



## 6520 *Mountain hay meadows*

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<b>Habitat code</b>	6520
<b>Priority</b>	No
<b>Habitat group</b>	Grasslands
<b>Regions</b>	Alpine, Atlantic, Boreal, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian

Hay meadows at higher altitudes (usually 600m or higher), often in mountain valleys. These meadows, traditionally managed for hay production, are often very species-rich. Most widespread in the hills and mountains of central Europe, this habitat also occurs in other mountain ranges such as the Pyrenees, Massif Central and the hills of Great Britain and Fenno-Scandinavia.

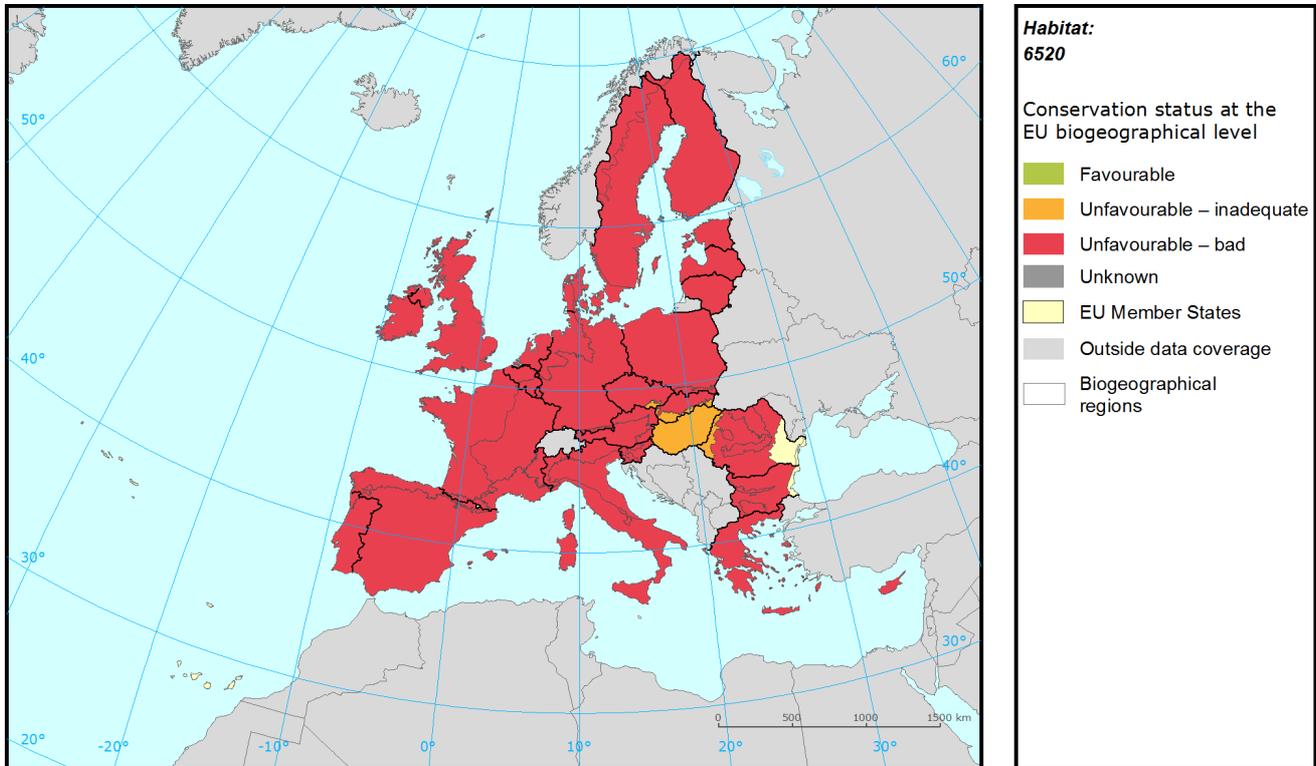
The conservation status of this habitat is unfavourable-bad and deteriorating in 5 of 6 regions (Alpine, Atlantic, Boreal, Continental and Mediterranean) and unfavourable-inadequate (and deteriorating) in the Pannonian region. In half of the regions it is reported only by one country. The only genuine change of EU regional status was from Unfavourable-inadequate to Unfavourable-bad in the Continental region.

The major pressures and threats are mostly modification of cultivation practices (agricultural intensification in mowing or grazing and grassland removal for arable land but also lack of mowing or grazing linked to succession), fertilisation, urbanisation and their development and forest planting on open ground.

