

# Workshop 2

**Will RDPs deliver for Natura  
2000 sites?**



# Message to farmers

- ◆ **Make your voice heard proactively and get involved by contributing positive solutions from the start. Try to assess the impacts of policy early on. Co-ordinate your message – it strengthens it**
- ◆ **Let officials know that *you* are the focus of policy but be politically aware and as co-operative as possible**
- ◆ ***You* need to project a vision of how Natura interest and farming vocation can be combined**
- ◆ **Recognise the funding limitations and work within them**
- ◆ **Be open to new concepts/approaches and make the most of the opportunities offered. Look for new ways of getting funding yourselves.**
- ◆ **Recognise that flexibility is desired by all but limited by the legal obligations**



# Message to Env. NGOs

- ◆ Get a sense of economic reality on the ground
- ◆ Policy integration needs to be central in your thoughts
- ◆ You need to ask yourself what is acceptable change, not just ask for 'fossilisation'
- ◆ Farmers are humans and experts in their own area – use considerate and humble language and address farmers' concerns. Progress so far is appreciated.
- ◆ Give farmers credit where it's due – recognise their contribution to the present-day Natura interest and indeed to non-designated High Nature Value farmland
- ◆ Press for positive payments for farmers
- ◆ Look for the community of interest – bridge the gap
- ◆ Make more noise about Natura obligations but as much in the form of continuous support as in occasional criticism
- ◆ Be a help to the farmer in getting recognised and in managing positively, not a hindrance



# Message to Environmental authorities

- ◆ Describing the Natura sites' management requirements is primarily *your* responsibility – do the homework and take the lead!
- ◆ Decline of farming in farming-related Natura sites *is* your business – extinction of certain farming systems should be serious concern
- ◆ If situation is urgent, show urgency
- ◆ Funding follows a 5-year timetable – you *must* organise your work to that framework
- ◆ Don't antagonise – work co-operatively with farmers and with Agri Ministries
- ◆ Speak to farmers on Natura sites!
- ◆ Remember you also should be objective-led
- ◆ Don't always come with bad news or be depressed – make your own good news
- ◆ Make sure you have people with farming knowledge on your staff – smell of cows!
- ◆ Local staff know a lot about local issues – dialogue with HQ needs to be 2-way
- ◆ Commission – don't forget the non-Natura nature conservation interest
- ◆ Natura sites exist in a wider countryside – they can't work as islands of positive management



# Message to agricultural authorities

- ◆ Decline of farming in farming-related Natura sites is also your business – extinction of certain farming systems should be serious concern and incompatible with Rur Dev Strategies
- ◆ You must play your role – once environmental agencies have identified management needs, it's for you to deliver the measures to farmers in co-operation and consultation with other actors at *all* stages in the process. Commission needs to ensure this involvement.
- ◆ If situation is urgent, show urgency
- ◆ Make Natura 2000 a positive thing
- ◆ RD policy needs to have higher objectives than maintaining the status quo – *you* need to believe that redistribution/retargeting is necessary
- ◆ Farmers are paying for society's gains, both nationally and internationally in the WTO
- ◆ You need to be better at promoting the good results from agri & RD policy (and compare with results in other policy areas)
- ◆ Learn about Natura sites and farmers' role in them – take ownership. If you think you understand farmers, then it's your duty!
- ◆ Local targeting & objectives, prescriptions, payment rates are highly desirable – easy admin and reporting to Brussels have to be balanced by efficient delivery of objectives on the ground
- ◆ Natura sites exist in a wider countryside – they can't work as islands of positive management



# The BIG messages

- ◆ **Natura 2000 designation must ensure the sustainability of both the “Community Interest” AND the viability of the agricultural community and its management, addressing environmental, economic and social aspirations**
- ◆ **To achieve that the Commission must ensure real involvement by all actors in Natura management but also insist that they identify the specific funding required in the RDPs.**
- ◆ **Engaging young people should be a key concern**
- ◆ **Natura sites exist in a wider countryside – they function within larger scale farming and ecological systems**
- ◆ **Everything has it’s cost – if you say you don’t have the funds, then you’re consenting to losing it**

