd.
2. The **vulnerability of livestock systems and territories** due to topography, harsh weather, bushes and trees. The lack of visibility disperses the sheep, handicaps the dogs and facilitates the approach of the wolves.
3. The **limits of the means of protection**, which are not technically stabilized nor adapted to contemporary breeding. The reinsertion, after a century of abandonment, of "archaic" means of protection in completely transformed breeding landscapes reduces the effectiveness of the measures and the dogs.
4. The **change in wolf behaviour**. They are becoming more and more insistent, they attack more and more frequently, during the day, near houses and in the presence of dogs and humans.

This change in wolf behaviour is encouraged by the change in behaviour of wild ungulates, the decrease in the numbers of wild ungulates and because they have "learned" to be wary of wolves and adopt a more suspicious behaviour, stealthy and more difficult to hunt. So, wolves shifted from preying wild animals to domestic cattle, which cannot change their behaviour, including cattle.

### What results for pastoralism in France?

Predation becomes a major factor for breeders (and first of all for small breeders). Moreover, guarding dogs are becoming an increasing tension factor for tourism, forcing some villages to choose between tourism and livestock breeding. Livestock farmers are caught between two fires and the whole mountain economy is affected.

To get out of bankruptcy, we must concentrate on two points: either we increase the pressure on breeders to install more means of protection or with more conditionality; or we increase the pressure on wolves through -active protection, which presupposes freeing ourselves from the derogatory framework to enter into a logic of defending herds... with the objective of teaching the fear of human once again to the wolf. Active protection combines herd protection (dogs, human and electric fences) and unconditional defensive shoots.

To open the debate, Laurent Garde questioned the term cohabitation and instead used the word *protection*. The word cohabitation can be a call to acceptance and conveys a static vision where one would add a layer of wolves, bears and lynx in the mountains and everything would continue as before.

Large predators are radically changing mountain territories. Breeders are getting discouraged by the wolves and are withdrawing their animals from the pasturelands. In the French *département* of the Var, 40% of the grazing land has been lost in ten years where wolf packs live. In the predated mountains, the breeding of small ruminants will be much less present. This is already the case in two emblematic territories of wolves and bears, Abruzzo in Italy and Picos de Europa in Spain.

What is at stake is the closure of ecosystems, the loss of economic attractiveness of mountain landscapes, the decline in biodiversity linked to open environments, the increase of avalanche and fire risks. What is also at stake is the survival of small domestic breeds, the maintenance of a supply of high quality peasant products demanded by the consumer, the future of a mountain society in which the breeders will become less and less part.

To defend their herds, breeders are introducing more and more guarding dogs. Conflicts are growing with hikers and hillwalkers. A free space of play before, the mountain becomes a space of tension and anxiety. The breeders are questioned by a public which is ignorant of mountains. This is a new factor of discouragement.

Mountains with wolves will be different mountains: less rural and wilder on the one hand. Less peaceful and more confrontational, on the other hand.

## KEY POINTS

- ▶ The situation in France is deteriorating despite increasing herd protection. Two trends of thought are emerging to explain this phenomenon: the lack of pressure on breeders and wolves' ability to adapt to existing herd protection systems.
- ▶ The losses caused by large predators are very significant in France, the indicator of the number of animals killed by wolves is one of the highest in Europe (currently 33 animals per wolf and per year at least) despite the significant increase in the number of farms protected by at least two measures.
- ▶ The need to put in place many protective measures to protect herds contributes to making farms economically unviable.
- ▶ To solve the problem, either the pressure on farmers is increased by putting more means of protection or conditionality, or on wolves by active protection, which includes unconditional defensive shoot.