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Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

## Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



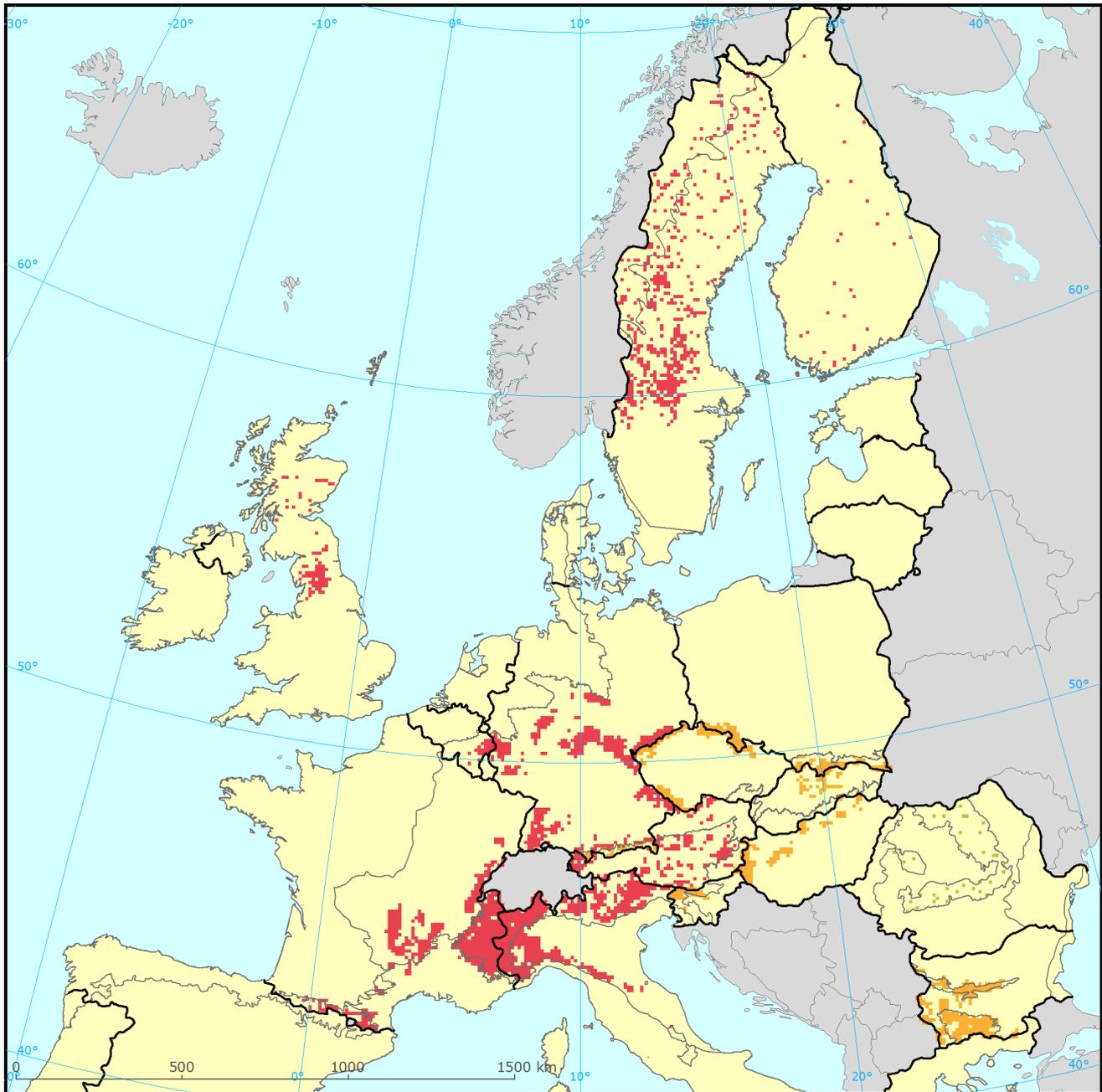
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Area	Structure & Functions	Future prospects					
ALP	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	41	U2	
ATL	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	3	U2	
BOR	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	15	U2	
CON	U1	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	36	U1	Genuine
MED	FV	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	1	U2	
PAN	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	4	U2	Not genuine

See the endnote for more information<sup>i</sup>

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## Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



### **Habitat: 6520**

Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Favourable                |  EU Member States       |
|  Unfavourable - inadequate |  Outside data coverage  |
|  Unfavourable - bad        |  Biogeographical region |
|  Unknown                   |  |

The map shows both Conservation Status and distribution using a 10 km x 10 km grid. Conservation status is assessed at biogeographical level. Therefore the representation in each grid cell is only illustrative.

