



World Agroforestry Centre
TRANSFORMING LIVES AND LANDSCAPES



AGROVET
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Letter addressed to

Dacian Cioloș, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development

Janez Potočnik, Commissioner for the Environment

Brussels, 08 January 2014

Subject: Agroforestry in the delegated acts of the new Common Agricultural Policy

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you in the name of EURAF (the European Agroforestry Federation), AFAF and AFAHC (French Agroforestry Associations), the Farm Woodland Forum (UK), the German Agroforestry Consortium (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Agroforst Deutschland), the Spanish Agroforestry Association, the Belgian Consortium for a Responsible Agriculture (Werkgroep voor een Rechtvaardige en Verantwoorde Landbouw), the Swedish Permaculture Association (Permakultur Sverige), the Greek Agroforestry Network, and ICRAF (the World Agroforestry Centre).

I am taking the liberty of sending you this letter in order to share our deep concern with regard to the latest developments on the delegated acts.

We have welcomed the provisions on agroforestry included in the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The basic act represents a major step forward giving new momentum to this innovative production system.

However, **we are now worried that this step forward can be undermined by the delegated acts. We wish to express our surprise and disappointment about the current wording of the delegated acts concerning agroforestry. Some provisions do not align with the basic act and, if adopted, will significantly damage the use of agroforestry in the EU, especially in the areas of wood pastures or with the presence of other ecological features as hedges. More specifically, the issue of eligibility criteria is of great concern to us.**



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AGROFORESTERIE
association française



Stichting Duinboeren
samen sterk voor een gezonde toekomst

Please find attached all the details of our position on the CAP delegated acts related to agroforestry systems.

Agroforestry, the practice of adding trees to farmland, is a suite of land management systems that are uniquely qualified to combine high agricultural productivity with the delivery of a suite of key ecosystem services. Hundreds of studies document that adding trees to fields and pastures boosts overall productivity, generates biomass, maintains and restores soils, and provides a number of valuable economic and environmental services – such as reducing the need for phytosanitary products, enhanced carbon capture, biodiversity protection, water purification and storage, better erosion control, and more.

Agroforestry does not replace existing agricultural practices – it enhances their productivity, sustainably boosting farmers' incomes. More information about it can be found [here](#).

Agroforestry vitally needs a boost in Europe and the new CAP represents a unique opportunity.

Dear Commissioners, we urge you to adopt delegated acts in line with the inter-institutional agreement and supporting strongly one of the most promising greening measures of the CAP reform.

Counting on your support, I remain at your entire disposal for any further information you may need.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Dupraz
EURAF President

For further information on agroforestry:
<http://www.agroforestry.eu/>
<http://www.agroforestry.de/>
<http://www.agroforst.de/2-definition.html#kurzdef>
http://www.aqroof.net/aqroof_dev/aqroof_safe.html