

# 60<sup>th</sup> EURAF Executive Committee Report

Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016, 10:00-12:00 pm

## Present:

**Officers:** Rosa, Gerry, Adolfo, Jeroen

**National delegates:** Norbert (Germany), Joao (Portugal), Andrea Vityi (Hungary), Andrea Pisanelli (Italy), Fabien Balaguer (France), Nuria, Kostas Mantzanas (Greece), Robert Borek (Poland)

**Apologies:** Christian, Gerardo Moreno (Spain)

[Notes for the meeting](#) were circulated beforehand by Rosa.

## 1. EURAF Projects

- AFINET: deadline next week and EURAF is participating on it.
- SUSAMix: coordinated by Sarah Garré - will include time for EURAF (Nuria) to work on newsletter, etc. and also for Gerry (policy reviews and dissemination) closing date first round Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, second round September, final decision March 2017)
- Cost Action will be delayed until September
- Pilot Project: pending
- AGFORWARD: discussion on AGFORWARD slides in the [meeting notes](#) circulated by Rosa, with more detailed information for Galicia ([text](#), [graphics](#)), and a table showing types of [silvopastoral](#) land. Norbert suggested making numbers more simple and clear and doing a detailed comparison in some areas - e.g. France using LPIS data. Sentences could be shorter and the text should use bullet points. Joao suggests that there is no need to explain the methodology in the graphs. Decimals should be reduced to the minimum in the legends. Silvopasture includes trees, woody vegetation etc. Fabien points out that there is a definition problem: there is doubt about whether 'woody vegetation' should be included. Rosa explained that woody vegetation is included in all definitions of AF given by FAO, AFTA and ICRAF. Gerry pointed out that the definition used in national LPIS systems uses only trees. But the report uses a valid approach, and just needs to make its methodology clear. Rosa explained that the report is long to make easy to understand the global CAP picture. Shorter documents will be tailor made for policy makers. Rosa will send to each EURAF member a copy of their Rural Development Program with some socioeconomic data to be discussed by EURAF delegates. An example from Galicia will be delivered. Regarding Pillar one Gerry and Rosa prepared a briefing document for MEP Paul Brannen. We are pushing for the 100 tree rule to apply to "mature trees". If DGAGRI and MS don't accept the concept of final stocking, we also suggested a definition for mature trees having a crown diameter of 4 meters, which wouldn't be optimal, but the Commission has included this width in other Regulations (for landscape features). For all countries the problem of 100 tree/ha applies to arable crops.<sup>1</sup> But permanent crops (fruit trees etc) do not count towards this limit. Initially in Spain the prorata system is applied and therefore woody vegetation is not eligible, but some Regional Rural

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<sup>1</sup> This [depends](#) on whether MS have chosen to apply Article 9 or Article 10 in Delegated Regulation 640/2014

Development programs are implementing the role allowed by the Commission of “local practices” to allow woody vegetation to be eligible. So, the EU regulations allow as eligible permanent grasslands no dominated by herbaceous vegetation, but the decision should be taken at National and Regional level.

- **NEW PROJECTS**

Rosa selected the following EU calls with a 2017 deadline, if some of you are interested let her know.

**Ecosystem services**

SFS-28-2017: Functional biodiversity – productivity gains through functional biodiversity: effective interplay of crop pollinators and pest predators 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) 10 million

SFS-29-2017: Socio-eco-economics – socio-economics in ecological approaches 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) 5 million

RUR-03-2017: Towards 2030 - policies and decision tools for an integrated management of natural resources 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) 8 million

**Knowledge transfer (AFINET)**

RUR-10-2016-2017: Thematic Networks compiling knowledge ready for practice 17 Feb 2016 10 million

RUR-12-2017: Networking European farms to boost thematic knowledge exchanges and close the innovation gap 14 Feb 2017 7 million

RUR-15-2017: The benefits of working with others – fostering social capital in the farming sector 14 Feb 2017 3 million

RUR-16-2017: Optimising interactive innovation project approaches and the delivery of EU policies to speed up innovation in rural areas 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) 5 million

**Education (Charles Burriel?)**

RUR-13-2017: Building a future science and education system fit to deliver to practice 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) 7 million

***ACTIONS:** Rosa will send fact sheets of the RDP to discuss. If someone wishes to have EURAF in a project, please contact Rosa. Rosa will then inform the EURAF EC for avoiding any conflict of interests.*

## **2. EURAF events**

### **2.1 EURAF third Congress in Montpellier**

Registrations and abstract submissions are due and expected next week. Until now, response has been limited. Christian informed that around 14 registrations and 7 abstracts were received, but the deadline is 15 February.

