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High Nature Value farmlands: Recognising the importance of South East European landscapes

A final reporting seminar

to be held at

ACV-CSC, Rue de Trèves 31, B-1040 Brussels, 15th May 2008

How suitable is the High Nature Value farmland concept to Bulgaria and Romania? Does the fact that it was developed before they joined the EU mean that important facets of this idea have been forgotten? If it does apply, how well are its needs recognised by Governments in the region? How well do the Rural Development Programmes for 2007-13 address these needs?

A programme of six workshops addressing these questions, three each in Bulgaria and Romania, took place in 2007 and early 2008. The choice of areas was different in the two countries. In Bulgaria they were held in designated areas – Strandzha, Rusenski Lom and the Western Stara Planina. In Romania they focussed on representative counties – Sibiu, Mehedinți and Galați.

This seminar provides an opportunity to report and discuss some of the findings of the project and for stakeholders from each of the workshop areas (farmers, agricultural advisers and administrators, NGOs) to interact directly with policymakers and civil society groups at EU level.

Chair – EFNCP	
0915	Introduction to the project rationale and structure – EFNCP
0935	Introduction to the sites – WWF DCP - Agriculture and the agricultural policy framework (Yanka Kazakova) - Nature values and the related farming systems (Koen De Rijck)
1015	Questions
1030	Coffee
1045	Theme 1: Issues surrounding HNV grazing land – EFNCP (Gwyn Jones)
1115	Input local stakeholders & Discussion
1200	Lunch
Chair – Netherlands Government	
1315	Theme 2: Issues surrounding farmers who manage HNV farmland – WWF DCP (Yanka Kazakova)
1345	Input local stakeholders & Discussion
1430	Theme 3: High Nature Value farmland, lessons on definition and identification – EFNCP (Guy Beaufoy)
1450	Discussion
1500	Coffee
1515	An assessment of the challenges faced by the Member States – European Commission
1535	Where next for HNVF indicators and monitoring in RO – Romanian Government (Sergiu Didicescu)
1550	Where next for HNVF indicators and monitoring in BG – Bulgarian Government (Viara Stefanova)
1605	Where next for EU: lessons from the project – EFNCP (Guy Beaufoy)
1625	Discussion
1640	Reaction from the project sponsor – Netherlands Government
1650	Final remarks – EFNCP