



European Commission

## Outline

- Context
- Landscape features (LF) under cross-compliance and EFA qualification
- List of LF under cross compliance and list of LF under regulation n° 639/2014
- Possible combination LF under cross compliance and LF under regulation n° 639/2014
- LF dimensions under cross-compliance and LF under regulation n° 639/2014
- LF under cross-compliance/mapping/identification
- Buffer strips under GAEC and EFA qualification.

EFA: Ecological Focus Area  
GAEC: Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition of Land

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### Context: Ecological Focus Area (EFA)

- Obligation to ensure EFA on 5 % of arable land (above 15 ha arable land)  
Possibility to increase to 7% after specific evaluation from 31 March 2007
- MS to decide before 01-08-2014 what can be considered as EFA List provided in the basic act
  - Terraces;
  - Landscape features including adjacent elements ;
  - Buffer strips;
  - Other area related land used as : Land Lying Fallow, Agro-forestry, strips of eligible hectares along forest edges, Short rotation coppice, Catch crops – green cover, Nitrogen fixing crops.

### Context: links between cross compliance and EFA

- As regards terraces,  
Terraces shall be terraces that are protected under GAEC 7 as referred to in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 as well as other terraces. Member States may decide to consider only terraces protected under GAEC 7. Member States deciding to consider also other terraces.
- As regards the selection of landscape features, MS can choose :
  - from the list provided in the regulations (EU) n° 639/2014 of 11 March 2014AND/OR
  - from Cross-compliance especially from Good Agricultural Environmental Conditions (GAEC) (Annex II of regulation (EU) n° 1306/2013)
- As regards Buffer strips  
Buffer strips shall include the buffer strips along water courses required under GAEC 1, SMR 1 or SMR10 as referred to in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013, as well as other buffer strips
- As regards Catch crops  
Areas under catch crops or green cover shall include such areas established pursuant to the requirements under SMR 1 as referred to in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 as well as other areas under catch crops or green cover



## Links between cross compliance and EFA

### Qualification for EFA

- Area defined by GAEC 1, SMR1 or SMR 10 or protected by GAEC 7, SMR 2 or SMR 3 can be qualified as EFA and consequently can be accounted in the 5 % obligation.

In return :

### Obligations for farmers as regards GAEC 1 and GAEC7

- There is a ban of removal of elements under GAEC 7 (terraces, landscape features .. )
- There is an obligation to establish the buffer strips under GAEC 1/SMR1 and SMR 10
- Under cross-compliance, administrative penalty shall be imposed in case of non - compliance with the obligation

Impact in term of eligibility (Article 9 of regulation (EU) n° 640/2014 of 11 March 2014)

- Any landscape features subject to the requirements and standards listed in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 which form part of the total area of an agricultural parcel shall be considered part of the eligible area of that agricultural parcel.

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## List of landscape features under cross-compliance and LF under regulation n° 639/2014

- Under Article 45 (4) in the regulations (EU) n° 639/2014 of 11 March 2014, there is a list:

Hedges or wooded strips, isolated trees, trees in line, trees in group, field margins, ditches, traditional stone walls.

- From cross-compliance especially from GAEC 7-Annex II of regulation (EU) n° 1306/2013, the list has to be established by Member States:

GAEC 7 "Retention of landscape features, including where appropriate, hedges, ponds, ditches, trees in line, in group or isolated, field margins and terraces, ..."

For implementing GAEC 7, MS must establish the list of relevant landscape features to be protected to include at least the elements above listed. If necessary, other elements may be envisaged.

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## Possible combination of landscape features under cross-compliance and LF under regulation n° 639/2014

- from the list provided in Article 45 (4) the regulation (EU) n° 639/2014 of 11 March 2014

AND/OR

- from Cross-compliance especially from Good Agricultural Environmental Conditions (GAEC) (Annex II of regulation (EU) n° 1306/2013).

Various scenario can be envisaged:

- Landscape features only under GAEC
- Some type of landscape features under GAEC and other type of Landscape features under the regulation (EU) n° 639/2014
- Same type of Landscape features under GAEC and the regulation (EU) n° 639/2014

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## landscape features dimensions defined under cross compliance and those under regulation n° 639/2014

Elements under Article 45 (4) of the regulation (EU) n° 639/2014 of 11 March 2014 :

- Compliance with maximum dimensions set out in Article 45 (4).
- No possibility to overshoot the limits.

From Cross-compliance especially from GAEC 7-Annex II of regulation (EU) n° 1306/2013

Member States may specify the definition of each element, e.g. minimum height as regards terrace or maximum widths or minimum lengths for hedge.