Laurent Garde, Deputy Director of CERPAM



Daniel Mettler, AGRIDEA



## KEY POINTS OF THE DISCUSSION WITH THE AUDIENCE

- ▶ In France, the **guarding dog population** is composed of about 60-70% protective dogs, 20% Abruzzo shepherds, 10% Anatolian shepherds. **The question of the effectiveness of dogs and their aggressiveness is partly linked to the breed but is above all linked to the learning and know-how of breeders** to rebuild genetic wealth and exploit the capacities of dogs to the best of their ability.
- ▶ **In France, counts are done using the capture/marketing method** and genetic monitoring. Each number is an imperfect indicator of reality. What is useful is the evolution of these figures. The key is to have reliable, robust and stable indicators over time.
- ▶ **The concern of breeders is significant, particularly in France** where, according to the data presented, the impact of large carnivores on grazing farms is important, even with attacks reported near homes and animal shelters. This has a significant impact on the moral of farmers.
- ▶ The Habitats Directive and the Bern Convention need to be reviewed accordingly to adapt to the positive or negative evolution of the situation of large carnivores.
- ▶ There is already a **platform for coexistence with large carnivores at European level** managed by a network of 8 organisations which could make possible to work on the subject at European level.
- ▶ There are other EU projects (notably LIFE projects) that showed that cohabitation with large carnivores is possible when protective measures are efficient to reduce the number of attacks: the diversity of situations, contexts and experiences requires the need to deepen the understanding of the situations starting from surveys and complete information, considering all the data and experiences conducted and collected by the various projects of national and European scale in progress
- ▶ **The situation is worrying for pastoralism in several other European mountain ranges:** bears in the Pyrenees; wolverines, wolves and lynxes in Norway; northern Italy;; wolves in Switzerland see an increase in the number of animals attacked. But the situation is different between the areas where large carnivores have been reintroduced or where they came back after several decades of absence and where there is a long-standing presence.
- ▶ In these territories with a traditional presence of large carnivores, these large carnivores are not always seen as the main issue for pastoralism. The effective support of pastoralism activities, access to land, norms, training, social recognition and valorisation are also important.
- ▶ **At the level of the European Parliament:** the Member of the European Parliament Michel Dantin explained that he was organising an interparliamentary conference in Brussels on 15 May (with national members of Parliament and European ones) and the visit of a delegation of European parliamentarians from the ENVI Committee (in charge of environmental issues) in the French Alps in July to take stock of the situation and better understand the local concerns.



**Active protection includes defending the herd with gunshots.** Either we can consider a shooting quota allocated to an individual hunter, strictly supervised by the State, or, as in France, a shooting brigade made up of professionals who acquire experience with wolves and who come in support of breeders to take those individuals who predate their animals. This would reintroduce a fear of humans among wolves and is an alternative to poaching, which is widely practiced in Italy for example.

- ▶ It was underlined the necessity to take into account both effectiveness and social acceptability of passive and active preventive measures
- ▶ Mountains are an important reservoir of biodiversity and provide a lot of ecosystem services for the entire population: many efforts are made to enhance and protect biodiversity in general, and biodiversity is an important asset to valorise tourism and other economic activities in mountain areas. Some members underline that the expansion of large carnivores should be seen as an important sign of the enrichment of the biodiversity of European territories.

### III. Generational renewal: how to make pastoral jobs more attractive?

#### Better training of shepherds

**Daniel Mettler from AGRIDEA** (Swiss Association for Agricultural and Rural Development) explained how to better train shepherds to make the profession more attractive. (Presentation available [here](#))

##### A new course in Switzerland to train sheep herders

AGRIDEA, in collaboration with the agricultural schools, offers a training for sheep shepherds on the alpine pastures. This training has already received 200 participants, 50 of whom have already been graduated. This training has 5 different modules: 3 theoretical modules, 1 training course divided between mountain pasture and the period during lambing, and 1 "driving dog" training. The training is financed by the agricultural school, which organises the registrations and pays the participants (when they are not paid by their organisations). Participants pay accommodation and training fees of about 60-80 CHF per day.

This training is important in the Swiss context, where half of the 400 000 sheep go up to the mountain pasturelands in summer (requiring about 200 to 250 shepherds). Between 2003 and 2016, the number of sheep kept by a permanent shepherd increased from 5 000 to 12 000 individuals.

##### What is the agricultural and pastoral context in Switzerland?

Pastoral knowledge was almost lost in Switzerland because of the past extermination of large predators, agricultural intensification and the structural transformation of rural areas. However, this knowledge has experienced a revival of activity in recent years due to several factors including the return of large predators, the growing ecological trend of the population and public support for transhumance.

