

Press Response to Ministerial CAP Reform Announcement  
12<sup>th</sup> February 2004

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Good start, but this is just the beginning...

Scottish Environment LINK, the umbrella body for 36 environmental organisations in Scotland today welcomed the Ministerial announcement on CAP Reform. Speaking on behalf of LINK members in the Agriculture Task Force, Lisa Schneidau said;

*'Changes to the current agricultural subsidy system are long overdue. We welcome the Ministerial intention to deliver public and environmental goods from public money by shifting funds into environment and rural development and by setting 'demanding but fair' environmental standards on the money farmers receive.*

*While the amount announced that will move from just supporting intensive production to encouraging integrated rural development, organics, forestry, public goods such as access and environmentally beneficial land management, is not radical - it marks a start. The Minister's assurances that this is just a first step are to be commended.*

*One of the significant markers that there is a shift from business as usual is the commitment to engage all interests in dialogue about the way forward, primarily on the standards that public money distribution will be based on. This marks a real shift from how agriculture policy has been developed in the past.*

*LINK members look forward to further developments and engaging in a constructive, transparent process of decision making.'*

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