

**Pan European Conference
on Population level
Management Plans for
Large Carnivores**

**Postojna, Slovenia,
10th and 11th of
June 2008**

The Conflicts with Agricultural Practices

Giampaolo Tardella

*Vice-President of the Working Party on
Sheepmeat (COPA-COGECA)*



The united voice of farmers and their cooperatives in the European Union

COPA = Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations in the European Union

COGECA = General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives in the European Union

...50 years of experience

a joint Secretariat in Brussels with a staff of approx. 50



... two organisations

- COPA-COGECA represents over 15 million people working on EU farm holdings either full-time or part-time
- It represents more than 40,000 cooperatives
- It is one of the biggest and most active interest groups in Brussels
- COPA-COGECA has 76 member organisations from the EU Member States



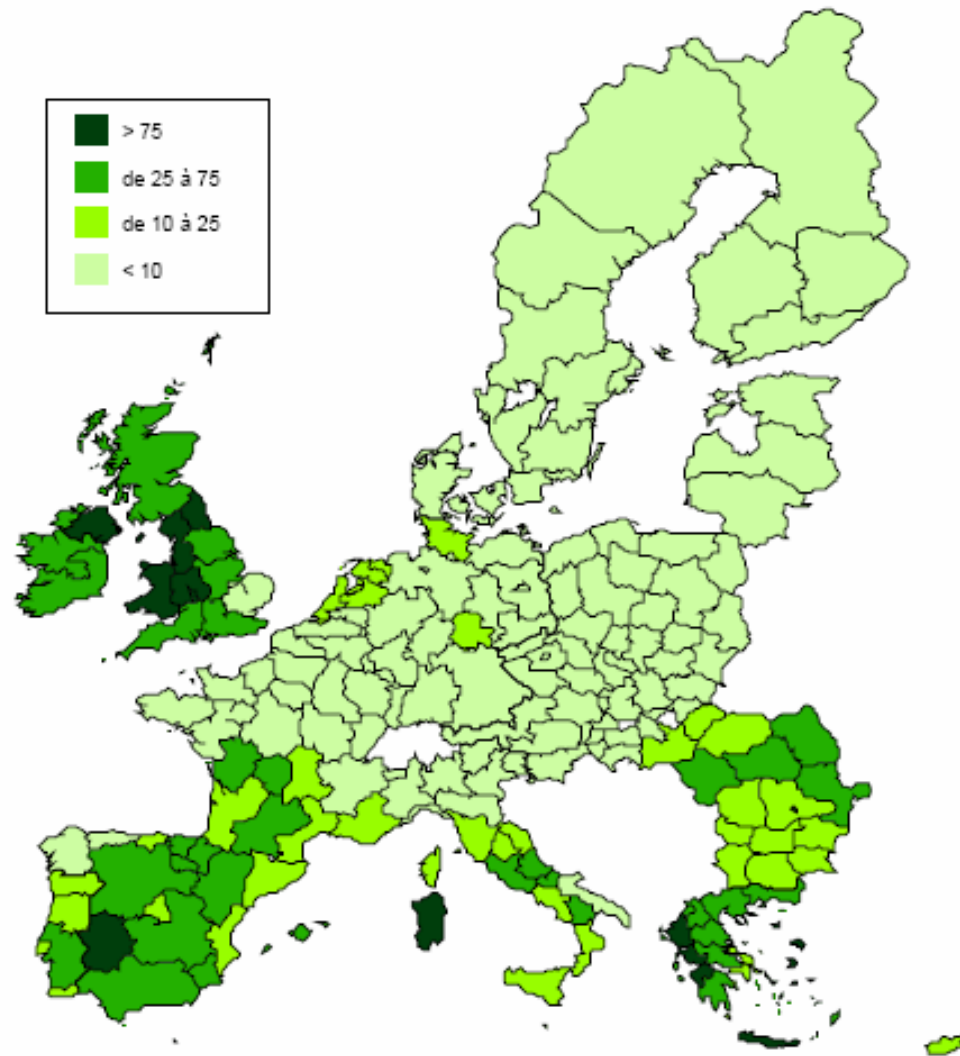
COPA-COGECA's tasks

- To defend the general interests of agriculture
- To maintain and develop relations with EU-institutions as well as with representative organisations at EU level
- To look for solutions that are in the common interest