## **2.2 EXPO past event**

The EU commission wants another report on the EXPO event. Rosa will check whether we have sent it, or otherwise Rosa and Adolfo will provide it. Adolfo has no news from PEFC about the 500 Euros, but he will follow up. Rosa asked Christian for the VAT documents for the EXPO event, but no news yet.

## **2.3 Agroforestry Conferences**

Question raised on the price for farmers (currently 200 euro) to participate in the Agroforestry Conference. This is too high and a session organised specifically to farmers that doesn't cost them so much would be welcomed. Fabien will speak to Christian about this. Andrea V proposed to combine this event with AFINET meeting (assuming AFINET is funded).

Giustino Mezzalira wants to host the 4th European Agroforestry Conference in 2018, this could be discussed in Montpellier. (AGFORWARD will be over by then, so Giustino will have to present a self-financed budget). The final AGFORWARD conference will be held in Brussels in 2017 and the World Agroforestry Congress in 2019. International Agroforestry Union: World Agroforestry Conference is being proposed to be held in Montpellier in 2019.

***ACTIONS:** Christian will take care of all aspects of the EURAF Conference in Montpellier with the help of all of the EC willing to help. Rosa will check whether we have sent the report on the EXPO event to the EU commission, or otherwise Rosa and Adolfo will provide it.*

## **3. EURAF Policy activities, CDG, others**

The **provisional** dates of the CDG are:

- 16 Feb Innovation Sub-group
- 18 Feb Leader Sub-group
- 4 March CAP
- 11 April CAP
- 12 April Direct Payments and Greening
- 15 April: Arable
- 13 May Arable
- 20 May Rural Development
- 25 May Environment and Climate Change
- 3 June Arable
- 21 June Forest and Cork

The EU Commission will hold a session 29/02 "Taking stock of the CDG's" to Jeroen will attend and stress the following points:

- that the arable crops CDG's are too much focused on markets and not enough on sustainable agriculture practices and systems, which should pursue it.

- that EURAF is not involved in any of the fruit trees (permanent crops) or animal related CDG's in spite of silvopastoralism being the most common agroforestry system, so, if possible EURAF would like to be part of these CDG.
- 'consultation' often involves the presentation of *fait accomplis* - for example with the multi-year action programme on the Forest Strategy (in Forestry CDG), details were given only when it was finalised.
- Please communicate any additional feedback (both positive and negative) to [jeroen@wervel.be](mailto:jeroen@wervel.be)

*ACTIONS: Reports and documents will be included in the EURAF CDG Dropbox as usually. Rosa and Nuria will follow up all these activities to help with the organization and link everybody. Jeroen will participate in the "Taking stock of the CDG's" session.*

#### **4. EURAF Newsletter**

Fabien B. proposed writing newsletter every month, but Rosa points out that it is a lot of work and every two months is probably ok for now. AFTA, the US association, produces one every 4 months. Gerry: we should thank Nuria for the excellent job she is doing with no money. If EURAF succeeds in new projects we might be able to have more paid help.

*ACTIONS: Nuria and Teresa to take over the newsletter*

#### **5. EURAF internal activities**

- Rosa presented the headings ([link](#)) to be viewed and commented about the EU agroforestry strategy.
- Rosa and Jeroen discussed sponsorship by Triodos Bank/Triodos Foundation. Rosa and Jeroen will follow this up and give an update next EC.
- Gerry and Rosa discussed the TUBEX brochure. Latest changes from TUBEX are awaiting acceptance by EURAF. When the brochure is finished it will be emailed with a letter to a range of potential sponsors asking for sponsorship for EURAF activities.
- Rosa proposes to distribute the brochures in EIP meetings (After Eur.Comm agreeing) and encourages EURAF members to spread the brochures (with permission) in other meetings, like CDG's. Translations will be welcome. Email [euraf@agroforestry.eu](mailto:euraf@agroforestry.eu) if you want brochures to be sent to you.

#### **6. EURAF prize**

Gerry proposed to not give cash and invite more of the winning students to the conference for free, but the meeting agreed to go with Christian's and provide prize money from the conference budget. EURAF will not make a direct payment.

*ACTIONS: Rosa will ask Christian about the prize*

Next meeting will be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016 at 10.00 CET.