



Meeting Commissioner Roswall 23 June 2025, Berlaymont, Brussels

Aim: Presentation of the ENCA Network and its adopted Engagement pieces on High Nature Value Farmland as well as Improving the biodiversity performance of agricultural policies, discussion on further collaboration and any concrete steps

Participants: Helmut Gaugitsch, Umweltbundesamt (Environment Agency Austria) AT (IG SLU and ENCA Secretariat), Christian Selig, BfN (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation) DE (IG SLU), Antoine Oger (Executive Director Institute of European Environmental Policy, IEEP)

Jessika Roswall Commissioner DG ENV, Colleague of her Cabinet, Colleague of DG ENV, Unit D3

The Co-Chairs presented to the Commissioner and her staff the ENCA Network, its structure and goals as well as the package of the two Engagement pieces along the Slides (attached). Commissioner Roswall was very interested to learn about the ENCA network and in a further collaboration with us as well as in the topics of the two engagement pieces. She pointed out that agriculture is a strategic sector, both for food security AND protecting the environment. DG ENV shares the perspective of DG AGRI that the farming sector has to be secured, though without jeopardizing nature protection goals. Financing was only indirectly addressed, as there is an intensive discussion within the European Commission and the next multiannual financial framework will be presented in due course. However, she regards nature financing as an important next step and would be interested to have a further exchange with ENCA on biodiversity credits. In August, DG ENV plans to present an Analysis on the costs and therefore financing of the Nature Restoration Regulation (including the estimated costs of inaction). The implementation of the NRR and the next steps towards the Nature Restoration Plans are key topics on her agenda. She was interested to hear the relevance of High Nature value farming in the respect and was wondering if a clearer definition might be needed.

She stressed the need to make agriculture and food production in Europe more resilient and where possible self-sufficient. The CAP cannot be the only tool to fulfil that. There have to be “innovative financial solution” (also in the “Vision” document from Agricultural Commissioner Hansen). DG ENV currently works on the revision of the EU bioeconomy strategy. Commissioner Roswall seems to have an intense discussion with COPA-COGEA on that topic.

She highlighted that “without nature, there is no farming” and welcomed the idea of an ongoing exchange between ENCA and DG ENV. Her staff, either from the Cabinet or the relevant units will contact us in due course for concrete next steps. Our proposal of a possible joint event of DG ENV and ENCA on relevant topics in the agriculture-nature interface was picked up with interest.

Next steps for ENCA in the meantime: Preparing the answers to the questions that were brought to us by the DG AGRI and ENV colleagues in February and April (making a draft with possible assistance of IEEP?!) -> send to IG SLU -> finalize at September meeting -> send to COM.



From Left to Right: Christian Selig, Jessika Roswall, Helmut Gaugitsch, Antoine Oger