



CAP REFORM : EURAF's POSITION PAPER ON THE DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

14 March 2013

Rationale : Agroforestry should be fully recognised as a suite of productive systems in the new Common Agricultural Policy.

By adding trees to farmland, agroforestry is a suite of land management systems that are uniquely qualified to combine high productivity with strong environmental objectives. 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, improved biodiversity protection, water purification and storage, contribution to erosion control, and more.

Agroforestry does not replace existing agricultural practices – it enhances their productivity, sustainability and will boost farmers' incomes in the long term. Economic analyses have shown that a farm that comprises 25% of agroforestry parcels planted with high quality timber trees (e.g. pear, cherry, maple, walnut...) will double its annual income from the moment it starts harvesting the first trees. More information about agroforestry can be found [here](#).

However, agroforestry is currently not an option to European farmers, mostly because of deterrent regulations. Our suggestions aim at allowing European farmers to have the free choice to adopt agroforestry systems.

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1. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy (CAP Reform)

1.1 Modifications proposed by the council

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

Doc. 6638/13: The Irish Presidency paper

Modifications proposed by the Council in bold.

Article 32 : Ecological focus area

1. Where the eligible agricultural area of a holding covers more than 15 hectares, farmers shall ensure that at least [7 %] of their eligible hectares as defined in Article 25(2), excluding permanent grassland, are ecological focus area. Ecological focus area may include:

(e) eligible hectares of agro-forestry;

EURAF's position

EURAF supports the proposal by the council to include eligible hectares of agroforestry in the Ecological Focus Areas. However, agroforestry is a productive system, and this should not be denied by the inclusion in the EFA. Farmers should therefore be allowed to collect tree products from agroforestry trees such as biomass or timber.

1.2 EURAF's additional suggested amendments

Amendments suggested by EURAF in bold.

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point e(e) 'agricultural area' means any area taken up by arable land, permanent grassland or permanent crops, *or a combination of these in agroforestry systems;*

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Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point k a (new)

"agroforestry": a system of production in which trees and cultivated or grazed plants are grown together on, or on the edge of, the same plots of land;

Rationale:

Agroforestry plots obtained by planting trees on current farmland will NOT augment the European eligible area to the single farm payment. Making clear that agroforestry systems are part of the "agricultural area" (point e) is therefore budget-neutral. It simply avoids that farmers do not adopt agroforestry for the fear of losing the Single Farm Payment. Therefore, there is a need to include a definition of agroforestry in this regulation (point k a) and this definition should be consistent with the definition included in the second pillar regulation by the European Parliament.

2.Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development (EAFRD)

2.1 Modifications proposed by the council

Doc. 7303/13: The Irish Presidency consolidated draft regulation

Modifications proposed by the Council in bold, additional modification by EURAF underlined

Article 24

Establishment of agro-forestry systems

1. Support under Article 22(1)(b) shall be granted to private land **holders**, 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.
2. "Agro-forestry systems" shall mean land use systems in which trees are grown in combination with **extensive** agriculture on the same land. The **minimum and** maximum number of trees per hectare shall be determined by the Member States taking account

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of local pedo-climatic **and environmental** conditions, tree species and the need to ensure **sustainable** agricultural use of the land.

EURAF's position

EURAF fully supports the suggested modifications, in particular:

* The extension of the period for public support up to five years is a sound delay to be sure that the planted trees are successful. Trees need tendering (e.g. weed removal, hoeing, watering in dry areas, replacement of the failed) for at least five years in order to get successfully established, especially in agroforestry systems where the tree density is low. 5 years is however much less than the 15 years support delay envisaged for forestry plantations. The same period of support for agroforestry and forestry would be more fair.

* The deletion of the word “extensive”. This modification was approved by the European Parliament on 13/03/2013, and we fully support it. Agroforestry should not be limited to extensive agriculture. Agroforestry brings high environmental benefits to both extensive and intensive agricultural systems and should be applied across Europe whatever the agricultural systems are.

In addition, EURAF suggests to replace “forest species” by “**tree** species” in the last paragraph. This is very important: many agroforestry systems use high value tree species that are not common in forests.

2.2 EURAF's additional suggested amendments

Amendments suggested by EURAF in bold.

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point m a (new)

ma) "agro-forestry": a system of production in which trees and cultivated or grazed plants are grown together on, or on the edge of, the same plots of land;

Rationale:

The possibility for Member States to establish agroforestry systems is a critical element of the second pillar. Furthermore, agroforestry needs an EU inclusive definition. This

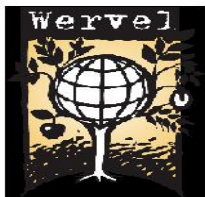
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amendment was approved by the European Parliament on 13/03/2013, and we fully support it.

Recital 25 : the word “extensive” in the following sentence should be deleted for consistency with Article 24 :

This measure should cover the extension and improvement of forest resources through afforestation of land and creation of agro-forestry systems combining ~~extensive~~ agriculture with forestry systems, restoration of forests damaged by fire or other natural disasters and relevant prevention measures, investments in new forestry technologies and in the processing and marketing of forest products aimed at improving the economic and environmental performance of forest holders and non remunerative investments which improve ecosystem and climate resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems.

The European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF) federates national agroforestry organisations from 9 European countries (with thousands of members) and individual members from 18 different European countries. It aims at promoting the use of trees on farms throughout the different environmental regions of Europe.

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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