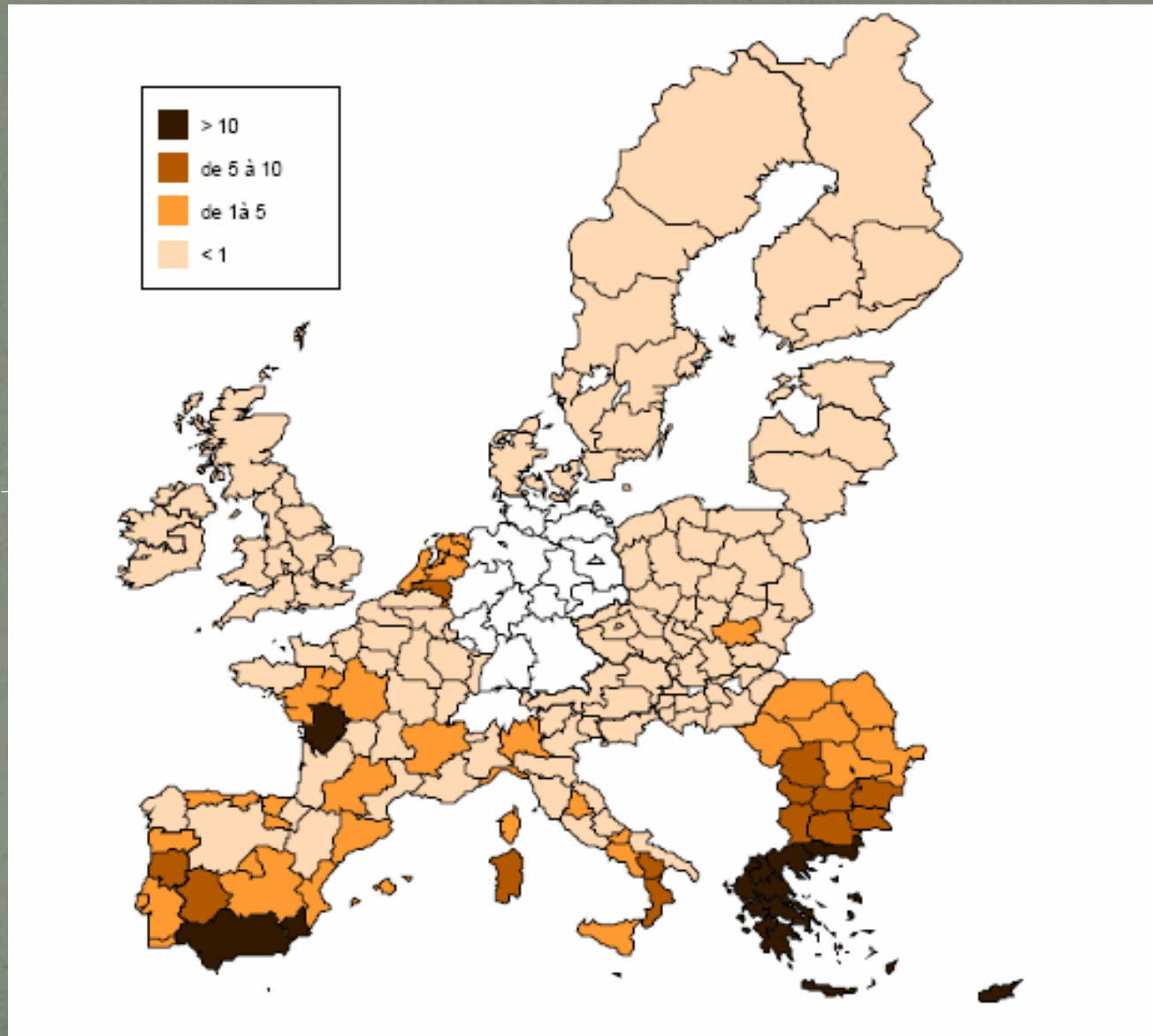
In the EU, livestock as well as small ruminants are bred in less favoured areas.

