



CAP REFORM: EURAF's POSITION PAPER ON THE IMPLEMENTING RULES

Rural development – Article 24 on the establishment of agro-forestry systems

May 2013

Objective: Unlocking the potential of the agroforestry sector in the EU

Although the current CAP supports the establishment of agro-forestry systems, some legislative loopholes - restrictive definition of agroforestry, limitation of the number of trees per hectare etc - have not allowed the full development of agroforestry systems.

EURAF is convinced that the implementing rules should create the right conditions in order to boost agroforestry in the EU. Some incentives as well as a flexible and pragmatic approach are of paramount importance.

The position paper is based on the final position of the European Parliament and the Council on article 24.

Doc. P7_TA-PROV(2013)0086: Support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (Decision by the European Parliament on the opening of interinstitutional negotiations)

Doc. 17383/1/12 REV 1: The Cyprus Presidency revised consolidated draft Regulation

Doc. 6638/13: The Irish Presidency paper

Doc. 7539/13: Presidency compromise

You can access the EURAF's position paper on the CAP reform for the trilogue negotiations [here](#).

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➤ **General remarks**

- **It is critical that Article 24 applies to hedges, silvoarable systems and silvopastoral systems.** When necessary, the specific conditions for each of these systems should be detailed.
- **The establishment of agro-forestry systems should not be incompatible with the Single Farm Payment (Pillar 1).** Furthermore, we should not apply for a compensation of the loss of revenue.

➤ **Article 24 Paragraph 1**

Support under Article 22(1)(b) shall be granted to private landowners, municipalities and their associations and shall cover the costs of establishment and an annual premium per hectare to cover the costs of maintenance for a maximum period of five years.

- ✓ **The word “municipalities” should be widely interpreted to include other public authorities such as States and provinces.** A restrictive interpretation would be a strong limit in many countries. For instance, in France, *Restinclières* is owned by the Hérault Department.
- ✓ **The costs that should be included are fourfold:**
 - Establishment: soil preparation, cost of cultivation – the tree and the planting - etc
 - Protection: cost of fencing or individual tree protection
 - Maintenance: replacing trees, weeding, pruning etc
 - Advice: farm-scale agroforestry diagnostic, project design, and long term management plan

Furthermore, **assisted natural regeneration should be accepted.** Specific costs such as fencing, upkeep, selection of the future plants and additional planting if needed should be included.

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➤ Article 24 Paragraph 2

"Agro-forestry systems" shall mean land use systems in which trees are grown in combination with agriculture on the same land. Member States shall determine the minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted or preserved per hectare, taking account of local pedo-climatic and environmental conditions, forestry species and the need to ensure sustainable agricultural use of the land.

- ✓ **The density of trees in agroforestry systems that Member States should support should be a maximum of 250/ha.** This should refer to the final density of trees in the system, and allow for the option to plant more seedlings to get the agreed stocking density. When the average Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of the trees exceeds 10cm, then numbers should be reduced to the 250 trees/ha maximum.
- ✓ **In order to include hedges, it should be defined what a tree in a hedge is for this calculation.** In a hedge, you have hundreds of trees over many lineal meters (young seedlings are trees). Therefore we would recommend that to be classed as a tree in a hedge, the tree should have a minimum DBH of 10 cm, or aim to have this size (for new plantations) after an agreed period of time. This will ensure that shrubs that are often included in hedges are not considered as trees.
- ✓ **The list of tree species allowed should be as flexible as possible.** "Forest species" is too restrictive. EURAF has urged to replace this wording by "tree species". The most important word is "tree". It is important to have flexibility of choice in order to cover different situations and owners objectives. We would also favor mixtures of trees to reduce the impact of any abiotic or biotic factors. Furthermore, dual purpose trees (timber-fruit) should be explicitly allowed.

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➤ **Article 24 Paragraph 3**

Support shall be limited to the maximum support rate laid down in Annex I.

No specific comments.

For further information on agroforestry:

<http://www.agroforestry.de/>

<http://www.agroforst.de/2-definition.html#kurzdef>

http://umr-system.cirad.fr/programmes_finalises/systemes_sylvo_arables

http://www.agroof.net/agroof_dev/agroof_safe.html

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