

Minutes of the Meeting

Peter Simon MEP meets Jonas Hirschnitz

26. February 2013

“On 26 February 2013 I met the member of the European Parliament (MEP) Peter Simon. Albeit neither of us was really an expert on agricultural policy, we both agreed quite soon that good food and good farming are priorities we can both agree on.

Mr Simon was skeptical about the role of agricultural lobbies, but said he only trusted the word of the specialized colleagues in his group. We had a fruitful discussion on the various



disparities between the Commission proposal and the committee position.

He clearly rejected the double payments and revealed that his group has a similar position. Payments for environmental and social services should be based on true services rendered. One point where we could not find a common stance was the question on how many per cent of a farmers land should remain permanent pasture. Simon

pointed out that this was depending on the national policies.

Referring to his home country Germany, he stated that crop rotation is implemented rigorously, and thus a high share of permanent pasture might not be necessary. Yet, he wanted to bring up this point again in a discussion with the expert in his group.

Overall, it was a very fruitful exchange with Mr Simon, and it gave hope that not only the Greens are defending Good Food and Good Farming. “

Jonas Hirschnitz