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MEMORANDUM
INTERNATIONALE KONFERENZ
ZUR ZUKUNFT DER
BERGLANDWIRTSCHAFT
IM ALPENRAUM
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
ON THE FUTURE OF
MOUNTAIN AGRICULTURE
IN THE ALPS

netzwerk
zukunftsraum
land
LE 14-20


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 Landwirtschaftskammer
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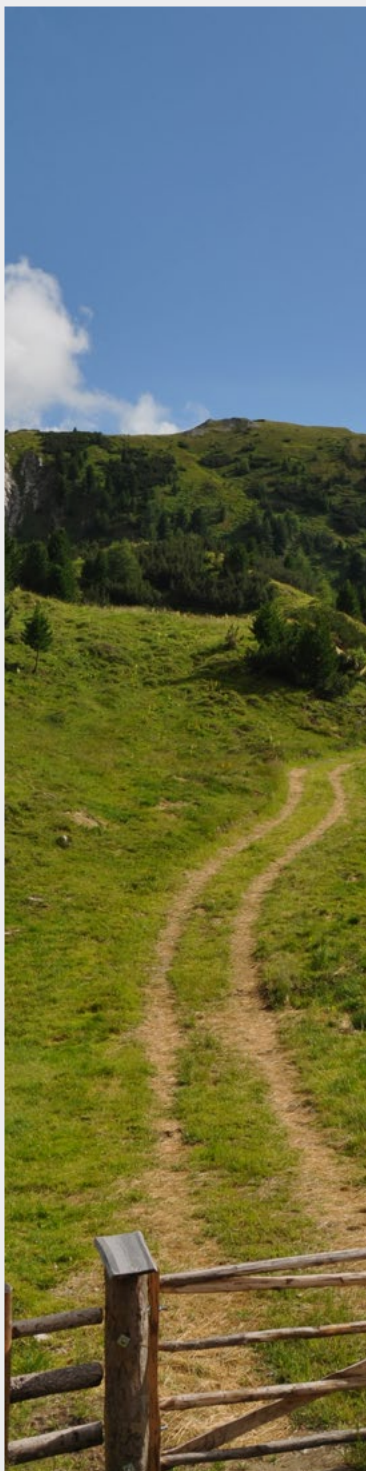
NETZWERK ZUKUNFTSRAUM LAND WIRD FINANZIERT VON BUND, LÄNDERN UND EUROPÄISCHER UNION



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LE 14-20
Entwicklung für den Ländlichen Raum

Europäischer
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Hier investiert Europa in
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MEMORANDUM OF THE ALPINE REGIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN FARMING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF MOUNTAIN
FARMING IN THE ALPINE REGION, ST. JOHANN IM PONGAU,
SALZBURG, SEPTEMBER 13TH-14TH, 2017

MOUNTAIN FARMING NEEDS A FUTURE!

THE ALPS ARE a living, economic and recreational space, where 14 million people live and that 50 million tourists visit and enjoy every year, and are subject to different and often competing uses. It is therefore imperative to develop a transnational, integrated policy, which can reconcile economic interests and environmental needs.

The contents of the Mountain Farming Protocol of the Alpine Convention, which are legally binding for the Alpine States and the EU, are a clear acknowledgement of the fact that mountain farming is essential for the economic development of the Alps, as well as for the preservation of the rural landscape and the protection of the environment. Mountain farming depends on the right conditions for its economic survival, as well as on the necessary compensations for the provision of services which benefit the community. Multifunctional, family farms, which farm sustainably, are the main actors of mountain farming.

In order to strengthen and further develop mountain farming, the following measures are necessary at the European level:



FAR-SIGHTED CONDITIONS TO ENSURE MULTIFUNCTIONAL MOUNTAIN FARMING

- To mitigate the difficult production conditions of the Alpine area, especially the logistical challenges of milk production, the adoption of adequate special measures for mountain areas is required.
- In this context, it is necessary to review the existing tie between the direct payments of the first pillar and the number of livestock who eat roughage, with the purpose of promoting livestock farming connected to the land.
- In order to improve the added value of mountain and Alpine products, and obtain satisfactory revenues from their sale, a consistent and reliable quality strategy based on the origin of products is necessary. The agricultural policy must create the necessary prerequisites and ensure the right funding at the start-up phase.
- The transfer of knowledge should be enhanced through education and consultancy activities, as well as specific innovations and research projects.
- The framework conditions to diversify mountain farming need to be improved.

COMPENSATION OF THE DISADVANTAGES OF MOUNTAIN FARMING

- It is necessary to continue to ensure financial compensations for the production constraints faced by mountain areas. In addition to the existing room for manoeuvre in the calculation of premia for individual farms, the reference to the number of livestock should be considered in a differentiated way, based on the existing disadvantages and size of the farm.





- As the investments for the modernisation and further development of mountain farming usually generate higher costs and lower profitability, it is necessary to increase the support to investments in mountain areas, to help mountain farming and ensure its future existence.

THE ECONOMY OF MOUNTAIN PASTURES – ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT FOR MOUNTAIN FARMING AND A RELEVANT FEATURE OF THE ALPINE LIVING SPACE

- A quantitatively important part of the Alpine range is used as mountain pasture. Given the economic importance of this practice, and to preserve the economy of Alpine pastures in the entire Alpine range, compensatory measures covered with public funds are necessary to ensure that management costs can be covered.
- The current „pro-rata-system“ for the determination of the alpine fodder areas requires a simplification, not least to strengthen the legal certainty. In future, the number of grazing livestock should be used as a reference metrics to determine the necessary aid.
- New strategies are needed to face the recent issue of large predators.

COMPENSATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SPECIFIC LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES

- For specific landscape management services and measures for the protection of the environment that cause additional work and/or a reduction of income – such as the maintenance of mountain meadows, suitable mowing in terms of time and space, forestry-related environmental measures and the use of adequate technologies - opportunities for compensatory payments in the context of the agri-environmental measures



should be maintained. In order to ensure their acceptance, an incentive component should be introduced again.

MORE LEEWAY TO SUPPORT MOUNTAIN FARMING

- The current room for manoeuvre that regions have to offer financial aid quickly, and without red tape, is too limited. To solve the issue, it is necessary to increase the flexibility of the “de minimis rule” to 30,000 euro.
- EU direct payments within the Small Farmers’ Scheme should be increased from the current 1,250 euro/farm to no less than 2,500 euro/farm.
- In order to avoid multiple checks, the single-audit system should be introduced.

The International Conference on the Future of Mountain Farming in the Alpine region is an event organized by the Austrian Presidency of the Alpine Convention. The conference, with the help of the representatives of the regions, intends to give new impetus to the issue, so that the many and legitimate needs of mountain farming in the Alps can be taken into account during the coming CAP negotiations.

IMPRESSUM



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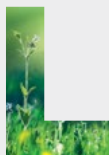
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**FÜR EIN LEBENSWERTES
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UNSER ZIEL ist ein lebenswertes Österreich in einem starken Europa: mit reiner Luft, sauberem Wasser, einer vielfältigen Natur sowie sicheren, qualitativ hochwertigen und leistbaren Lebensmitteln. Dafür schaffen wir die bestmöglichen Voraussetzungen.

WIR ARBEITEN für sichere Lebensgrundlagen, eine nachhaltige Lebensart und verlässlichen Lebensschutz.



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