	% of livestock bred in less favoured areas
Spain	82
France	82
United Kingdom	69
Italy	70
Greece	78

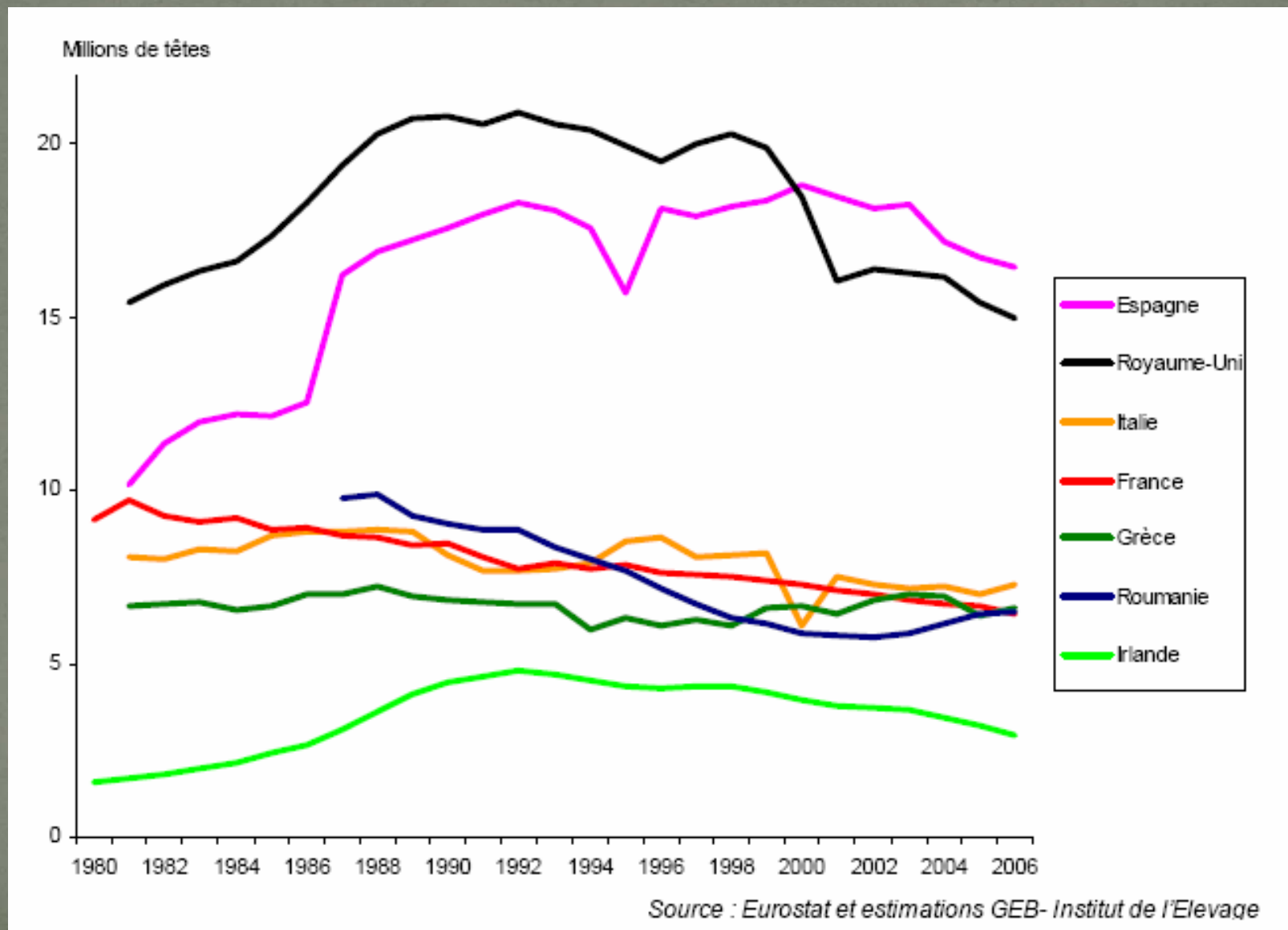
Location of sheep farms in the EU-27 as of 2003 (heads/km²)



