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The background of the slide is a photograph of a rolling green landscape under a cloudy sky. A single, large, rounded tree stands on a small hill in the distance. A path or road curves across the foreground.

**“Putting Durban into practice:
The Commission proposal on LULUCF”
Views of the German Farmers**

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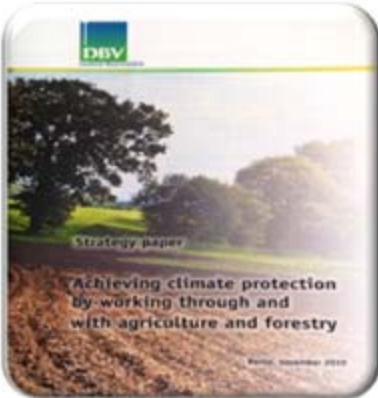
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Brief presentation of DBV



DBV represents 90% of all German farmers on a voluntary basis



Climate change is not an issue of second importance for German farmers!

Own climate strategy published in 2010

Potential of the sector to mitigate climate change is limited



The specific role of agriculture to produce food and renewable energies has to be recognised!

The combined effects from forestry and agriculture of substituting fossil energy and non renewable materials are not acknowledged

For the main sources of emissions from agriculture, reporting and accounting already exists and is part of the EU climate objectives until 2020

Emissions and sinks from the LULUCF sector are very difficult to be catch into an accounting system.

There is a need for additional scientific research and knowledge sharing.



Lack of coherence due to differences between Durban outcome and proposal



The Commission proposal presents new elements regarding the Durban outcome

The provisions in the EC proposal that differ from or go beyond the Kyoto protocol and the Durban outcome are not acceptable. Particularly for the mandatory accounting for cropland and grassland management!

Reasons to do so are not clearly stated in the proposal



Sustainable forest management will not be fostered by this proposal



German and EU forests provide crucial ecosystems services and enhance the resilience to climate change

There is a risk that sustainable forest management will have to be maximised towards climate change rather than trying to find a balance to ensure the vitality and competitiveness of forests.

There are too many differences between the international and the proposed European framework. This creates uncertainties for foresters!



Mandatory accounting for agricultural soils: scepticism of farmers



Accounting for „cropland management“ and „grassland management“ is neither feasible nor coherent

The mitigation potential of annual crops where CO₂ is kept in the organic substance of soils through the production should also be recognised

Need for a deeper analysis of the accounting options because of methodological uncertainties and the diffuse type of these emissions

In order to support grassland management, the best option is to ensure its profitability so that farmers continue at the same time to keep grasslands and contribute to mitigation



Proposal for drawing action plans must be changed



Trough existing requirements and the upcoming reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, there is no need for additional action plans that will be one-sided.

The focus of the action plans on “mitigation” is a restrictive approach. Focus should be on land uses that are at the same time profitable for farmers and for the climate

The site conditions of the specific land uses are very heterogeneous and almost unchangeable with regard to their natural, economic and social aspects



Concluding remarks (1)

The Proposal of the Commission does not consider the forestry and agricultural sectors in a comprehensive way nor acknowledges their multifunctional role



The EC proposal must correspond to and should not go beyond decisions adopted at international level under the UNFCCC.



Bearing in mind that a global climate agreement will be negotiated by 2015, the EU should focus on developing a fair accounting framework at international level, rather than creating its own way forward. Otherwise we will be faced with the risk of carbon leakage!

Concluding remarks (2)

Possible demands for including LULUCF into EU target for reducing GHG emissions are not acceptable as there is no level-playing field at international level.

This would be too premature and is technically problematic as we are not speaking of emissions coming from industrial sites but of emissions that occur in the nature!

Instead, we call for an improvement of the science-based knowledge, reporting and monitoring methods in order to increase confidence in greenhouse gas emissions inventories linked to forestry and agricultural soils.

We need to find ways how emissions can be reduced while at the same time a highly productive land use can be carried on. Looking at the future challenges regarding increasing demand for food and renewables, this is for us the only way forward.

