

## EU PLATFORM ON COEXISTENCE BETWEEN PEOPLE AND LARGE CARNIVORES

### *CAP reform and national support for coexistence with large carnivores: outlook for the next funding period*

#### EU Platform statement, May 2019

The Commission legislative proposals for the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) after 2020<sup>1</sup> provide an opportunity for the EU and Member States, with the input of key stakeholders, to further tailor and design specific measures to support biodiversity and farming systems that deliver environmental benefits. This includes protecting livestock farming from potential damages caused by large carnivores.

The work of the EU Platform, gathering case studies<sup>2</sup> from across Europe, has highlighted that the regional and local situations vary and a one-size-fits all approach to conflict reduction will not be successful. Instead a variety of approaches need to be used, taking into account the social, cultural, economic as well as the ecological situation. This is why the EU Platform works together with regional large carnivore platforms in several locations<sup>3</sup>.

Financial support to protect livestock against large carnivores and compensate for damages caused, are important elements for reducing impact on livestock and resulting conflict. They will not suffice however as stand-alone measures. Communication, training, technical assistance, monitoring, promoting partnerships and essentially, exchanging of views and improving mutual understanding are needed. Additionally, the other socio-economic challenges faced by those working with livestock must be taken into account sufficiently.

A review of current practices carried out by the EU Platform has shown that not all Member States are using the European co-financing opportunities available to them in the current 2014-20 funding period<sup>4</sup>. Preliminary information presented to the EU Platform members at their plenary meeting in May 2019<sup>5</sup>, suggests that not all Member States are fully identifying coexistence measures in their Priority Action Frameworks (PAFs)<sup>6</sup>, identifying their priorities and funding needs for the implementation of the Nature Directives for 2021-2027. To reduce conflicts related to large carnivores across the EU, it is essential that the European Commission, the Member State

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<sup>1</sup> The CAP beyond 2020: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/future-cap\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/future-cap_en)

<sup>2</sup> EU Platform case studies: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/case\\_studies.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/case_studies.htm)

<sup>3</sup> Regional platforms website: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/regional\\_platforms.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/regional_platforms.htm)

<sup>4</sup> EU Platform RD page: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/case\\_studies\\_sub\\_rural\\_development\\_programmes.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/case_studies_sub_rural_development_programmes.htm)

<sup>5</sup> Presentations to be added to the EU Platform website: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/events.htm>

<sup>6</sup> Financing Natura 2000: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/index_en.htm)

managing authorities and the concerned stakeholders on the EU to local level, work together to find solutions and ensure that all the existing funding and support opportunities are taken up.

We highlight the following responsibilities relating to livestock protection measures:

## European institutions

- Ensure that prevention measures and the additional work to implement them can continue to be funded 100% under the new CAP.
- Ensure that the Agricultural State Aid rules continue to allow 100% state financing of compensation for direct damages and indirect costs, as well as of protection measures (continuing the recent update of state aid rules to allow this<sup>7</sup>).
- Provide clear guidance and support to Member States in implementing the above measures.
- When approving the CAP Strategic Plans, check the consistency of the measures included with the identified priorities in the PAFs.

## Member State managing authorities:

- Highlight the need for providing effective and efficient support to livestock protection against large carnivores in their PAFs.
- Address such needs in their CAP Strategic Plans under the new CAP 2021-2027.
- Include appropriate measures through the two pillars of the CAP or in national financing, such as the establishment and implementation of protection measures, advisory support on these measures and checks to ensure they are correctly put in place, as well as trialling more innovative approaches to supporting coexistence.
- Implement measures that support traditional land use and agricultural practices favouring coexistence with large carnivores (e.g. measures supporting active habitat management in and outside of Natura 2000 sites or High Nature Value farming support).
- Pay compensation (or an equivalent payment scheme) through national financing under state aid rules to make up for the costs of damages by large carnivores and indirect costs, in the case that appropriate protection measures as applicable, have been implemented and have failed.
- Ensure regional and local authorities are consulted and involved in the decision-making.
- Put in place participative processes such as local and regional large carnivore platforms to better understand needs and to monitor whether goals are being met.

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<sup>7</sup> State aid rules update: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/amendments-state-aid-guidelines-agriculture-sector-better-address-damages-caused-wolves-and-other-protected-animals-2018-nov-08\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/amendments-state-aid-guidelines-agriculture-sector-better-address-damages-caused-wolves-and-other-protected-animals-2018-nov-08_en)

- Monitor and publish in a transparent way, information on damages and prevention measures to a level appropriate for targeting protection measures well.

## Stakeholders

- Work together in a collaborative manner and with managing authorities to ensure measures to reduce depredation of livestock are funded and implemented, and promote the use of such measures.
- Promote and engage in participative processes for instance establishing large carnivore platforms on the local to national level.
- Support peer-to-peer exchanges between countries and regions to learn about how coexistence can be supported.

The EU Platform members agree this statement and engage themselves to promote the above messages amongst their own membership.

***This statement was agreed by all members at the EU Platform at the plenary meeting, 13 May 2019***