



Natura 2000 Networking Programme  
on behalf of the European Commission

Natura 2000 Networking Programme managed in  
partnership by project partners EUROPARC Federation,  
Eurosites and European Landowners Organization (ELO)

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## Theme: Removing misconceptions about Natura 2000

### It is TRUE that:

- Agricultural and forestry activities can be consistent with Nature 2000 requirements, and at the same time viable economically.
- In an area of designated high nature value, the number of rural jobs will increase.
- Natura 2000 designation is proof of the special nature value of the area, which can generate ecotourism income (especially foreign tourists).
- The labelling of products (cheeses, honey, jams etc.) as being from a Natura 2000 area can increase sales, both domestic and export.
- The Natura 2000 Network is the EU's only network of areas of conservation importance across Europe, and forms an excellent basis for obtaining funds from various EU finance instruments,
- A Natura 2000 site can have a very important role in water management.
- Many existing land use practices will continue as before because they are already compatible with the conservation of the habitats and species present.
- Where the land uses negatively affect the species and habitats present, adjustments can often be made without jeopardising productivity.
- Management activities that favour nature conservation can receive additional financial support through the Rural Development Regulation.
- Hunting, fishing, tourism and other recreational activities will continue provided that they are managed in a sustainable manner and do not adversely affect the rare species and habitats present or prevent their recovery.
- Only the projects concerned with a "major public interest" could be carried out, after favourable opinion of the European Commission but with compensatory measures like for example "nature reserve".

### It is NOT TRUE that:

- The declaration of a Natura 2000 site affects land ownership.
- All economic activities will be reduced.
- The construction of new infrastructure is forbidden.
- Properties automatically lose value as a consequence of Natura 2000 designation
- Hunting activities are forbidden.
- Everyday activities will have to undergo an environmental impact assessment.

- The sheep pasture on the sites classified Natura 2000 is regarded as disturbing.
- The Natura 2000 sites will be nature sanctuaries.
- The Member States are not allowed to take into account the economic requirements during the perimeter transmission phase at the Commission.

**References and background information:**

[www.fundatia-adept.org/Natura2000lowres.pdf](http://www.fundatia-adept.org/Natura2000lowres.pdf)

[ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature\\_conservation/useful\\_info/documents\\_publications/pdf/stakeholder.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/useful_info/documents_publications/pdf/stakeholder.pdf)