

RDPs – challenge or opportunity for biodiversity post-2013?

Trees Robijns

EU Agriculture and Bioenergy Policy Officer
BirdLife Europe

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Houston, we have a problem!

- Only 7% agricultural habitats in Natura 2000 are under favourable condition
- 300 million farmland birds have disappeared in the last three decades
- 7 of the world's 10 biggest marine dead zones are in the Baltic- mainly due to agriculture run off
- The cost of soil loss in the EU is €38 billions/year
- 100 million EU citizens are already affected by water scarcity



The CAP: a policy out of touch with reality



Over 75% of the money is distributed without any link to any policy objective!

-Funds distribution does not reflect either sustainability, nor social justice.

- No justification for blanket support to one sector in society
- No justification for perverse subsidies
- No justification for favoring some farmers over others on purely political grounds

Public money for public goods- a new social contract?



**There is a strong justification for support to farmers-
but the deal need to be clear and honest!**

- Support the transition toward sustainable farming
- Avoid the collapse of High Nature Value Farming systems
- Reward farmers for the provision of public goods
- Tackling rural poverty and marginalisation

No public money for lawbreakers

Commission proposal to eventually include WFD and pesticide legislation BUT remove important parts of the Birds and Habitats Directives



Council and EP against ANY improvement



The Greening- EP and Council proposals: from weak to empty?

Both are looking for ways to **exempt as many farmers as possible**

Both EP and Council seek to **reduce the penalties for rule breakers**

Both are trying to **empty the EFA**: catch crops, soil cover and permanent crops, regional level implementation, higher threshold for exempting small farms

EP tries to make **crop diversification even weaker**: more exemptions, less crops

Small consolation- both are suggesting **improvements to the definition of permanent pasture**



Rural development-going backward?

Reverse modulation would allow Member States to reduce high quality spending to beef up “dumb subsidies”

Minimum spending on the environment is being taken out (from obligation to recommendation) **but EP suggests beefing it up and giving higher co funding to AE**

Council seeks to **reduce monitoring, assessment and other quality controls**

EP seeks to **remove safeguards** on investment in unsustainable irrigation expansion



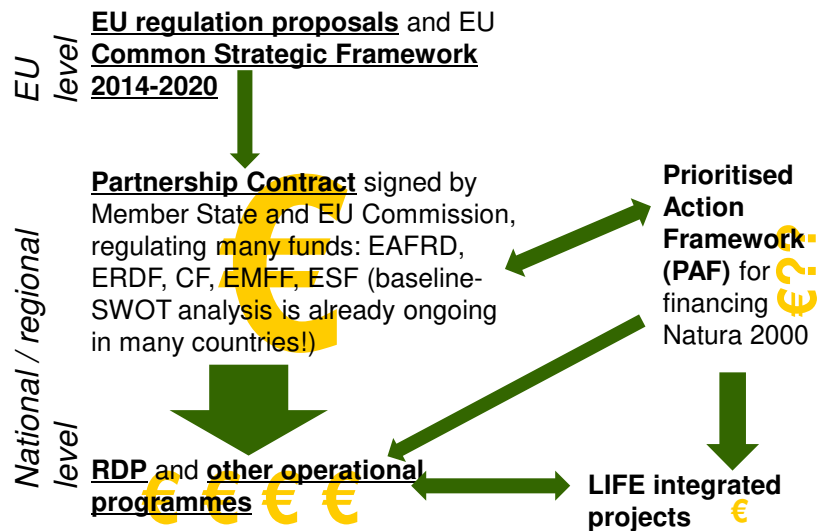
RDPs – still biggest opportunity

- Most targeted
- Stakeholder involvement
- Most sophisticated
- Positive new measures
- Commission control of RDPs
- Monitoring and evaluation

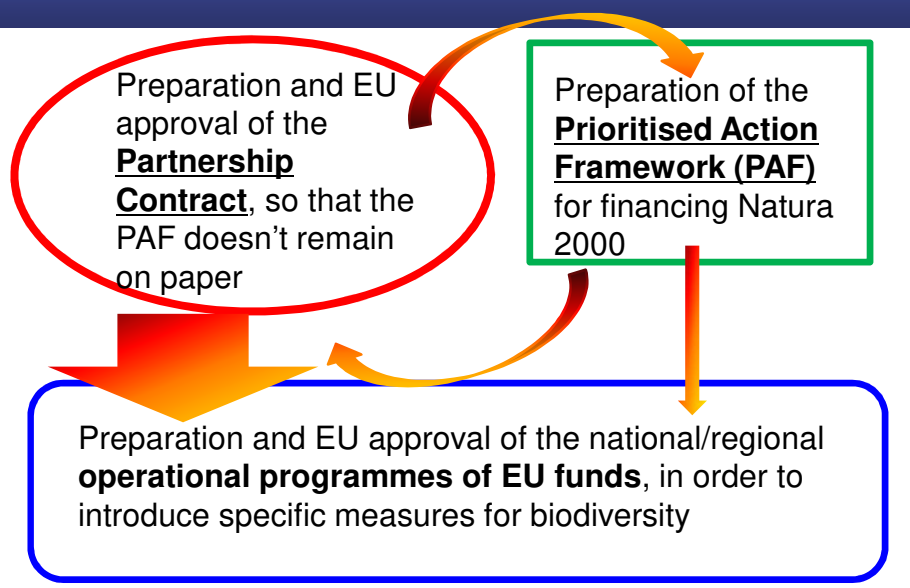


The Rural Development Programme and its wider context

Europe



If we want funding for nature & BD, we need to have an impact on 3 processes



Opportunities in the new RD policy



Threats in the new RD policy



Last chance to reform?



We are still in time to put the CAP back on track, but it might be the last chance...

- Engagement on the EU budget
- Finalization of the Council and Parliament position
- Preparation of implementation through:
 - Prioritized Action Framework
 - Partnership Agreement
 - RDPS



BirdLife Europe

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partnership of BirdLife International

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