



Mr George Lyon MEP
9 Newton Terrace,
Glasgow
G3 7PJ

19 March 2010

Dear Mr Lyon,

Re: Wildlife and Countryside Link & Scottish Environment Link meeting

We are writing on behalf of the Agriculture Groups of both Wildlife and Countryside Link and Scottish Environment Link, whose members have the support of over 8 million people in the UK. Thank you for meeting us in February to discuss the forthcoming CAP reforms and your report to the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. We very much appreciated the time you gave to listen to our concerns on CAP reform and to discuss the aims of your report.

Following the recent publication of your working document we would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the concerns that we raised at the meeting, and that we hope will be taken into account when the draft report is published. We feel it is vital that these points are taken into account to ensure that our environment continues to be protected and food production remains sustainable in the long term.

- The need for a reformed CAP to be equipped with the means to deliver a very wide range of environmental public goods, both now and in the future.
- The level of funding to achieve the above will need to be substantial and the report should make a strong case for retaining the financial resources that will be needed to meet existing and future environmental challenges.
- The purposes of a reformed CAP should take into account all the public goods that need to be provided, including preserving cultural landscapes and historic environment features, as well as existing environmental challenges such as preventing biodiversity loss and climate change adaptation/mitigation.

We acknowledge that building support throughout the EU for an environmentally focused evolution of the CAP into a European Sustainable Land Management Policy is undoubtedly a challenge. However, the priorities and proposals contained in the working document appear to be little more than an argument for maintaining the status quo. We are disappointed that the document currently does not have a timetable for the CAP to evolve into the public goods delivery mechanism that it needs to become in the next decade, as stated in our policy perspectives, *Beyond the Pillars* and *Beyond the CAP*.



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We are pleased to see that the report calls for a '*fairer, greener and more sustainable CAP*' but there appears to be an imbalance between both the number and the detail of farming support measures compared to environmental measures.

We are also aware that the draft report on simplification of the CAP (2009/2155(INI)) proposes a reduction in cross compliance requirements thus making the contribution of the CAP to sustainability objectives even more tenuous. Proposals of this kind will be unhelpful in justifying maintaining existing funding levels to the CAP based on its public goods delivery role given the already weak environmental conditions that are applied to its payments.

The argument that it is necessary to maintain the CAP because its income support role will address future food security issues is becoming less convincing in the current economic and political climate and even more so now the apparent supply crisis for some agricultural commodities that occurred two years ago has abated.

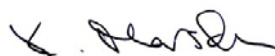
Consequently, we would like to see proposals for environmental measures in the draft report strengthened to make the CAP greener and to ensure a strong case is made for increasing the levels of funding for Pillar II of the CAP to ensure its public goods delivery potential is enhanced. We are disappointed that the Environment Committee have decided not to consider the report as we had requested in our meeting.

Once again thank you for meeting us and if we can be of any assistance or if you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact our colleague Kirsten Knap at Wildlife and Countryside Link on +44 207 820 8600 or kirsten@wcl.org.uk

Yours sincerely



Gareth Morgan
Chair
Agriculture Working Group
Wildlife and Countryside Link



Katrina Marsden
Chair
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On behalf of the following organisations;

Wildlife and Countryside Link

- Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust
- Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust
- Butterfly Conservation
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- The Council for British Archaeology
- The Grasslands Trust
- Plantlife International

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
- The Wildlife Trusts
- Woodland Trust

Scottish Environment Link

- Archaeology Scotland
- Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust
- Bumblebee Conservation Trust
- Butterfly Conservation Scotland
- National Trust for Scotland
- Plantlife Scotland
- RSPB Scotland
- Scottish Wildlife Trust
- Woodland Trust Scotland

CC

Richard Ashworth MEP

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James Nicolson MEP