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The Beef Task Force of EAAP 2nd Meeting 29th May 2006

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Following the first Beef Task Force meeting held in Paris in November 2005, a second meeting was organized within the IFCN conference in Braunschweig on 29 May 2006. The IFCN conference provided the opportunity to exchange ideas on the project with members of the Beef Task Force, like Claus Deblitz (Germany), Ernesto Reyes (Spain), Claudio Montanari (Italy), Anne Kinsale (Ireland, on behalf of Gerry Keane), and Duncan Sinclair (United Kingdom), as well as with other people who represented potential BTF members such as Rainer Wollinger from Austria, Pernilla Salevid from Sweden and Kinga Szabo from Hungary.

A report of the Beef Task Force on the policy impact on beef farming

The re-reading of the rules and aims of the Beef Task Force, along with a special message from the EAAP office, reaffirmed the agreement of all the participants and seemed to interest people from countries not yet members of the BTF.

The first task concerns the common report to be prepared by the group on the impact of the CAP reform on beef farming systems. This report must be presented at the EAAP meeting in Dublin (August 2007) as a contribution to the mid-term review of the CAP. For this task, the group can rely on any kind of assistance from the EAAP Secretariat.

The framework of the report

According to the capacity of each member to invest in such a project, it has been decided to keep the structure divided in different parts:

- **Policy issue : CAP in the past and the new rules**
- **The diversity of EU beef systems (system classification and characterization)**
- **National parts: beef farming systems and CAP implementation**
- **Synthesis: effects on systems and production**

For the **policy issue** part, a historical and technical analysis of the EU Common Agricultural Policy should be developed through objectives and applications (SFP) for farmers in the various countries.

A link should also be made with the WTO discussions.

For the **diversity of EU beef farming systems** part, the zoning of the livestock regions proposed by André Pflimlin in the previous meeting and a special analysis of the IFDN data for the quantification of beef farming systems are available.

National parts: in order to save time, it is recommended that each national part develop studies or surveys already implemented in different areas:

- Main beef farming systems in the country
- Methods of implementation of the CAP (farms, surveys, etc)
- Hypotheses (e.g. about prices)
- Main results (farm income and strategies for the farms to adapt, etc)

The meeting to be held in Rome in November (17-18th of November, to be confirmed) will give the opportunity for a further exchange of ideas in order to prepare and write the common analysis.

This part will be constructed as a **synthesis**, but also as a contribution to the mid-term review of the CAP (2008). Two topics will be developed:

- Consequences on production (herds and products) and markets (exports/imports, prices, quality, etc).
- Consequences on livestock involvement in global and individual income and in land using.

Potential members

Potential members are ready to participate in this project. Some, like Sweden (expecting discussions with people from other Scandinavian countries), need some internal discussion at national level in order to take a final decision regarding their participation. Others, like Hungary, could contribute to the project without participating to the Rome meeting.

Planning for the future

Tasks	Steps	Time schedule
Project coordination	BTF Meeting (IFCN conf)	May 2006 (Braunschweig)
First results: CAP; LFS in EU	Proposals and e-mails	30 May - 30 October 2006
National inputs	Proposals and e-mails	Send on 15 November 2006
National parts Synthesis framework	Meeting of the BTF	November 2006 (Rome)
Synthesis	Proposals and e-mails	November - May 2007
Presentation	EAAP Annual Meeting	26-29 August 2007 (Dublin)

Information point during the 57th EAAP Annual Meeting

The next EAAP Annual Meeting will open on 17 September 2006, in Antalya (Turkey). Participants of the second Workshop of the EAAP Cattle Network (Friday, 15 September 2006) will be informed on the progress of the BTF project. The topic of the conference will be: *“Development Trends in Small Cattle Farms”*. All information on the BTF, the Cattle Network workshop etc can be found on the Cattle Network website: <http://www.cattlenetwork.net>