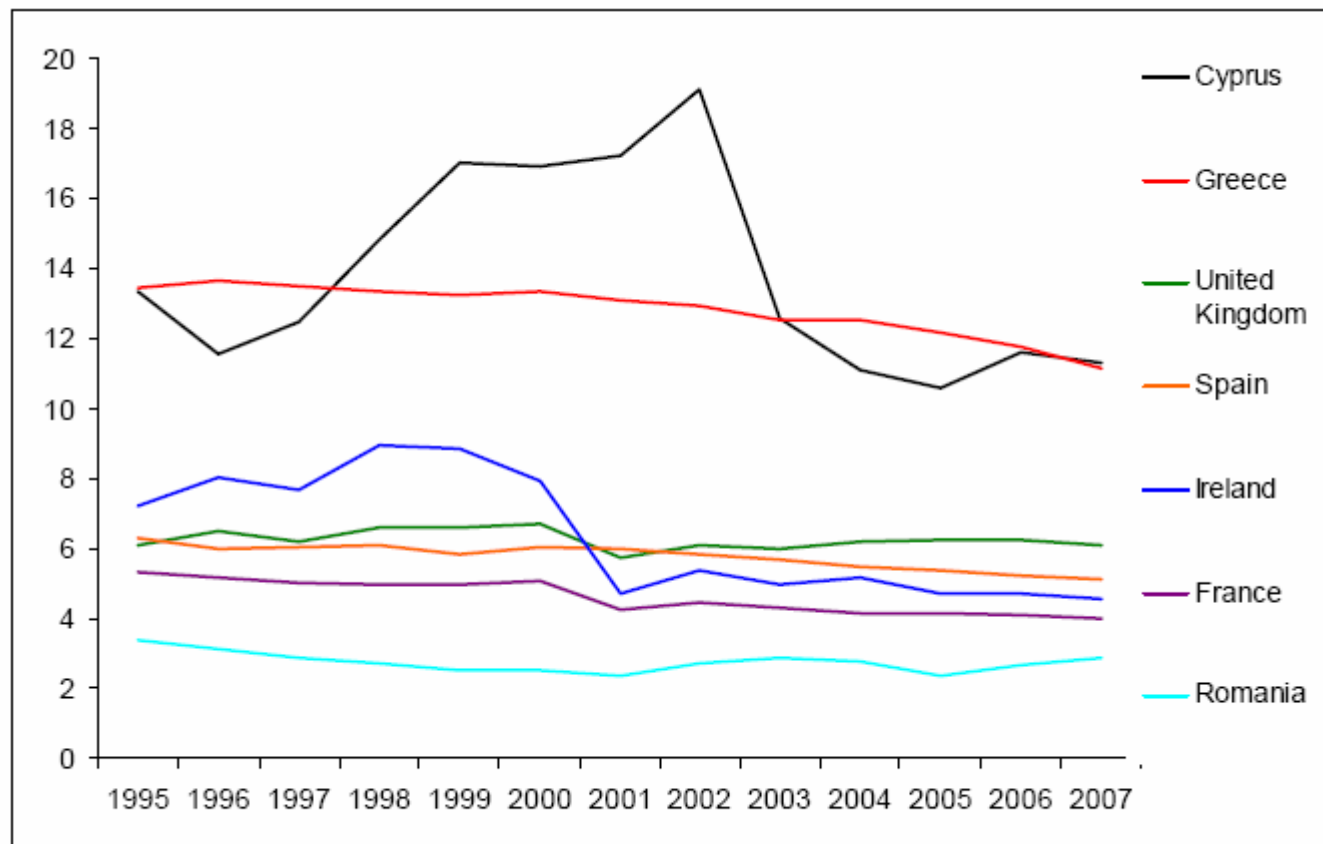
Location of goat farms in the EU-27 in 2003 (heads/km²)



Changes in the sheep population 1980-2006



Changes in sheep and goat meat consumption per capita – kg (some EU countries)



Source : Institut de l'Elevage d'après Eurostat

Presence of sheep and goats 2000/2006 EU

State	Sheep %	Goats %	State	Sheep %	Goats %
EU - 27	-7,6	-2,3	EU - 15	-9,8	-2,5
Spain	- 12,6	-5,4	Netherlands	40,4	-
United Kingdom	- 19,2	24,7	Hungary	14,7	-15,1
Italy	19,8	6,5	Slovakia	7,7	-15,2
Greece	-1,4	-3,5	Poland	-9,7	-28,6
Romania	11,2	36,8	Slovenia	34,4	25,5
France	-11,5	7,0	Austria	-6,4	-6,1
Ireland	-25,5	-	Czech Republic	25,3	-62,8
Portugal	-7,5	-16,5	Lithuania	188,0	-17,9
Germany	-8,9	-	Bulgaria	-3,3	-22,7