Based on working document DS/EGDP/2014/6

"..... In this context, Member States may protect ditches and/or ponds on the basis of GAEC 7 and may specify a width or area different, including higher, than other landscape features qualifying for EFA and not protected by GAEC 7".

Recommendation:

Depending the choice made by Member states on the list of landscape features, consistency should exist between features size, regardless their status (GAEC and elements from Article 45 (4) of reg (EU) n° 639/2014). Different or new limits may be added by MS. Nevertheless those dimensions should improve clarity in term of control and not exclude some possible uses of landscape features by the farmers.

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## Landscape features defined under cross compliance mapping/identification

### LPIS

Landscape features defined under cross compliance (in particular GAEC7, SMR1, 2 or 3), when stable in time, need to be identified in the LPIS in view of checking their retention during OTSC. This identification of cross compliance Landscape Features can be done e.g. by alpha-numerical information (or by delineation) attached to the parcel.

### EFA layer

Landscape features protected under GAEC could become potential EFAs and then need to be mapped in the EFA layer of the LPIS (unless they are surrounded by permanent grassland in which case they do not qualify as potential EFAs).

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## Buffer strips under cross compliance and EFA qualification

Dimension (minimum width) as defined under GAEC 1, SMR1, SMR 10;

On the top of GAEC definition, no production requirement. By derogation possible grazing or cutting;

Water courses and water bodies to be defined by Member States.

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## Notifications on Ecological Focus Areas

### Main figures on EFA

- Number of activated EFA type (on a total of 19)
  - Between 2 and 4 EFA: 6 MS
  - Between 5 and 9 EFA: 12 MS
  - Over 10 EFA: 14 MS
- Kind of EFA type
  - Nitrogen fixing crops: all MS except 1
  - Land Lying Fallow: all MS except 2
  - Short rotation coppice: 22 MS
  - Catch crops: 21 MS
  - Buffer strips: 20 MS
  - Trees in groups: 18 MS
  - Field margins: 17 MS

MS: counting always referred to  
MS + regions for BE and UK

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## Notifications on Ecological Focus Areas

### Main figures on factors

- Conversion factor
  - Applied for (almost) all chosen EFA: 12 MS
  - Some MS applied the conversion factor only on some EFA
  - Not applied : 4 MS
- Weighting factor
  - Applied for (almost) all chosen EFA: great majority of MS
  - No application of weighting factor in one MS

### Scheduling of EFA

- Chosen by 4 MS with activation in 2016
- Only for some elements (max 4 EFA/MS)

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## GAEC in EFA

Detailed data to be provided for deadline 1 October

- So far no MS activated GAEC in EFA
- Final situation will be known only with final notifications

Previous deadline 1 August

### 12 MS activated GAEC in EFA

- Only cross-compliance LF
    - 5 MS activated LF only under cross compliance
    - 7 MS activated both standard and cross compliance
  - GAEC / SMR
    - Most MS activated GAEC 7, 1 MS activated just SMR 2-3
  - Other landscape features (LF)
    - 9 MS activated other LF
    - 3 MS activated only standard LF (not other)
- Examples:
- Northern MS: archaeological sites, ancient monuments, protected stones
  - Southern MS: rice cultivation related LF (ditches), vegetated slopes

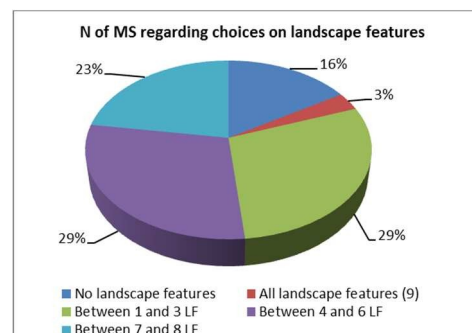
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## Landscape features as Ecological Focus Areas

### Kind of LF type (9 in total)

Trees in group: 18 MS  
 Field margins: 17 MS  
 Hedges and trees in line: 16 MS  
 Ditches: 15 MS  
 Isolated trees: 13 MS  
 Ponds: 12 MS  
 Other LF: 10 MS  
 Stone walls: 7 MS



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Thank you for your attention!

European Commission  
DG Agriculture and Rural Development  
Unit D2 – Greening, cross-compliance and POSEI

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1. Which GAEC or SMR landscape features types are chosen as EFA elements?
2. How these GAEC landscape features types are currently registered in the LPIS?
3. Are there landscape features types not in GAEC allowed as EFA?
4. What are the differences in terms of characteristics (width, minimum length etc.) between the landscape features types in GAEC and those not in GAEC?
5. Is there any particular issue that will represent a challenge in your country?

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