There are few sociological studies about shepherds and about **what motivates the shepherd's work**. According to the AGRIDEA survey, there are four types of shepherds:

1. Professional shepherds, attached to traditions, often coming from the agricultural world, who have a real vocation to work with sheep.
2. Nature lovers.
3. Animal friends: shepherds are mainly motivated by working with animals, they have an emotional relationship with animals.
4. Those who seek personal growth: seek a sense of inner peace or balance.

### The results of Agridea's study on pastoral culture in Switzerland

This study conducted by Agridea highlighted the problematic nature of seasonal work, the barriers that work and family situations can represent, but also that pastoral culture is dynamic and alive, and that political framework should stabilise the pastoral situation and reassure employees in this sector.

Daniel Mettler detailed some important points to consider in the context of the metamorphosis of pastoralism to manage the structural change of the shepherding profession. Among the detailed points, the change of generation has a prominent place, followed by the recruitment of shepherds and their training. Family systems would benefit from being made more flexible to open farms more to newcomers and allow a smoother transmission.

The attractiveness of the shepherd's profession is at the heart of these problems. The aim is not only to enhance the work done by the shepherd, but also to improve the visibility of this profession in order to boost recruitment. Digitalisation and technology offer important opportunities from this point of view to strengthen shepherd networks, improve communication (newsletter, web application) and to transform the way shepherds are recruited with a job platform (supply and demand via the web). In Switzerland there is currently a platform for alpine staff, [www.zalp.ch](http://www.zalp.ch), which also attracts many international workers.

To make the shepherd's job more attractive, it is also necessary to improve the working conditions of these employees and to be able to offer them a good contract and a fair salary, as well as infrastructures in good condition on the mountain pastures and pasturelands, and mutual respect between employers and shepherds. These improvements also require a better valuation of the "sheep sector" in economic terms and a strengthening of political support by both the local authorities and the trade unions. The work done by the shepherd is an opportunity to respond to several current needs expressed by society such as the multifunctional role of agriculture, the evolution of the international labour market and the economic pressure for agricultural sectors in the mountains.

According to the study's results, the main problems of the shepherds remain for the moment diseases, weather conditions, the sharing of pastures with other users. The management of guarding dogs and the fear of predation have not yet come up as risks linked to this profession, because the density of wolves is still low in Switzerland and therefore predation pressure too.

### KEY POINTS

- ▶ AGRIDEA, in collaboration with agricultural schools, offers a new training course to become a shepherd on the alpine pastures, in order to improve the attractiveness of this profession.
- ▶ It will be necessary to improve the visibility of shepherding work and the attractiveness of the profession, by providing more information, by using innovative technologies for recruitment, by improving communication within and outside the agricultural world, by providing correct working conditions and infrastructures in good condition, etc.
- ▶ The transfer of knowledge and the transfer of the passion for this job are essential elements for the training of today's shepherds.
- ▶ The students became shepherds for four types of motivation: professional shepherds, nature lovers / animal lovers and those who are looking for a professional fulfilment
- ▶ The number of female shepherds is increasing in Switzerland, a positive sign for the future of the profession.



## IV. Euromontana's messages and courses of action

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*(Following this discussion workshop, it was agreed that the following arguments represent the points emerging from the discussion can be the basis for the development of a position shared by the network to be built also following further necessary in-depth knowledge).*

**Euromontana highlights its commitment to living mountains** in Europe where human activities must be maintained via a socio-economic context that ensures their sustainability.

In this respect, **Euromontana recalls its attachment to pastoralism**, an activity with many challenges for mountains and mountain people.

Indeed, pastoralism, a form of extensive livestock farming, **allows the development of areas with low agronomic value**, often difficult of access or non-mechanizable, and thus the maintain of economic activity in these areas and the valorisation of the quality of agri-food products.

Beyond the economic stakes, a well-managed pastoral activity, with an adequate availability of pastures, **generates multiple benefits for the territory and beyond in the valleys**. These benefits are environmental (positive role of extensive livestock farming in maintaining biodiversity in our mountains), landscape-related (maintenance of open spaces, diversity and landscape quality for tourism), cultural (pastoral spaces, material and immaterial heritage...) and allow the prevention of many natural risks (forest fires, avalanches, landslides, floods).

However, Euromontana notes that **mountain pastoralism is today strongly threatened**, in particular (but not only) by climate change, the decline in the attractiveness of pastoral occupations, demanding and difficult jobs or the increased presence of large carnivores in Europe.