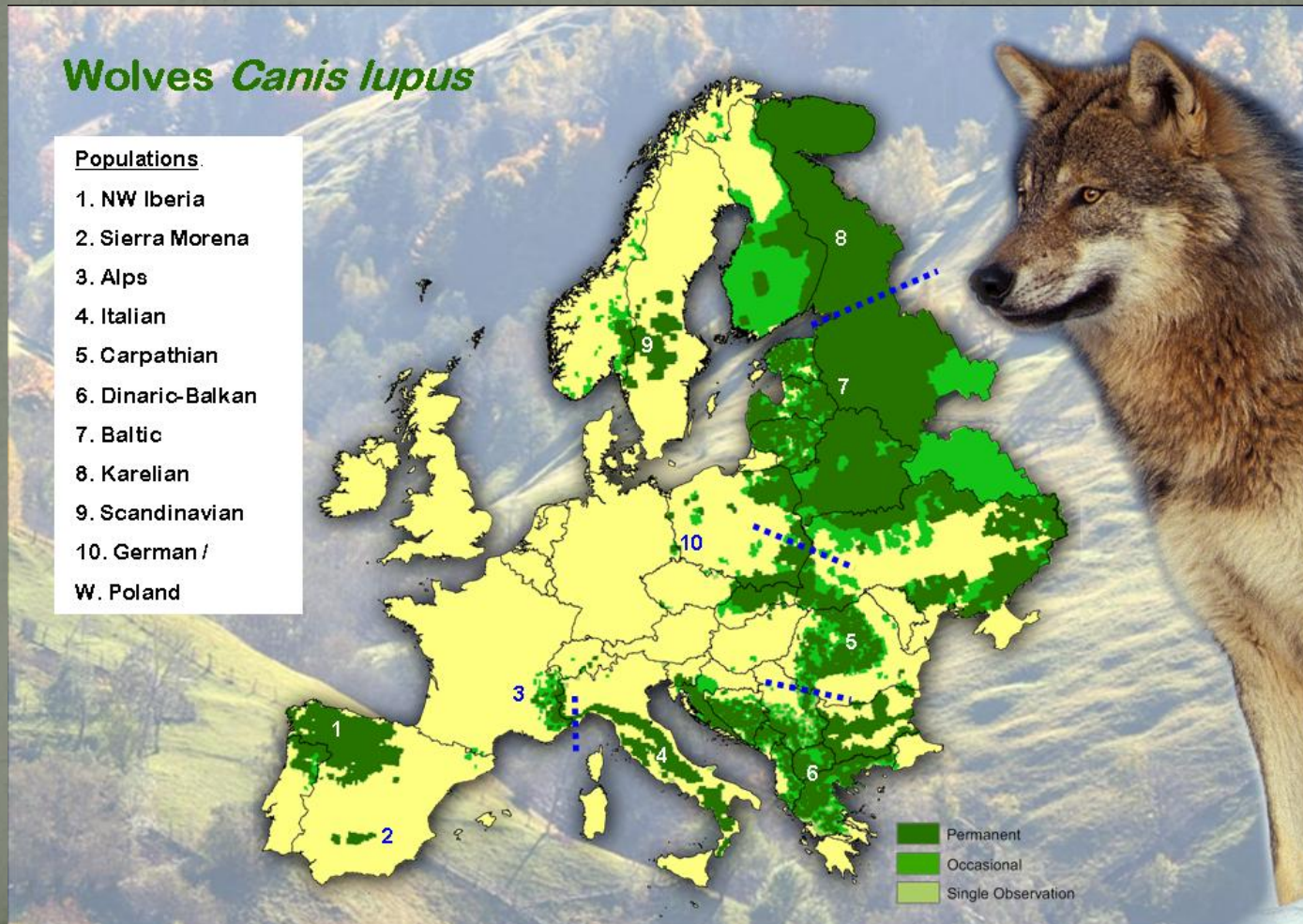
Presence of sheep and goats in less favoured and mountainous areas of the EU

State	% sheep in less favoured areas	% sheep in mountainous areas	% goats in less favoured areas	% goats in mountainous areas
Slovakia	96	63	84	36
Slovenia	91	78	90	74
Portugal	90	33	87	58
Austria	88	78	79	69
France	84	44	64	22
Czech Republic	93	35	76	22
Spain	82	30	76	43
Ireland	80	-	69	-
Greece	78	53	90	69

Presence of sheep and goats in less favoured and mountainous areas EU

State	% sheep less favoured areas	% sheep mountainous areas	% goats less favoured areas	% caprini mountainous areas
Sweden	72	13	-	-
Italy	70	34	80	59
United Kingdom	69	-	18	-
Lithuania	67	-	46	-
Poland	63	25	46	4
Estonia	60	-	55	-
Germany	56	2	-	-
Hungary	53	-	42	-
Belgium	16	-	19	-
Finland	-	60	-	46

Many countries where wolves are now choosing to settle are also sheep farming areas and often also have sheep and goat species facing extinction.