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MS	Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Area	Structure & functions	Future prospects					
AT	ALP	XX	U1	U1	U2	U2	x	11.6	U2	
BG	ALP	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	11.9		
DE	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	2.6	U1	Genuine
ES	ALP	U1	U1	XX	U2	U2	-		XX	Changed method
FR	ALP	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	21.6	U2	
IT	ALP	U1	U1	U2	U2	U2	-	29.7	U1	Changed method
PL	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	5.3	U2	Better data
RO	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		3.2		
SE	ALP	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	8.0	U2-	
SI	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	2.8	U1	
SK	ALP	U1	U1	U1	FV	U1	=	3.4	U1	
UK	ATL	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	100.0	U2+	Changed method
FI	BOR	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	8.2	U2-	
SE	BOR	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	91.8	U2-	
AT	CON	U2	U2	U1	U2	U2	x	3.3	U2	
BE	CON	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	2.3	U2	Genuine
BG	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	9.3		
CZ	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	+	10.1	U2	Better data
DE	CON	U1	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	38.1	U1	Genuine
FR	CON	FV	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	19.4	U2	
IT	CON	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	12.9	U1	Changed method
PL	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	4.2	U1	
SI	CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	0.4	U1	
FR	MED	FV	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	100.0	U2	
HU	PAN	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	100.0	U2	Better data

Knowing that not all changes in conservation status between the reporting periods were genuine, Member States were asked to give the reasons for changes in conservation status. Bulgaria and Romania only joined the EU in 2007 and Greece did not report for 2007-12 so no reason is given for change for these countries. Greek data shown above is from 2001-06.

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## Main pressures and threats reported by Member States

Member States were asked to report the 20 most important threats and pressures using an agreed hierarchical list which can be found on the [Article 17 Reference Portal](#). Pressures are activities which are currently having an impact on the habitats and threats are activities expected to have an impact in the near future. Pressures and threats were ranked in three classes 'high, medium and low importance'; the tables below only show threats and pressures classed as 'high', for some habitats there were less than ten threats or pressures reported as highly important.

### Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	20
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	18
A04	Grazing by livestock	18
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	12
B01	Afforestation	4
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	4
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	4
A01	Agricultural cultivation	2
C01	Mining and quarrying	2
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	2

### Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	19
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	17
A04	Grazing by livestock	15
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	13
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	9
B01	Afforestation	4
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	4
A01	Agricultural cultivation	2
C01	Mining and quarrying	2
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	2

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## Proportion of population covered by the Natura 2000 network

Member States were asked to report the area of the habitat which is covered by the Natura 2000 network. The percentage of the habitat area covered by the network was estimated by comparing the area within the network and the total area in the biogeographical/marine region.

### Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites in biogeographical/marine region

	ALP	ATL	BOR	CON	MED	PAN
<b>AT</b>	20			80		
<b>BE</b>				73		
<b>BG</b>	87			98		
<b>CZ</b>				39		
<b>DE</b>	60			58		
<b>ES</b>	49					
<b>FI</b>			21			
<b>FR</b>	100			x	100	
<b>HU</b>						83
<b>IT</b>	22			8		
<b>PL</b>	41			5		
<b>RO</b>	46					
<b>SE</b>	62		8			
<b>SI</b>	79			97		
<b>SK</b>	66					
<b>UK</b>		70				

See the endnotes for more information<sup>ii</sup>

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## Most frequently reported conservation measures

Member States were asked to report up to 20 conservation measures being implemented for this habitat using an agreed list which can be found on the Article 17 Reference Portal. Member States were further requested to highlight up to five most important ('highly important') measures; the table below only shows measures classed as 'high', for many habitats there were less than ten measures reported as highly important.

### Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' conservation measures

Code	Measure	Frequency
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	41
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	18
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures	11
6.0	Other spatial measures	7
2.2	Adapting crop production	5
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	5
6.4	Manage landscape features	5
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	5
6.5	Adaptation/ abolition of military land use	2
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	2

This information is derived from the Member State national reports submitted to the European Commission under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive in 2013 and covering the period 2007-2012. More detailed information, including the MS reports, is available at:

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?group=Grasslands&period=3&subject=6520>

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**i Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level:** Current Conservation Status (Current CS) shows the status for the reporting period 2007-2012, Previous Conservation Status (Previous CS) for the reporting period 2000-2006. Reason for change in conservation status between the reporting periods indicates whether the changes in the status were genuine or not genuine. Previous Conservation Status was not assessed for Steppic, Black Sea and Marine Black Sea regions. For these regions the Previous status is therefore considered as 'unknown'. The percentage of the habitat area occurring within the biogeographical/marine region (% in region) is calculated based on the area of GIS distribution.

**ii Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites in biogeographical/marine region:** In some cases the population size within the Natura 2000 network has been estimated using a different methodology to the estimate of overall population size and this can lead to percentage covers greater than 100%. In such case the value has been given as 100% and highlighted with an asterisk (\*). The value 'x' indicates that the Member State has not reported the habitat area and/or the coverage by Natura 2000. No information is available for Greece. The values are only provided for regions, in which the occurrence of the habitat has been reported by the Member States.