Euromontana notes an **increasingly worrying situation for pastoralism in many European countries where the populations of large carnivores (wolves, bears, lynxes, wolverines) are increasing**.

Apart from the extra costs involved by the protection measures to implement, this viability is also questioned in terms of **the farming model and life model** for shepherds. The maintenance of pastoralism should go along with a reinforcement of the attractiveness of pastoral jobs through the improvement of living and working conditions for shepherds and an adequate training.




**Euromontana reminds of its attachment to pastoralism** in order to maintain the production of ecosystem services in the mountains. Proposals encourage passive protection of herds (e.g. by constructing permanent buildings) which would condemn open-air farming are therefore not acceptable proposals.

Euromontana recalls **its attachment to the principle of financial compensation paid to farmers for losses incurred**. Nevertheless, the difficult budgetary discussions on the next CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) suggest a decrease in the financial budget of Rural Development Programmes (RDPs). Combined with the increasing cost of compensation linked to the damage caused to herds by large carnivores, there is therefore a serious risk that the RDPs will no longer have sufficient financial resources to maintain adequate agriculture and rural development in mountain areas.

As regards large carnivores, **Euromontana therefore suggests the rapid implementation of the following requests:**

-  **Quality information, through scientific studies**, and not dogmatic, to support political decisions. They must be based on the best available knowledge in the natural and social sciences and **on a sufficiently broad experimental basis to be replicable**. In particular, Euromontana insists on the need to detail the particular situations of the case studies analysed on pastoralism and large carnivores in order to understand local conditions and to see to what extent good examples are effective and replicable or not to other territories.
-  **It would be desirable to work towards homogenisation of census techniques in all European countries and the creation of a European database**, available online, free of access for all citizens and regularly updated, in order to work on comparable and solid foundations.
-  **The revision of the Habitats Directive and the Bern Convention:** The current population dynamics of large carnivores in some European countries are by no means those of an endangered population, which is why we call for amendments **of the Habitats Directive** at shorter intervals to review the status of large carnivores in the light of technical and scientific progress and to consider modifying the protection status when this is justified by the evolution, positive or negative, of the status of protected populations. Similarly, a revision of the Bern Convention should be considered, especially for countries outside the European Union.
-  **The establishment of a coordinated and cross-border management of large carnivores**, particularly in mountain areas.
-  **The development of management plans that effectively reduce conflicts between humans and large carnivores**, especially in areas where livestock suffer significant losses due to large carnivores. These plans should promote solutions, techniques and support to pastoral activities to promote the sustainability of pastoralism.
-  The inclusion of **compensation costs** linked to attacks by large carnivores in programmes in priority **linked to the conservation of species (LIFE programme for instance)** and not directly by rural development programmes.
-  **A better valorisation of pastoral jobs.** States should make better use of the work done by the shepherds and improve the visibility of this profession within and outside the agricultural sector. Better training for shepherds (in particular on breeding, the management of guarding dogs and herd protection measures), the improvement of their living and working conditions in mountain pastures and the establishment of employment agencies to find seasonal workers are all incentive measures to be developed more widely.

## Euromontana commits to carry out the following actions over the coming months:

-  The Secretariat will value the work and interventions carried out during the workshop on pastoralism organised on 7 March 2018 in Moutiers and will disseminate the results to the various members.
-  Under the leadership of Fabrice Pannekoucke from the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, more in-depth work on the situation in different countries will be conducted in order to better understand and appreciate the situation in the different countries. In particular, researchers must be involved to ensure a good scientific quality of the work.
-  To facilitate the implementation of the current wolf management plan in South Tyrol / Bolzano in Italy, Euromontana will liaise with this region, in particular to exchange information and provide contacts to conduct interviews among our members.
-  The possibility of participating in the EU platform on coexistence between humans and large carnivores will be explored.



*Marie Clotteau, Director and Juanan Gutierrez, President of Euromontana*

## Euromontana – European association of mountain areas

### Contact

**Marie Clotteau**, Director of Euromontana  
2, place du champ de mars, 1050 Bruxelles

[www.euromontana.org](http://www.euromontana.org)

Email: [marie.clotteau@euromontana.org](mailto:marie.clotteau@euromontana.org)

Phone: +32 2 280 42 83