What is the future for sheep and goat breeding in Europe?

- **CAP Reform** (decoupling)
- **Low income**

- **Lack of young people**
- **Greater reductions in customs barriers**
(World Trade Organisation)

Furthermore:

1 – decreased consumption

2 – loss of earnings

3 – production costs

4 – business risk

This only serves to worsen an already very difficult situation

Safeguarding large carnivores is a major initiative of the Habitat Directive for maintaining biodiversity, but we have to bear in mind the problems that need to be resolved regarding its relationship with economic activities found in the region (pasture farming)

The quality of pasture farming and its products (meat and cheese) is to a large extent due to environment (animals' diet and welfare), but also the current environment is due to the activity and presence of pasture farming



A potential major reduction in pasture farming activities surely won't be without consequences for the environment of mountainous and less favoured areas.



Sheep breeding in mountainous areas isn't only a production factor,



- but also an irreplaceable ecological tool for land management and preserving genes and the countryside.

The reintroduction after a long time of potentially dangerous predators for humans and domestic animals makes coexistence delicate.





Save our sheep. Shepherds in southern France protest the release of Slovenian bears to boost the dwindling local population. The banner reads, "Freedom for bears, danger for people."

Raising awareness
among local people
and producers
especially is not easy.





Managing conflict between the objectives of preserving large carnivores and the difficulties experienced by local people.

Tensions are heightened either when there is no conflict management or when the damage is not fully recognised for the person having sustained damages.





The main reason behind the conflict is the damages

that the farm has to pay and so it is a “*sine qua non*” condition for total reimbursement of the damage.



Prevention of damage with guard dogs and fences.



EU-wide concern: new CENELEC standard for electric fence energizers

1. Extreme unease among breeders who perceive the traditional type of breeding to be at risk (open, semi-open)



2. Pasture farming of small herds is particularly damaged because before wolves came they had the possibility of leaving sheep unattended and now, following increased wolf presence, this is no longer possible.

3. Refunds, when provided, are regulated by legal provisions and rules which are not uniform (not harmonised) within the same State and between different States;



4. There are also thresholds for damages payments so the damages are not paid if they are less than a predetermined value;

5. Sometimes damages are limited although they are frequent;

6. Other times, the cost of the compensation procedure is higher than the payment itself;



7. Procedures are not simplified when providing proof of the damage and payments often have severe delays attached to them;



Damages are not only made up of the “direct” loss of the animal but also indirect losses due to:

A. Abortions;



B. Animals fleeing after the attack;

C. Costs of carcass disposal;

D. Economic loss for the lower value of the injured animals;



Other indirect damages are:

E. Loss of milk for a certain period;



F. Further economic losses for animals of high-value pedigree or for the goat and sheep species facing extinction.



Some priorities of COPA-COGECA:



- I. Harmonise and define common rules and make suitable financing available for reducing or, even better, eliminating conflicts (payments of damages) ————— • —————
- II. Prevent damages for farmers by making guard dogs and working fences available at a reasonable cost
- III. Global support for the LCIE Policy Support Statement – Annex of the final draft of Guidelines from May 2007

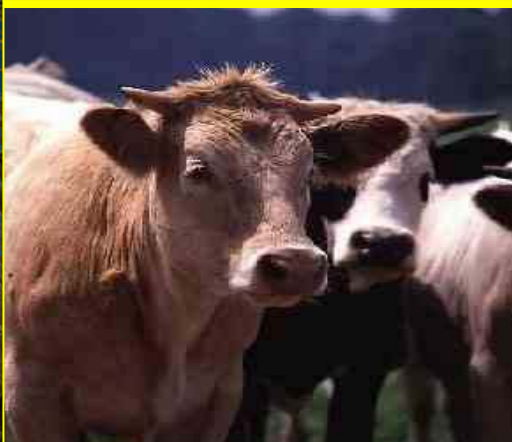
Some priorities of COPA-COGECA:

The livestock farms present in the areas which are at risk of attacks from large carnivores could have, as well as reimbursement of damages, recognition for compensating for the work surplus of costs by the breeder that we could define as an ***“aid premium for maintaining open and semi-open herding in areas with a risk of attacks by the wild fauna”***.



COPA-COGECA:

Defend and develop the European model of agriculture



Thank you

www.copa-cogeca.eu